

Illinois Federation of Republican Women

What a Great Year for the IFRW!!!

What a great year for the members of the IFRW! It was an exciting year that included a big challenge for our Republican Candidates.

Our year started with the new officers of IFRW meeting and laying out our thoughts and plans for the new year and the direction we wanted to take the IFRW. Our theme is **"Turning Illinois Red"**. Our goals were to increase membership and help our Republican candidates get elected in November. We also did not want to increase the dues, so our plans included a more efficient way to communicate with the membership. We are going more electronic and less with snail mail. We send regular emails out via ConstantContact, which is an email service that allows us to customize our emails and send out to hundreds in a flash. Also we have changed our Website to be more modern.

We had our first outing in March, with a great turn out, I must add. The IFRW Legislative Day at the Capitol went very well. We visited the Illinois House of Representatives, and were announced by



State Representative, Franco Coladipietro.

After watching the action on the floor, we moved to the office of State Representative and Minority Leader, Tom Cross for refreshments and pizza. Republican State Representatives from around the state filtered into the office and visited with us. They also received our new logo pin. We also tried to visit the Senate, but they were all in committee. We stopped at the Senate Minority Leader's office for cookies and coffee. Senator Christine Radogno spoke with us and our Republican Candidates, Senators Bill Brady and Dan Rutherford stopped in to

talk with us and a photo op. It was good to see them and it was good to hear how positive things were going for them. They knew, along with the rest of the slate, it was not going to be easy.

Our Spring Conference was held in Galena in April. This is a beautiful part of the state. One can just imagine what it was like when the glaciers rolled through this part of our state. Just beautiful! Our conference started off Friday night with a reception. Curt Conrad spoke to us about the direction of the Republican Party and then a wonderful dinner. Robert Enriquez spoke to us on Saturday.

Saturday was jammed packed with workshops about ConstantContact, Membership, Websites and of course our business meeting. At breakfast, we had a Presidents and a District Directors meeting. We shared ideas and information, as well as, made comments on different topics of interest.



Friday Evening



Saturday



As you can see everyone had a great time at dinner and at the workshops and business meeting. Discussions included Technology, grassroots work, and Tea Party Participants. Women's issues will be another focus going forward.

Our next event was exciting. It was participation in the Republican Day events at the State Fair in August. Members were requested to volunteer and to wear red for the day. It is our understanding that the Democratic turnout the previous day was scant. But ours was packed with Republicans and of course, people who wanted a change in state government. The Directors Lawn was buzzing with people conversing, listening to and meeting our Republican candidates and eating State Representative Raymond Poe's delicious pork.

At the end of August we had the Fall Conference in Carbondale. Another beautiful part of the state. Some of our Constitutional Officer Candidates stopped by to speak to us and have dinner. We appreciate the effort it took for Dan Rutherford, Judy Baar Topinka and Steve Kim to stop by our Friday night reception and dinner. Local Elected Officials, from Mayor to State Senators, were also in attendance. We appreciate their attending our Conference.



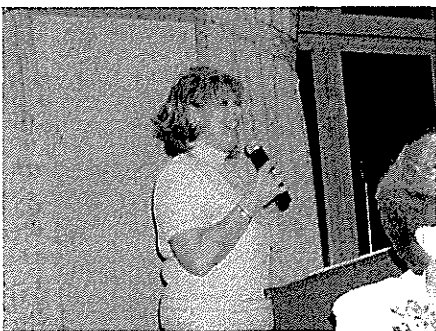
On Saturday we had several speakers as well as workshops for ConstantContact, Websites, and Membership. We had Christine Cray from the Illinois Board of Elections speak about filings and the changes that are likely to come for next year. We also Jerry King from the local Victory Center. Our NFRW President, Sue Lynch spoke to us about the direction the NFRW is headed. Demetra Demonte, Republican National Chairwomen, stopped by to tell us what she has been doing for Illinois.

