

Douglas County Republican Women Winter 2013/14

What's New?

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas!
As the New Year begins I think about goals I'd like to accomplish and ways I can make my life more efficient. There never seems to be enough time to do everything I'd like to do. I always think with better time management I can try to fit in everything I **need** to do with everything I **want** to do and everything I **like** to do. My mantra is:

I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

Republican Christmas Party

The Douglas County Republican Party held their annual Christmas Party at Yoder's Country Kitchen in Arthur on December 10. The event was very well attended.

Entertainment was provided by Whiskey Fingers, a local musical group with a folk/bluegrass sound.

Many items were donated by Central Committee members and members of the Douglas County Republican Women. The proceeds were split between the two groups, each receiving \$250.

DOUGLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

November 11, 2013

The Douglas County Republican Women met on Veteran's Day at the Tuscola Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. Sixteen members and guests attended. President Laura Henry called the meeting to order. She read John 16:13 and gave the invocation. Areta Joines led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A delicious meal was provided by Laura Henry. Debbie McGrew made the dessert. Following the meal, Laura welcomed guests and introduced club officers.

Julie Mills read the minutes of the October 14, 2013 meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Caryl Knox reported a balance of \$1,661.49 in the treasury. She said Sandy Bragg had recently had back surgery. Caryl also passed around a thank you from the Hindsboro Christian Church food pantry. Areta presented a "flag minute" on flag etiquette.

Nancy Broch reported for the Scholarship Committee. Members voted to continue to give a \$500.00 scholarship, with the Central Committee giving an additional \$500.00 scholarship. Bibby Appleby moved that we select the top essay as our winner. The motion passed. The Central Committee will have their own criteria.

Caring and Sharing chairperson, Becky Wax, reported that \$157.00 was collected for the Salvation Army Christmas collection.

Caryl reported that the IFRW thinks we should be paying for more members. Currently, our dues are \$15.00 per year. \$5.00 goes to the IFRW and \$10.00 goes to the NFRW. Becky moved that our dues be increased to \$20.00 per year. Dues are due in January.

Laura introduced our speaker, retired Col. Patricia Damler. She spoke about her career as an Air Force nurse, from 1972 – 1998.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Julie Mills, DCRW Secretary

Lincoln Day Dinner

The Lincoln Day dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 at Yoder's Country Kitchen in Arthur, IL. Social time begins at 6:00 pm followed by the buffet meal at 6:30. Tickets for the meal may be purchased from Central Committee members or make reservations by calling Gary at 578-3298. The cost for meal tickets is \$20 per person. Following the meal at 7:30 will be a forum for republican candidates who will be running in contested races in the upcoming election. They will introduce themselves and the candidates for Sheriff will take questions from the audience.



Election

Tuesday, March 18, 2014
General Primary



RICHARD L. BROCH
Candidate for Circuit Judge

Sixth Circuit Associate Judge, Richard L. "Rick" Broch, a 30 year resident of Tuscola, is running for the position of Douglas County Circuit Judge.

in the March 18th primary election.

Rick, age 57, attended undergraduate school at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL. where he graduated in 1978. He then attended law school at Oklahoma City University where he received his law degree in 1981.

With the exception of practicing in the Champaign County Public Defender's Office his first year out of law school, Rick has spent his entire legal career practicing law in Douglas County. Of those years, Rick served the people by being elected to 2 terms as Douglas County State's Attorney from 1988 to 1996. He then went into general private practice where he handled most types of cases, including extensive trial work.

In the late fall of 2012, Rick was chosen from among 25 other applicants to be appointed Associate Judge by the Circuit Judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, comprising the counties of Champaign, Macon, Douglas, Piatt, Moultrie and DeWitt. Since that time, Rick has traveled the Circuit presiding over an average of 200 cases per week of all varieties, primarily in the courts of Douglas, Piatt, Moultrie and DeWitt Counties. Being elected to the open Circuit Judge's position in March would allow Rick to sit and preside over Douglas County cases exclusively, except in matters where he may be assigned to handle conflict cases in other counties.

