

Hoosier Business Women's Newsletter



August 2026



Letter from the President:

Hello INFBPW members and friends,

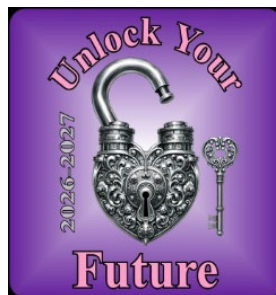
I am honored to have been elected as your 2026-2027 INFBPW State President. My theme this year is Unlock your Future. This year I want to unlock our future with INFBPW. We are going to explore what INFBPW can do to help our members and our communities. How are each one of us equal and our opinions matter? How can we grow our membership? How can we help our committee members enjoy their positions and encourage others to step up? How can we help our community and other women?

Fall Conference this year will be packed with good speakers, great networking and tons of fun. We will be having a fundraiser on Friday night, business meeting, break out sessions and speakers throughout the day on Saturday.

I want to ensure that all members know that they are appreciated and that communication continues to flow between all levels of INFBPW. I will continue to communicate all information as soon as I receive it. I want to thank you again for all that you have done to make INFBPW what it is today and what it will become in the future.

Brooke Norris PSP

2026-2027 State President



2026 Fall Conference

General Information

When: October 9 to 11, 2026

Where: The Hilton Garden Inn

122210 Executive Dr

Edinburgh, IN 46214

- **Registration:**
 - Registration must be completed before Credentials closes on Saturday @ 9:00 am.
 - A special reduced registration fee is for all First Timers. If you have never attended a Fall Conference, then you are eligible
- You may submit your registration electronically or by mail.
- **Mail:** Send registration form along with your check Made out to INFBPW to State Treasurer Twilla M Deaton PSP
- **Electronic:** Email your registration form to State Treasurer at infbpwstatetreasurer@gmail.com. Submit payment to PayPal:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=SAGNYTVJJ2R8G
- **Fees:** Refer to the State Convention registration form for Registration fees and meal pkgs.
- **Basket Auction:** We ask that each local bring a basket or item for the auction. Our **favorite auctioneer Jeff Rich** will be here to assist in the auction.
- **Pound Sale:** We ask members to bring an item for the pound sale, or more if you would like. Please bring your item unconcealed in a bag or box, and attach a clue to what might be in it. This has been a popular fund raiser in the past.
- **50/50 Raffle:** Finance Chairman Vicki Reece has raffle tickets available. Please sell as many as you can for the drawing.

Hotel Information

The Hilton Garden Inn, Edinburgh is conveniently located off I-65 and US 31 at Exit 76, next to Indiana Premium Outlet Mall and Exit 76 Antiques. Breakfast Hours: Monday-Friday 6am-10am. Saturday & Sunday 7am-11am. On-site Restaurant open Monday-Sunday 5pm-9pm and On-site Bar opens Monday-Sunday 5pm-10pm. We have Guest Laundry, Outdoor Patio with Fire pit, Indoor Heated Pool and Spa, & Fitness Center. Members can call the hotel directly at 812-526-8600 to book their room and mention the name of the group. Our Group Code this time is: **INFB**



Conference Room



Regular Double Room

Fall Conference

Menu

Friday - The Movie Night

Popcorn

Ice Cream and Sundae Bar

Assorted Sodas, Coffee, Tea, and Water

Saturday

Breakfast

Continental Breakfast included with your Overnight Room

Lunch

Taste of Mexico

Cheese Enchiladas, Hard and Soft Taco Shells,

Ground Beef, Grilled Chicken Strips

Shredded lettuce, cheese, diced tomatoes, sour cream and salsa

Spanish Rice, Refried beans, queso, and tortilla chips

Cookies and Brownies

Assorted Sodas, Coffee, Tea, and Water

Banquet

Brown Sugar Crusted Pork Loin & Spiced Apples

Grilled Chicken with Mediterranean Relish

House salad, Fruit Salad

Au Gratin Potatoes and Steamed mixed vegetables

Carrot cake, Chocolate Cake, Cheesecake, Cobbler, Desert Bars

Sunday

Breakfast

Continental Breakfast included with your Overnight Room

Schedule of Events

Friday- Sunday April 9-11, 2026

Friday, April 9, 2026

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Registration & Credentials

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Movie Night/Ice Cream Social

Saturday, April 11, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Registration & Credentials

8:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9: 30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – Business Meeting

10:30 – 11:30 am - Speaker/Workshop

11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lunch/ Speaker

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Business Meeting

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. President and Treasurer Workshop

