

# Women in Leadership

Central Illinois

July 2007

## A Note from Your President

Dear WIL Members,  
It's hard to believe that the 2007-2008 year has begun. This past year has been a rewarding, fun-filled, whirlwind year with so many members and excellent speakers.

Many things that were started have come to fruition - the website is near completion, and ready to be updated and details added; the first WIL scholarship was awarded (Congratulations Amy Pearson); the Birthday auction was a big hit again this past year; and we have many new members!

As the June luncheon came to an end, I could feel the excitement in the room, and hope that our

year keeps this momentum growing.

In July, we do not have the monthly luncheon, but we plan a fun event. Make sure you RSVP to Amy Pearson for the July 12<sup>th</sup> Luau & Pool Party at Kristen Berchtold's parent's house.

From the delicious buffet options and lush garden paradise, to the sparkling pool - we will have a great evening. This is a great time to network and just "have fun".

We are busy planning special events and finalizing our speakers for the upcoming year.

Remember...we are *not* meeting in July, but will resume with a fun,

networking luncheon in August.

I look forward to being your President and hope to continue to "spread the word" about our great organization ...

WOMEN IN  
LEADERSHIP OF  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS!!

Enjoy your summer!

Your President,

Donna Cimino

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## Dress for Success Recap

This was the second year for WIL to host a Dress for Success clothing drive. What a success it was, bringing in over 100 garments and 3 pairs of shoes! Laura Clark, program director, was one of our guests and spoke about their needs and shared success stories of how something as simple as an interview suit can change the direction of a person's life.

The women are given 1 interview suit. They are then given 7 work outfits once they have secured their position. They also offer

ongoing counseling and mentorship to their clients.

Can you believe....The founder of Dress for Success, Nancy Lublin, established the organization in 1996 with a \$5,000 inheritance from her great-grandfather, Poppy Max.

That is a HUGE movement for something that was started for so little!! It makes me wonder, "What can I start with a small investment? How can I improve my communities?" Think of the possibilities!

Did you miss the opportunity

to drop off some clothes to this great organization? Here's where you can donate your clothes:

**Dress for Success Peoria**  
c/o Peoria Friendship House  
of Christian Service  
800 NE Madison Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61603  
Phone: (309) 671-5200  
Fax: (309)671-5206  
peoria@dressforsuccess.org

## Special Reminders:

- Be sure to arrive around 11:30 for 30 minutes of networking with your peers.
- Don't forget a stack of business cards! You can distribute these at your table and as you meet new amazing women!

**We will not  
have a meeting  
in July!**

## Welcome New Members and Member Renewals

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to WIL:

- Stephanie Sutton of The Traveling Vineyard

## WIL Leader Luncheon Schedule

The following network luncheons are scheduled for July. If you have not been contacted to be a part of a network luncheon group, please email Betsy Yarcho at [byarcho@heiserinsurance.com](mailto:byarcho@heiserinsurance.com) or call (309)266-2117.

We encourage members to attend any luncheon that they can, not just for their

assigned group!

*Mary Jane Johnson & Linda Martin* – waiting to hear

*Cathy Thomatis* – Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> @ 11:45 at River Station

*Shawna Knapp* – Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> @ noon at Kobe

Japanese Steakhouse (in Willow Knolls Shopping Center)

*Beth Kolowski* – Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> @ noon at Cyd's

*Sue Ann Billimack* – waiting to hear

## Membership

**Attention WIL Members!!!** Do you want to save \$\$\$? If so, be sure to send in your WIL membership renewal soon. Save \$10 on your membership by renewing before July 31. To date, 47 of our current members have renewed for the 2007-2008 season. That's great...but do we have yours???

Please read the contact information carefully to make sure we have everything accurate. Also, add any information you want to share that is not on the form (email, home contact information, cell phone, etc.) If you have misplaced your renewal form, please contact Beth Kolowski at [beth@heart.net](mailto:beth@heart.net).

## June Door Prizes

A special THANK YOU to our members for bringing these wonderful door prizes to the June meeting!

- Kathy Schaeffer, Stellar Systems – Candle
- Jeanne Buysee, American Family – Atlas
- Ann Ford, Vonachen Services – Body Lotion
- Erikka Brookhart, Cyrus Gift & Home Accents – Lip Scrub & Lip Gloss

## WILCI Scholarship Fund

The Women in Leadership of Central Illinois Scholarship is targeted at assisting women in the Tri-County area who are pursuing college/university, post graduate, or accreditation/certification for business management/professional or entrepreneurial education. The award is intended to defer tuition, fees, books, and other academic expenses. The amount of the award is not to exceed **\$1,000** per academic year and may vary from year to year. Scholarships may be renewed pending re-application and approval from the Board of Directors of Women in Leadership of Central Illinois.

**Eligibility:** The scholarship will be available to qualified women who are residents of the Illinois Tri-County area as well as being a graduate of a high school or a recipient of GED. The applicant should have motivation to accomplish a career and leadership goals. Financial need will be considered only when other factors are equal among applications. The applicant should also be a non-traditional student...in the workforce a minimum of three years.