Rick and his wife, Nancy, have been married 33 years, and have made their home in Douglas County for the past 30 years. They have 1 son, Jeffrey, a 2012 graduate of Tuscola High School, and currently a sophomore at Millikin University in Decatur, IL. where he is pursuing a communications degree and running track.

Rick has enjoyed his time serving the people of Douglas County through his law practice, and hopes to continue in that service as Douglas County Circuit Judge. He would appreciate your vote and support in this regard.



With the encouragement of family, friends and colleagues, Lorna Geiler has announced her candidacy for Douglas County Circuit Judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Geiler is currently a shareholder at Meyer Capel, one of the most respected law firms in Central Illinois, where her practice includes employment and labor law as well other general civil litigation. Prior to joining

Meyer Capel in 1988, Geiler began her legal career as an attorney with Craig & Craig in Mattoon

Born, raised and educated in Central Illinois, Geiler will bring a unique combination of broad legal experience and community commitment to the position of circuit judge. Geiler has been licensed to practice law for over twenty-seven years, and as a practicing attorney, she has been involved in numerous jury trials and has frequently litigated cases throughout Central and Southern Illinois. Geiler is a 1983 cum laude graduate of Illinois State University and a 1986 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law. As an Adjunct Professor of Law at her alma mater since 2006, Geiler enjoys sharing her knowledge of the law and passion for justice with future lawyers.

During her distinguished legal career, Geiler has gained the respect and acknowledgment of her legal peers. Geiler was elected to Who's Who Among Rising Young Americans and was a past chair of a community association for the Illinois State Bar Association. Geiler has been a member of Leading Lawyers of Illinois since 2003, an organization that recognizes outstanding attorneys who are most often recommended by their legal peers in statewide surveys. She has also been given an A V Preeminent rating by her peers, the highest possible rating legal professionals can give to one another. As an A V Preeminent attorney, Geiler is recognized by her peers for her professional excellence, including legal knowledge, analytical capability, judgment, and most important, ethics. In April 2011, Geiler's preeminence was further recognized when she was appointed by then Judge, now Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice, Rita Garman to the Illinois Pattern Jury Instruction Committee, the committee which develops standard jury instructions for both judges and attorneys in all State of Illinois civil cases.

Geiler, a Central Illinois native, has strong community and family ties. She is the daughter of Tonya and Lyle Manselle. She grew up in the rural Piatt County community of White Heath and is a graduate of Monticello High School. Her only sibling, Tim Manselle, is a middle school science teacher at the Atwood-Hammond Middle School. Since 1986 Geiler and her husband, Mark, have made their home in Douglas County, first in Camargo, then in Tuscola, where they now live with their daughter, Samantha, who is an eighth grader at Tuscola's East Prairie Middle School.

Always eager to give back to her community, Geiler has a long history of public service. She regularly contributes her time and resources to many Douglas County causes and charitable events. She served on the school board for Tuscola Community Unit School District Unit # 301 from 2009-2013 and is a past member of the Tuscola Community Foundation.

Geiler hopes to continue her tradition of public service as Douglas County circuit judge. Geiler has had a lifelong goal to serve as a judge, but she has forgone the pursuit of other judgeships in favor of waiting for the right opportunity to give back to her community. Geiler hopes to bring intelligence, compassion and a strong work ethic to the bench. In the longstanding tradition of Douglas County circuit court judges, Geiler has a reverence for the law and a deep respect for the people who come before the court.

Douglas County Sheriff - Republican Candidates



**Chief Deputy
Peter M. Buckley
Douglas County Sheriff's
Office**

Pete attended Western Illinois University (WIU) while earning an Army Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) scholarship. After graduating WIU with a B.S. in Law Enforcement Administration,

he served in the U.S. Army as a platoon leader and was promoted to executive officer of an Air Defense Artillery Battery where he received the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious service.

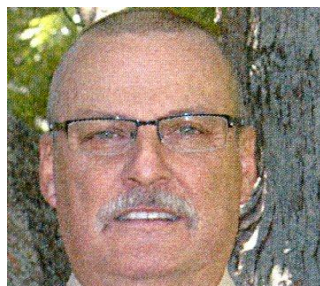
After completing his military service, Pete returned to school and was awarded a master's degree in Counseling from the University of Illinois-Springfield and was hired as a high school counselor and track coach at Reddick, Illinois.