After our Fall Conference, State Senator David Luechtefeld and State Representative Mike Bost provided us with a High Reception, wine, cheese and desserts, at the Barton House Bed and Breakfast. Then it was on to Walker's Bluff and Winery for a delicious dinner. Many conference goers, including NFRW President Sue Lynch, stayed for the after conference events, which were a wonderful treat.

September was a busy month. York Township Republican Women threw a party. It was a dedication to a very special member. A member who was once President of the Illinois Federation of Republican Women, our former RNC Committeewoman and Founding Mother of the Illinois Lincoln Series. MaryJo Arndt was honored by many people throughout the state. Nancy Brady came to speak, and a powerpoint presentation of MaryJo's political years played in the background of a fine dinner.



Another event during September, was the Illinois Lincoln Series Graduation, of which our second Vice President, Pat Fee graduated. State Senator, and Minority Whip, Carole Pankau was the guest speaker. Dinner, Auction Items, speakers and graduates were all wonderful. It was a good night!



Stay tuned for next year. It promises to be a great one for IFRW!!!

What your President has been doing.

What an exciting year. I have attended both NFRW & IFRW Conferences, as well as, several Illinois Republican Party Central Committee Meetings. I have also attended the Legislative Day, Republican Day at the State Fair, Honoring MaryJo Arndt and the recent Lincoln Series Graduation. All were great events.

NFRW Conferences, Oklahoma and South Carolina were both exciting and informational. They announced the forthcoming of virtual (online) clubs, new member guides, new membership flyers, handbooks, and many other projects for the state and local presidents to consider. In Oklahoma, we had a former US Congressman speak to us about Republicanism and how he decided to run. In the fall, in South Carolina, we had people from the US Senate and Representative organizations speak with us about the current candidates and their chances to win. They estimated that we would take back the US House and would get a good number into the US Senate. It appears that they were correct!

The State Central Committee meetings were interesting. Discussions of the State Fair plans and, of course how we could help get our Illinois State Constitutional Officer slate elected. IFRW participated in the State Fair, by wearing our RED that day for support of our candidates. Many women's clubs invited the Candidates, both statewide and local, throughout the year, to their events, for meet and greets, speaking, etc. We were truly active statewide for this election.

The IFRW Conferences were hosted by the local clubs and at this time I would love to thank them for their wonderful response in volunteerism. They served as greeters, go to people, provided lists of guests to invite as speakers, and helped with our fundraising events. I am grateful that we have such caring women as members in the IFRW. So a **BIG Thank You** goes out to Carroll County Republican Women, for their work at the Spring Conference; and Jackson, Union, and

Williamson County for their help at the Fall Conference. These clubs made the conferences great events. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

What is happening in 2011????

We have plans for Legislative Day on March 16th in Springfield. We are hoping to do similar activities at the Capitol and with the General Assembly, but adding an additional attraction (i.e. visit the Illinois Supreme Court, Dana Thomas home; Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, Board of Elections and/or old state capital. More details will be available soon.

Our Spring Conference will be held in Peoria on April 29th and 30th. Arrangements will be made sometime in the next few months. We will keep you posted.

Participation with the Illinois State Republican Party is expected to continue. Any announcements that they have will be passed on to the membership via the new IFRW email system.

Building the clubs and membership of IFRW to assist with the upcoming 2012 elections. We need to get our participants up, so that more people can help get our Republican Candidates (local, state and national) elected. Ramping up now, instead of waiting for the last minute will insure a good victory in 2012.

What's New???


Website Our Website has been updated to a more modern and professional look. It includes a page for your club information, meeting dates and photos of your events.



The IFRW Trifold has a new look. It includes information about the IFRW, reasons to join, and what you receive as a member of the IFRW.

What's New (continued)

H The IFRW team has put together a new club handbook. It is a work in progress, but none the less is a great guide for clubs along with background on the IFRW and NFRW.

