

# Women In Leadership

Central Illinois

April 2008

## A Note from Your President

Dear WIL Members,

The board approved six new applications at our board meeting last week. Our total membership count is 124 members! This is so exciting, but also scary. We want to make sure we are hearing from the members and answering any of your concerns. Shelli Cowser, our VP of Programs, will be revising the luncheon survey form to ask you for input including what type of special events you would like to see.

When you read this newsletter the deadline for the Scholarship will have passed. We have applications and now look forward to narrowing the field to the one winner.

Our annual award luncheon is quickly approaching. Shawna Knapp has been very diligent in asking members that have been nominated to complete the application forms by the deadline of March 31, 2008. So if you have been nominated and haven't had the time to fill out your application, stop what you are doing and complete the form you received from Shawna. When you are ready, you can either email, mail, or fax the completed form to her. Our May luncheon will be exciting to see who has won this year's awards.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Allison Vershaw is having the first annual conference committee meeting. We know the conference date has been set - October 23, 2008! So mark your calendars right now! Stay tuned for additional announcements from the committee as they prepare for this great event.

We are already talking about the new board for the coming year. That always means to the President that time is running out for the current year. It seems to be moving so very fast. I hope every member is having fun at our luncheons and getting involved at the network luncheons and special events. As we grow a very strong group of women leaders for our community, it is an honor to be a part of the group and look forward to great things happening!

Your President,  
Donna Cimino

## Next Meeting: **April 10** (Country Club of Peoria)

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 10, at the County Club of Peoria.

Meal: Chicken Salad & Fruit  
Ice cream sundae

We have recently learned of a potential conflict in our speaker scheduling for the April luncheon. Shelli Cowser is working diligently

to finalize our speaker. Have no fear, this will be another great meeting that you won't want to miss. As soon as our details are finalized, we will be sure to email you all!

The RSVP deadline is April 4. Please be sure to send your reservation form

to Kathy Schaeffer ([kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com)) to reserve your place.

To avoid cancellation fees (of the full amount) you are required to cancel by 12:00 noon on Friday, April 4. We look forward to seeing you at the **April 10** luncheon/meeting at the Country Club of Peoria.

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### SPECIAL REMINDERS:

- Remember to leave your name badge at the registration table upon departure.
- Reservations are required for ALL meetings.
- To help avoid congestion at the registration table, please have your cash or check made out to WIL in the amount of \$20.00 (Members) or \$25.00 (Guests). Payment is expected the day of the meeting.

## Board of Directors

### *President:*

Donna Cimino  
dcimino@hbcpcas.com

### *Immediate Past President:*

Emma Vandever

### *President Elect:*

Marcia Cannon  
mcannon@westaff.com

### *President-Elect Presumptive:*

Allison Vershaw  
allisonvershaw@sbcglobal.net

### *Secretary:*

Joan Vierhout  
Joan.vierhout@sts.aecom.com

### *Treasurer:*

Becky Davies  
beckycd@sbcglobal.net

### *VP/Membership:*

Beth Kolowski  
beth@heart.net

### *VP/Programs:*

Michelle (Shelli) Cowser  
mcowser@henneman.com

### *VP/Public Relations:*

Allison Vershaw  
allisonvershaw@sbcglobal.net

### *Asst VP Membership:*

Julie Morales  
jmorales@peoriomagazines.com

### *Director/Awards:*

Shawna Knapp  
shawnak@fgmarchitects.com

### *Director/Reservations:*

Kathy Schaeffer  
kls@ssinet.com

### *Director/Special Projects:*

Amy Pearson  
apearson@hotelperemarquette.com

### *Director/Monthly Luncheons*

Debbie Sippel  
djsippel@southsidebank.com

### *Director/Network Luncheons;*

Betsy Yarcho  
byarcho@envisions.com

## Welcome New WIL Members

Please join us in welcoming our newest members to the WIL family. We are excited to have each of you!

- Pat Houlf – State of Illinois
- Angela Patterson – Kramer Chiropractic
- Elizabeth Stoddard – Kramer Chiropractic
- Cassie Taraboletti – Princeville State Bank Investments Services
- Laurie Trompeter – Belcan Corporation
- Kimberly Zook-Anthony – Proctor Hospital

Our organization is now 124 members strong!! Keep sharing the excitement of WIL with others!!

## WIL Website

Check out your WIL Website ([www.peoriawomeninleadership.com](http://www.peoriawomeninleadership.com)). How can we make it more informative for you, our members? Send your suggestions to Kathy Schaeffer ([kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com)).

If you haven't checked out our website in awhile, please do! There are past newsletters, reservation forms, pictures and so much more!

## 2008 Annual Conference

Have you marked your calendar for the 2008 WIL Conference? If you haven't already done so, please put down the newsletter and grab your calendar. You will want to block October 23, 2008 now so that you can join us for another fantastic conference full of speakers, vendors, networking and friendship.

We had our first committee meeting on Monday, March 24 and we are off and running to put together another spectacular event for you! We have over 20 WIL members who are dedicated to seeing this conference to fruition.