4:30 p.m. -5:30 p.m. – INFBPW Bingo

6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Cash Bar

6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Auction

Sunday April 12, 2026

Travel/Shopping Day

Fall Conference Registration Form

October 9-11, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn Edinburgh

September 30, 2026 (postmarked deadline)

(Please Print)

Full Name: _____ Email: _____
Local Organization: _____ District: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____

Registration Fees:

Registration: \$50.00 _____
First-Timers' Registration: \$45.00 _____
Zoom Registration: \$20.00 _____

Activities:

Foundation Fundraiser: \$15.00 _____

Meals: Do you have any Food allergies or dietary needs? _____

Meal Package (Saturday Luncheon & Banquet): \$55.00 _____
Saturday Luncheon: \$22.50 _____
Saturday Banquet: \$32.50 _____

Total Registration Fees and Meals: \$ _____

You may submit your registration electronically or by mail.

- **Mail:** Send registration form along with your check Made out to INFBPW to State Treasurer Twilla M Deaton PSP
- **Electronic:** Email registration form to State Treasurer at infbpwstatetreasurer@gmail.com.
Submit payment to PayPal:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=SAGNYTVJJ2R8G

A \$20.00 fee will be charged for returned checks. **Refund Policy:** Cancellation requests must be made in writing to the address above. Requests postmarked NOT LATER than **September 30, 2026** will qualify for a full refund. A \$50.00 processing fee will apply to requests postmarked after the deadline. All requests must be made within thirty (30) days after the event. See INFBPW Standing Rules.

Volunteers Needed: _____ Pages _____ Federation Sales
_____ Doorkeepers _____ Registration/Credentials

Date/Time Available: _____

I authorize INFBPW/IWEF to post any pictures taken at conference/convention to our website and all Social Media Platforms to promote the organizations.

Signed by: _____ Date: _____

State Convention Speakers



Chrissy Riley

Membership Director of the Columbus Chamber of Congress

Crissy Riley is the Membership Director for the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, where she is passionate about connecting people, strengthening businesses, and building a thriving community through meaningful relationships. She believes that the best opportunities begin with authentic connections and has built her career around helping individuals, organizations, and businesses grow through collaboration, engagement, and service.

Throughout her career, Crissy has led member engagement initiatives, developed community-focused programming and events, strengthened partnerships across sectors, and helped businesses maximize the value of Chamber membership. Her experience spans membership development, marketing, entrepreneurship support, communications, event strategy, and community leadership, all rooted in the belief that strong communities are built by people who are willing to invest in one another.

Outside of the Chamber, Crissy is an active community volunteer and serves on several nonprofit boards throughout south-central Indiana. She is the President of the Edinburgh Delta Sigma Chapter of Tri Kappa, Vice President of Edinburgh Main Street, and a member of the Mill Race Center Board of Directors. She enjoys finding new ways to bring people together to create lasting impact and believes that community service is one of the most meaningful ways to make a difference.

When she's not working or volunteering, Crissy enjoys traveling, crafting, reading, watching movies, and spending time with her husband, Mark, and their two adult children, Devin and Lexi. Whether she's helping a new business find its footing, planning a community event, or mentoring emerging leaders, Crissy's goal is always the same, to help people connect, grow, and move their communities forward together.



Heather Ahnafield

Indiana Charity Gaming Division Director

Heather Ahnafield is an experienced leader with more than 20 years of expertise in regulatory compliance, program oversight, and organizational management. In her roles with the Indiana Gaming Commission, including Director and Assistant Director of Charity Gaming, she has led statewide efforts supporting over 3,500 qualified organizations and ensured strict adherence to Indiana's charity gaming statutes.

Heather is known for improving processes, eliminating backlogs, and strengthening the integrity and efficiency of gaming operations. She collaborates closely with investigators, enforcement teams, and legal staff, serving as a trusted resource on compliance and gaming-related policy. With a background spanning both public service and private-sector leadership, she brings a strong foundation in risk management, contract administration, and stakeholder coordination. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Purdue University and is currently pursuing her MBA at Indiana State University.

Outside of work, Heather enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

By-Laws ...

Attention: Locals

Copies of your By-Laws needs to be given to the State Parliamentarian every time a new one is appointed or the State updates their By-Laws. Make sure your Local has given a copy to Claudia Thornburg PSP, email is fine, claudiarthornburg@yahoo.com. Sample by-laws are also available.

Awards...



Some of the awards presented at State Convention were Mentor Award awarded to Twilla Deaton PSP by Dana Jones PSP (left picture).