If you or any woman you know fits the criteria, please urge her to complete the application. Applications must be received no later than **March 15** of each year. Simply visit [www.communityfoundationci.org](http://www.communityfoundationci.org) to review additional criteria and download the application for the WILCI Scholarship Fund.

## June Birthday Auction

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 **\$190.00** to be used for scholarships.

- Puzzle Box and Earrings donated by Jan Ledbetter, Peoria Production *purchased by Shawna Knapp for \$30.00*
- Vera Bradley Summer Purse donated by Dina Emser, Professional Development Coach, *purchased by Jodi Tarter for \$40.00*
- Beach Bag with Towel, Flip Flops and Lotion donated by Allison Vershaw, Premier Healthcare *purchased by Julie Morales for \$45.00*
- Ice Cream Social Package donated by Cynthia Burcham, Mary Kay, *purchased by Kathy Schaeffer for \$40.00*
- Bath & Body Works Basket full of lotions, Flip Flops, ect donated by Diane Davis, Traders Realty, *purchased by Amy Pearson for \$35.00*

## Time is running out...RSVP today!

Fruity Drinks with Umbrellas

Grass Skirts and leis

What Better Way to Spend Your Night

Join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Annual

WIL

Luau & Pool Party

Thursday ~ July 12, 2007

5:30- 8:30

E. Highpoint Road, Peoria

Cost: Members \$5.00

Guest \$15.00

Take a Dip in a Clear, Sparkling Pool

Surrounded yourself with a Lush Garden Paradise

Savor a Delicious Island Buffet

Refreshing Beverages

Enjoy Some Fabulous Networking & Fun

Tropical Attire Appropriate

Swimming Optional

Looking Forward to

Seeing You There!

Questions - please call Amy Pearson at 671-9404

Directions to 238 E. High Point Road:

Heading north on Knoxville Ave., make a right on Mt. Hawley Rd. Take the first right at High Point Road. The house is about 1 1/2 blocks down on the right hand side.

If you need further directions, please call Kristen Berchtold at 685-7655, ext. 203

## PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS 2007

In Order to continue the success of the Pathways To Success Conference (a joint collaborative effort between the National Association of Women Business Owners and Women In Leadership of Central Illinois), we need sponsorship from your organization. We offer vast recognition (a tabletop vendor area, literature/handouts in registration bags, signage at the event, and a 5-minute overview of your company at the event (with a \$1,000 sponsorship) in return for your generosity.

Pathways To Success, in it's 8<sup>th</sup> year, where two of the area's largest women's organizations join forces to present a dynamic conference geared toward not only women in management and business but for future leaders as well. This event is attended by 175 plus women.

This is an event where you will want to consider setting up a vendor booth (\$75.00), donating a silent auction item (\$25.00 or more value), being a dessert sponsor (\$25.00/\$50.00/\$100.00) or being one of the sponsors (and there are several levels to choose from). The event will be held at the Weaver Ridge Golf Club again with the vendor booths and silent auction on one floor of the Weaver Ridge Golf Club and the dinner on another floor of the Golf Club. This will allow more room and a better flow pattern for our vendor displays. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact Kathy Schaeffer at [kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com).

There will be fantastic breakout sessions and another great keynote speaker as in year's past. So, mark your calendars for October 17<sup>th</sup>!

## WIL Website

Have you taken a moment to look at our Women In Leadership website? If you haven't, please take a few moments to review the website and think about things you would like to see on there. Maybe it's pictures from an event, calendar of upcoming events and speakers, reservation forms....or something that we haven't thought of. This website will be an excellent marketing tool to recruit new members. And, it's worked! So far, we have received feedback from guests who after hearing about us online, decided to join us for a luncheon. And we've acquired new members just by reviewing the website!

If you need the log in information please contact Kathy Schaeffer (kls@ssinet.com) or Allison Vershaw (avershaw@premierhealthcare.biz) and they will be able to provide you with the username and password. It will only take a few moments to look everything over and provide your input. We would certainly appreciate your help!

As a reminder, here is the link: [www.peoriawomeninleadership.com](http://www.peoriawomeninleadership.com) Please submit your ideas to Kathy Schaeffer at [kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com).

## Reminiscing

"Here we are at the end of another year, and what a year it was! The fun, networking and accomplishments were amazing. From golf outing, ceramic and cooking classes to web site and scholarship fund set up; we achieved a lot and had a great time. I would just like to say a big thank you to the retiring Board and all the WIL members for the incredible 2 years I served as Vice President of Membership. The memories and new friendships are truly amazing."