Pete began his law enforcement career as a deputy sheriff for the Mclean County Sheriff's Office in 1983 and was promoted to detective before being selected to become a special agent with the FBI in 1986. While with the FBI, Pete has investigated a variety of federal offenses, to include kidnapping, murder-for-hire, bank robbery, terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, criminal enterprise and conspiracy. For ten years Pete worked on a joint FBI-Chicago Police Department Task Force targeting violent street gangs. Pete was a supervisor of such a task force for three years.

While with the FBI, Pete worked as a supervisor of new agent trainees at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia; as a supervisor at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, Canada following the terrorist attacks on 9/11; as a team leader on the FBI's Inspection Staff in Washington, D.C. and as a team leader for all U.S. Department of Justice investigative personnel in Doha, Qatar during an assignment supporting the Regime Crime Liaison Office. Evidence discovered by Pete's unit was used to prosecute Saddam Hussein for Crimes Against Humanity.

Awards Pete has received while with the FBI include 15 cash incentive awards, two Quality Step Increases (Raise in salary), 27 Letters of Commendation, and seven "Time-Off" awards for investigative excellence. Pete supervised the "Chicago Federal Law Enforcement Team of the Year" (2000) award winner and Pete's squad earned the 1999 International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association Award.

The day after retiring from the FBI, Pete continued his law enforcement career by beginning work as Chief Deputy for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office where he remains today.



**Fred Galey
Douglas County
Republican Sheriff's
Candidate
DOB: 12/11/55
Law Enforcement
experience: 31 years
1977 - 1981
Tuscola PD Patrolman
Douglas County Deputy
Tuscola PD Investigator**

1981 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Academy
1982 - 1985

Graveyard shift downtown Las Vegas (Patrol)
1985 - 1987

Swing shift mainly working the Las Vegas strip (Patrol)
1987 - 1989

Assigned to McCarran Airport (swingshift)
Patrol, enforcing FFA laws and drug interdiction
1989 - 1991

Swingshift Field Training Officer
1991 - 2006 Detective Bureau

Larceny Detail (dayshift)
includes all misdemeanor crimes
General Assignment (swingshift)

responded to all crimes that needed followup and called out the appropriate detail
Robbery Detail

All robberies, including person, business and banks.
Kidnappings, coin truck robberies and casino heists
While working a Brink's truck robbery, which turned out to be an embezzlement, was

invited by the DEA to go to Costa Rica and interview the suspect and recover the \$1.8 million
1998 - 2006

Personnel Bureau (Departments insurance liaison officer)
2006 - 2008 Detective Bureau

Sex Offender Apprehension Program
120+ offenders under my control

Special Victims Section
Child, Adult Abuse and deaths
Elder Financial Exploitation
July 9, 2008 Retired

Personally wrote hundreds of arrest warrants, dozens of search warrants and made hundreds of arrests, and conducted as many interviews.

Personal Appointments:
Appointed to the Industrial Relations Advisory County for the State of Nevada by the Governor
Appointed to the Advisory Board of the Nevada Public Employees Retirement System by the Governor

Personal Achievements:
Over 20 letters of appreciation and commendable action.
Secretary and Treasurer of our bargaining unit.
Regional Vice President of our international association for Nevada and Utah
Was chosen to go to Berlin, Germany to visit the Polizei.

Dues Increase

An increase in Dues from \$15 a year to \$20 was reported in the November Minutes for the DCRW. The price increase is due to a letter we received from the Illinois Federation of Republican Women stating they didn't believe we were remitting dues for all members. A prior arrangement had been made to only pay for an average amount of active members. With new leadership the old arrangement has fallen away. The amount we collect from membership is the same amount we send to the IFRW and the NFRW – National Federation of Republican Women, leaving no portion for our local club. Any money we may need would then need to come from additional fund raisers or an increase in dues. The club voted to increase the dues by \$5 to \$20 per year. There were questions as to how the IFRW and NFRW use our dues.