 In case you haven't heard, the IFRW has a new logo and a new logo pin. It is a cartoonish version of the state and was submitted as the winner of the Fall 2009 contest. The winner was Marie Pappageorge, a hardworking member of the Crawford County Republican Women.

CC IFRW is now using Constant Contact as an email system versus the costly and slow snail mail. It helps to get the word out faster and more can be communicated statewide to our members.

FB IFRW is now on Facebook. Look for our postings as well as post something yourself!

SURVEY MONKEY A new tool of the IFRW is to send a survey after each conference. Please respond when you receive the survey, as your responses help us plan future conferences.

FUTURE EVENTS***IFRW***

March 16, 2011 - Legislative Day in Springfield. Meet in the Capitol Rotunda, visit both houses of the General Assembly and have conversations with our Republican Leaders.

April 29-30, 2011 Spring Conference in Peoria. We will have a couple of workshops; President's and District Directors Meetings (so please be sure to send your President to the conference); Great Speakers, Club Awards and great networking.

August Republican Day at the State Fair. Stay tuned for details that will follow early next year for IFRW opportunities to participate in this event.

October Fall Convention

NFRW

March 8-12, 2011 Spring Conference at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Alexandria VA (Washington DC).

March 9, 2011 Legislative Day in Washington DC.

September 29, 2011 Fall Conference at the Downtown Marriott, Kansas City MO.

Detailed information will be sent as it becomes available.

DID YOU KNOW ???

* IFRW has a website that you can add your club information to your page??? Send your information to Penny Falcon at penny.f@ifrw.org

* IFRW sends regular email to your email address that is on file with your club. If you do not receive a regular email from IFRW, please add us to your address book. Here is the address to add Illinois Federation of Republican Women, joyce.h@ifrw.ccsend.com Adding us to your email address book insures you will receive the latest information and news out there.

* IFRW has logo pins available for \$1.50 each. Contact Pat Fee at pat.f@ifrw.org to order pins. The pins, along with NFRW Win Pins are also available at our conferences.

* IFRW Website is full of information and links. Please check out our website.

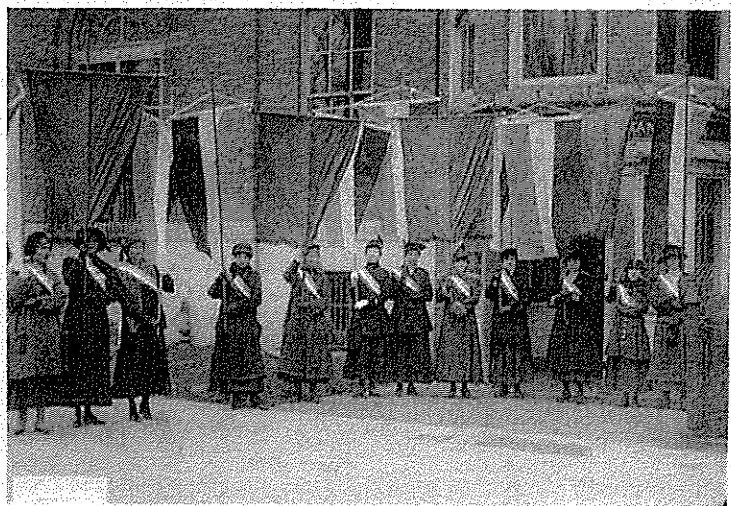
* IFRW District Directors and Officers are willing to speak to your group on a number of topics. If you are interested, please contact us and we will be happy to discuss with you.

* NFRW is going to be sending out a new magazine each year.

* IFRW President loves to read your newsletters and I try to put them into the conference packets when possible. So please send them to me.....It is so wonderful to read about all the good things our Republican Women do.

Something Fun!!

During our Fall Conference in August which was the ninetieth anniversary of women's suffrage, we received the following photos from Nancy Brady, our governor's candidate wife. These women did this for us...we can't let them down!



Illinois Federation of Republican Women

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