If you would like to help in the planning and implementation of this year's event, please let us know! You can email Allison Vershaw ([allisonvershaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allisonvershaw@sbcglobal.net)) and we'll be sure to add you to the distribution list.

Watch for exciting details and updates on the conference each month in the newsletter, at our luncheons, and at the fun WIL events planned by Amy Pearson.

Did you block your calendar yet?!?!?

## Birthday Auction & Door Prizes

Thank you to the following people who were generous in donating birthday auction items. Also thank you to the people who purchased those items. We raised a total of \$135.00 to be used for scholarships.

- Apple’s Bakery Wine & Snack Bag with Serving dish donated by Monica Jagiella, Smith Barney *purchased by Joyce Ricci for \$35.00*
- Martini Chip & Dip Bowl and dip mixes donated by Erikka Brookhart, Cyrus Gifts & Home Accents *purchased by Roxanne Heiser for \$45.00*
- Spring Cake Plate donated by Carol Hultgren, Carver Wealth *purchased by Shelly Hranka for \$35.00*
- Easter Lily donated by Amy Simmons, American Red Cross *purchased by P.J. Hagerdorn for \$20.00*

### Door Prizes:

- Diane Davis – Traders Realty – 2 Lindt Chocolate Gold Bunnies
- Emma Vandevveer – South Side Bank – St Patrick’s pin and earrings
- Roxanne Heiser – Aventine – Small Portfolio
- Erikka Brookhart – Cyrus – 3 beer koozies

## Luncheon Reservation

Just a few reminders about your luncheon reservation and the beautiful name badges.

As you know, payment is expected the day of the meeting. To help avoid congestion at the registration table, please have your cash or check ready and payable to WIL in the amount of \$20.00 (Members) or \$25.00 (Guests).

*Cancellation policy:* If you make a reservation for the luncheon and are unable to attend, cancellation must be received by noon on the Friday prior to the meeting date; if not, you are responsible for full payment of your reservation.

*Name badges:* Please remember to leave your name badge on the registration table upon departure. This will help ensure the badges don’t get lost and that you have a badge at the next meeting.

If you have any questions about the reservation/registration process, please contact Kathy Schaeffer (kls@ssinet.com).

## Calendar of Events

### Date: Tuesday, April 8

Location: Hearth & Patio

Event: Strictly Fantastic Appetizers

Cost: \$35 per person

RSVP: April 1 to Amy Pearson

(apearson@hotelperemarquette.com)

### Date: Thursday, April 10

Time: Luncheon (11:30am)

Location: Country Club of Peoria

Speaker: Ketra Mytich, Attorney

Topic: “Estate Planning”

### Date: Thursday, May 8

Time: Luncheon (11:30am)

Location: Country Club of Peoria

Event: WIL Awards Banquet

### Date: Thursday, May 8

Location: Fired Up

Event: Pottery Painting

Cost: \$7 studio fee + cost of your piece

RSVP: May 1 to Amy Pearson

(apearson@hotelperemarquette.com)

### Date: Thursday, June 12

Time: Luncheon (11:30am)

Location: Country Club of Peoria

Speaker: Karel Murray, National

Speaker

Topic: “Reality to Remarkable”

## Pay To “Toot Your Horn”

The guidelines for “Toot Your Horn” state *these announcements are for member recognition or upcoming events; not business advertisement. This will take the place of our “30 Second Celebration.”*

Just provide your written information on the space provided below to our Awards Chair, Shawna Knapp, along with \$2 per announcement and she will share your news at the next WILCI meeting. Would you like to “toot” someone else’s horn who may be shy? Same rules apply. Proceeds will go towards the Scholarship Fund.

### Pay to “Toot Your Horn” Guidelines:

- Announcements should be limited to 50 words.
- The first 10 submissions will be read at the meeting; all others will be included in the following month’s newsletter. You may email your announcement to our Awards Chair, Shawna Knapp ([shawnak@fgmarchitects.com](mailto:shawnak@fgmarchitects.com)) one week prior to each meeting.
- The Cost per each Announcement will be \$2.
- No more than (2) Announcements per month.
- The Awards Committee shall have final say.
- Submissions shall be made each month – no repeats.

Thank you and we look forward to sharing your Great Achievements!

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## Toot Your Horn March Announcements

- We accidentally skipped over the Toot Your Horn section at the March meeting. In our error we sent out a special email with the information for Cynthia Fleming’s first coaching seminar which was held during the last week of March. We wish her the most success in her latest endeavor!

## WIL Special Events

Calling all WIL Women...if you are like most of us and need a break from the doldrums of Winter, why not grab your WIL friends and take the opportunity to meet some new WIL members at the next two...

### WIL "Girl's Night Out"

**April 8, 2008**

"Strictly Fantastic Appetizers"

Join us at Hearth and Patio for a fabulous cooking class with internationally trained Chef Pat Glatz while he trains us on Strictly Fantastic Appetizers.