The INFBPW Woman of Achievement was awarded to Mary Hobbs. Mary is a Female Disabled Veteran and owner/operator of BeeHive Body Co in New Castle Indiana. Mary was not able to attend the convention due to prior commitment. The New Castle Local surprised her at her business and presented the award to her.

Local News...

Hancock County Local:

Hancock Co. BPW Presents Scholarship

The Hancock Co. BPW club enjoyed hosting Sierra Holverson and her family at our June business meeting at the Fortville Memorial Park with a pitch-in dinner. Sierra recently graduated from Mt. Vernon High School and read her scholarship application to the club. Sierra stated that she will be entering IU-Kelly School of Business in Bloomington, IN. The club presented Sierra with a \$1000 scholarship and wished her the best in her future endeavors. It was a pleasure to meet Sierra and her family!! We know she will do well at IU!!



Pictured with Sierra Holverson are President, Carole Stevens and Vice President DeAnn Harmon

Crawfordsville

The Crawfordsville Business and Professional Women (BPW) Club has had a productive and inspiring summer, focusing on education, service, and planning for the upcoming club year.

In June, members welcomed Jamie Selby of Volunteers for Mental Health, who shared practical strategies for building resilience and maintaining mental wellness. Her message encouraged members to embrace authenticity, ask questions, and remember that doing your best is enough. The club also reviewed budget priorities, discussed sponsorship opportunities for the annual Reality Store, and continued planning for membership growth, website improvements, and future fundraising initiatives.

July's meeting honored our nation's veterans with a special presentation by Mike Spencer and members of the Honor Guard. Members learned about the Honor Guard's important role in serving veterans and their families, followed by recognition of four local women veterans for their military service. In a generous gesture, Mike requested that his speaker's honorarium be donated to Veterans Memorial Park.

The club also celebrated thank-you letters from Education Foundation scholarship recipients and community partners while continuing efforts to strengthen membership, public relations, and planning for the Spring Fair and October Reality Store. Members who attended the Indiana Federation summer state board meeting returned with fresh ideas, including expanded community involvement during Working Women's Month this November.

As we begin a new club year, Crawfordsville BPW looks forward to continued service, leadership, professional development, and supporting women throughout our community.

Shelbyville

Shelbyville new members Pinning ceremony June 3rd, 2026



Left to right:
Sharon Cooper
Jami Clark
Laura Land
(not pictured Dawn Adams)

BPW President Joanne Bowen was honored with the Woman of the Year award. She celebrated with her BPW members as well as her family.



Pic: L to R
Jamie Nieves (Daughter)
Joanne Bowen (Recipient)
Allie Bowen (Granddaughter)
Bobby Bowen (Son)
Reece Bowen (Grandson)



BPW members
front L to R: Brandy Moore- Lossie Laird
Middle L - R: Charlotte Towne, E. Ann Myers, Joanne Bowen, Sue Gassert, Laura Land
Back L- R: Jami Clark, Dorcas Dorsett, Kimberly Sturgill, Martha Collier
(not pictured: Sherry Mohr, Theresa Adams, Taylor Davis, Dawn Adams, Chris Hurst, Angie Hadley, Emily Fannin, Andrea Fannin)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jennie Scott Award Forms Due	Sept 15, 2026
Fall Conference Reports Due	September 25, 2026
8th Grade Essay Contest Begins	October 1, 2026
Fall Conference – Executive Board Zoom @ 7:00 pm	October 5, 2026
Fall Conference –Hilton Garden Inn @ Edinburgh	October 9-11, 2026
Working Women’s Month	November 2026
8th Grade Essay Contest Ends	December 1, 2026
Deadline for State Office Nominations	December 31, 2026
HBW Deadline	January 1, 2027
IN Women’s Education Foundation Month	February 2027
Winter Board (Exec Board) by Zoom 7:00 pm	February 3, 2027
Winter Board – Zoom @ 10:00 am	February 6, 2027
IWEF Scholarship Applications Due	March 1, 2027
INFBPW State Award Applications Due	March 15, 2027
State Convention Reports Due	TBD
State Convention- Executive Board Zoom @7:00 pm	TBD
State Convention	TBD

Twilla Deaton PSP

241 N County Road 100 W

New Castle, IN 47362

DISTRICT 2 FUND RAISER

Dana Jones PSP

Amber Long

Hello all! For the Fall Conference fundraiser this year we are going to be having a PJ movie night! Something Different, something fun. We are having an ice cream bar and popcorn. As you can see we are watching the movie "Hidden Figures!" So bring your jammies and slippers. The price is \$15 a person and can be paid through the Fall Conference Registration Form. I envision this being a great night and Amber and I hope to see you all there.