*Jan Ledbetter*



"What a great year we have had. We had our kickoff with the Luau, painted pottery, sampled wine paired with great food, made awesome scrapbooking cards, exchanged Christmas ornaments and spring plants and most importantly developed "AWESOME" friendships. "

"This upcoming year will also be filled with fun events that will provide great opportunities to meet more of our WIL members and develop even more "AWESOME " friendships. Some of the events I am working on include this years upcoming Luau, a fall wiener-roast, by popular demand – pottery painting, a cooking class and a few surprises.... Ssshhh. I look forward to meeting you at our next event, come and join the fun of networking with some "AWESOME" women and learn something new."

*Amy Pearson*

"The past year was filled with such exciting times for me. From starting out as the Assistant VP of Membership and working closely with my friend Jan, to picking up the VP of Public Relations position in January. I have truly enjoyed working with so many of you! I thank you for your patience as we tried to determine a way to ensure my emails would

end up in your inbox! I do believe we have everyone figured out. Please do not hesitate to email me this coming year if there is something you do not receive! It's so important that you stay abreast of what's happening in WIL.

Thank you so much for your continued feedback on the newsletter. I continually look for ways to make this publication interesting, professional, and something you look forward to reading each month. If there is ever something you would like to see in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me! I am open for suggestions.

I am honored to be a member of WIL and to serve on the Board. I hope that you will make the most of your time with our group and consider your involvement on a different level...whether it's as a Network Luncheon Leader, Awards Banquet or holding a position on the board in 2008-09 there are multiple ways to get involved. We are always looking for great people to help us take our organization to the next level. Cheers!"

*Allison Vershaw*

If you are looking to sell, purchase, or even give away an item once treasured, please be sure to submit your item to Allison (avershaw@premierhealthcare.biz) to be placed in the monthly newsletter.

- **Fisher Price Geotrax Train Starter Set** with lots of accessories, like new. For ages 2-1/2 and up. \$40.00 contact Debbie Sippel 495-4288 or 688-2745
- Miscellaneous **Longenberger** Baskets. I'm downsizing my collection. Will sell at 1/2 of the value. Please contact Debbie Sippel at 495-4288 or 688-2745 for a list of baskets and prices.
- Miscellaneous **Anna Lee's** for sale. Adorable cloth figurines. Please contact Debbie Sippel at 495-4288 or 688-2745 for a list.
- **Bernina Aurora 440 QE Sewing/Quilting Machine** – asking \$3,500...Contact Kim LeHew at [klehew@cullprop.com](mailto:klehew@cullprop.com) or 360-7214 phone.
- **Black Silvertone Electric Guitar with Fender Bag**, green strap and tuner. Please call Cynthia at 256-4175.
- **Fiestaware (NEW)** . . . Service for twelve in cobalt, yellow and orange. Includes dinner plate, cereal/salad bowl, salad plate, cup and saucer . . . sixty total pieces PLUS six custard cups. Like new condition . . . hardly used. PRICE: \$125.00 (Retail Price: \$300.00+). Call Kathy Schaeffer at 309.657.9691 or email at [kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com)
- **Harvest Table** (6 foot) with six chairs and buffet. Handmade by Green Gables Furniture. Like new condition. PRICE: \$1,000.00 (Retail Price: \$3,300.00). Call Kathy Schaeffer at 309.657.9691 or email at [kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com)
- **Antique Child's Red Desk and Chair** . . . \$75.00 . . . call Kathy Schaeffer at 309.657.9691 or email at [kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com)
- **Antique Highchair (Red)** . . . \$50.00 . . . call Kathy Schaeffer at 309.657.9691 or email at [kls@ssinet.com](mailto:kls@ssinet.com)
- **Bluegreen Corp. Timeshare** . . . 10,000 Point Timeshare in Branson, MO (can be used anywhere Bluegreen OR RCI is accepted) . . . paid \$12,500 . . . will sell for \$6,800 . . . Maintenance Fees paid through December 2007 and Membership Fees paid through June 2008. Call Kathy Schaeffer (309.657.9691 or [caskls@a5.com](mailto:caskls@a5.com)) for further information.
- **BRAND NEW WIL Polos** . . . we have four extra polos for sale...none have been worn. White short sleeve in XL and M (\$ 28 each) ; Pink 3/4 sleeve in M and White 3/4 sleeve in XL (\$32.50 each). If interested, please contact Allison Vershaw via email at [avershaw@premierhealthcare.biz](mailto:avershaw@premierhealthcare.biz).

## Personal Praise Moments

*Barb Mishler:* My daughter took the GRE – to get into grad school at Bradley for physical therapy. She was very worried about it and had set a goal for herself of a score of 1000. She has a friend there that is a 4.0 student that got a 1080 and this set the bar high for her. They get their score back right away except on the essay and she got a 1090! Boy was she excited!

A special thank you to Ann Ford and Dina Emser for greeting each guest and member at the June luncheon!



### Happy July Birthday!

Marcia	Cannon	1-Jul
Sally	Milligan	8-Jul
Amy	Pearson	18-Jul
Theresa	Manzella	26-Jul
Dina	Emser	27-Jul
Val	Sinks	27-Jul