Location: Hearth & Patio  
Address: 8304 N. University Street  
Peoria, Illinois 61615  
Time: 6-9 pm  
Cost: \$35.00/per person  
RSVP by: April 1, 2008



To learn more about the class you can log onto this website. <http://www.hearthandpatio.net/classes/cookclass.html>

**May 8, 2008**

"All Fired Up!"

Join us at Fired Up for a great evening of painting pottery. If you missed this one last year you'll want to be sure to attend this time! We had such a great time getting creative as we painted a variety of pieces that can be used for home or office décor ...or even a special gift for a friend!

A light snack will be provided, BYOB for beverages

Location: Fired Up  
Address: 4532 N. Prospect Road (Peoria Heights)  
Time: 6-9pm  
Cost: \$7.00 studio fee + the cost of your piece  
RSVP by: May 1, 2008



To learn more about Fired Up, be sure to check out their website: [www.firedupstudios.biz](http://www.firedupstudios.biz)

**\*\*Keep in mind, seating will be limited for both of these events! Be sure to RSVP to Amy Pearson to reserve your space today! You can either call Amy at: 671-9404 or via email: [apearson@hotelperemarquette.com](mailto:apearson@hotelperemarquette.com)\*\***

We'll see you there!

## WIL Bylaw Revisions

Women in Leadership of Central Illinois has been growing at a great pace these past few years and we are very excited to see what is happening. In this process of growth, we have added a couple of changes to our By-laws. The By-laws are printed annually in the Membership Directory and are also updated and on our website.

I wanted to make sure we are sharing with you, our membership, the changes that have happened this year.

- The biggest change is adding a new board member for the 2008 - 2009 year: *Director Annual Conference*. With the recent changes to our annual conference, we feel it is important to incorporate a new board member whose responsibility will be to co-chair this annual conference. Beginning with the October 23, 2008 conference, the committee will be comprised solely of WIL members. Allison Vershaw has graciously accepted the role from now through July. In July when the new board members transition into their roles, the new position of Director Annual Conference, will step in as Co-Chair.

The second change that was established at the March board meeting pertains to the presidential succession of a board member. As we continue to watch our membership grow we want to be sure to capture the excitement of our members. In order to encourage this and to keep a fresh viewpoint on a continuous cycle, we have made the following change.

- ***The new sentence reads:*** *After serving as Immediate Past President, you must be off the board for at least one year before taking another role.*

After having served on the board since inception, I really think after you have gone through the ranks as President-Elect Presumptive, President-Elect, President, and then Past President, it is good to step back and let the new board take WIL to the next level.

If you have any questions about these changes, please see any board member and they will be glad to share additional insight on these changes.

## Updates from Our Members

Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers:

**Lisa Saunders:** "Thank you for all of the prayers. My surgery went well and now it looks like I may only need radiation, not chemotherapy. I hope to be at the April meeting unless the radiation is rougher than expected."





## Happy April Birthday(s)

- Cynthia Fleming – April 1
- Robin Barnes – April 4
- Linda Woods – April 6
- Betsy Yarcho – April 9
- Nicole Nolte – April 10
- Monica Mueller – April 15
- Laura Schoon – April 19
- Beth Kolowski – April 29

A special thank you to Patrice Essig and Sue Evelsizer for being our greeters at the March luncheon!

## Network Lunches

Network Luncheon Leaders have been scheduled for most of the year and we hope all members will take this opportunity to get involved! Network lunches are smaller groups that are the perfect setting to get to know each other better and exchange information and ideas. Please remember we encourage you to attend the luncheon for your group as well as any of the other luncheons scheduled.

Any questions, please contact Betsy Yarcho at Envision Insurance, 266-2117 or byarcho@envisions.com

### Shawna Knapp (lunches at 12:00 noon)

- April 4:** Rizzi's Downtown
- May 2: Eamon Patrick's (downtown by Jim's Steakhouse)
- June 6: Rhythm Kitchen (my birthday! No presents please....just dessert! Haha...)
- July 2: Carnegie's 501 (Pere Marquette) (Note: this is a Wednesday since July 4th is the first Friday)
- August 1: 401 Café

### Cathy Thomatis & Kathy Schaeffer

- April 22:** Avanti's (North Knoxville)
- May 27: Ruby Tuesday's (Westlake)
- June 24: Cyd's (Junction City)

### Stacy Frederking

- April 22:** Cyd's
- May 20: Kelleher's
- June 17: Flat Top Grill
- July 22: Riverstation
- August 19: Copperworks
- September 23: Ponte Vecchio

### Linda Martin

- April 18:** River Station
- May 16: Rhythm Kitchen
- June 20: Fahey's Downtown (old F Scotts)
- July 18: Kelleher's
- August 22: Jonah's Seafood House
- September 19: Carnegies 501

### Beth Kolowski (lunches at 12:00 noon)

- April 23:** Avanti's (North Knoxville)
- May 21: Uno's (Mark Twain Hotel)
- June 18: Rizzi's (Downtown)