I attended the Spring IFRW conference including the business meeting. I was given a copy of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss reports. The revenues were approximately \$15,000.00 including dues and the expenditures were approximately \$14,000.00. Most of the expenses went toward the NFRW dues and IFRW board meeting expenses. They also gave a \$500 scholarship which I had the privilege of recommending our past President, Linda Brown in

2013. The balance left after expenses was a little over \$1,000.00. I did not see evidence of excessive spending. However in the balance sheet they report over \$50,000.00 in investments.

Apparently our dues to the NFRW are made through the IFRW.

To access more information about the Illinois Federation of Republican Women, go to their website:

<http://ifrw.org>

National Federation of Republican Women

Founded in 1938, the NFRW has thousands of active members in local clubs across the nation and in several U.S. territories, making it one of the largest women's political organizations in the country. The grassroots organization works to promote the principles and objectives of the Republican Party, elect Republican candidates, inform the public through political education and activity, and increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.

NFRW Membership Benefits

According to the NFRW website, our \$10 membership fees paid through the IFRW entitle us to the following benefits:

- The *Republican Woman* magazine. As far as I can tell this publication is only available online and may be printed. You may receive other publications such as a weekly newsletter, political briefings, membership handbook and Legislative Advocacy Manual.
- Access to The Member Center which has a Digital Resource Library.
- Assistance creating a club website, creating new clubs and other member services.
- Representation in Washington and maintenance of NFRW headquarters.
- Resources to help build, expand our club and communities.
- Campaign Management Schools and other programs to help develop leadership skills.
- Networking opportunities
- The opportunity to empower more Republican women.

Members of the Illinois Federation of Republican Women have access to the NFR website. The username is "federation", the password is "nfrw1938" and the website is:

NFRW.org

To recap where your \$20 yearly dues go

- \$5 IFRW
- \$10 NFRW
- \$5 DCRW

Our club will be what its members strive to make it. I encourage each of you to get involved, take advantage of the resources available and educate yourselves on the issues.

Happy Birthday!

Wilma Allen – January 14
Lenore Nau – January 16
Sandra Bragg – January 18
Nellie Gilpin – January 31
Caryl Knox – February 7
Morgan Ledbetter – February 25

Happy Anniversary!

Bibby Appleby – January 6
Sandra Bragg – January 20
Nellie Gilpin – February 28
Doris Bragg – March 24



Information for the newsletter needs to be submitted to Laura Henry. Thank you

lollymom87@yahoo.com

276-3504

Please feel free to copy or share your newsletter.

We welcome new members and volunteers.

If you have not paid your 2014 Dues, please mail \$20 to:

Caryl Knox
100 Hickory Lane
Villa Grove, IL 61956

State, Federal Lawmakers

Who Represent Arcola Area – Arcola Record Herald

With all of the political redistricting that has occurred recently, you may be wondering which state and federal legislators represent this area. Below is a list of political leaders, along with contact information, who represent the Arcola and Douglas County area:

Illinois' U.S. Senators

- Democrat Richard J. Durbin, 711 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. Phone 202-224-2152; fax 202-228-0400.

Website: www.durbin.senate.gov.

Durbin's Chicago address is 230 S. Dearborn St. (Suite 3892), Chicago, IL 60604. His Springfield office is at 525 S. 8th St., Springfield, IL 62703. Phone 217-492-4062; fax 217-492-4382. He also has an office at 250 W. Cherry St., Suite 115-D, Carbondale, IL 62901. Phone 618-529-3791; fax 618-549-3768.

- Republican Mark Kirk, 524 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone 202-224-2854; fax 202-228-4611.

Kirk also has offices in Springfield and Chicago. His Springfield address is 607 E. Adams St., Suite 1520, Springfield, IL 62701. Phone 217-492-5089; fax 217-492-5099. His office in Chicago is located at the Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60604. Phone 312-886-3506; fax 312-886-2117. www.kirk.senate.gov.

Local U.S. Congressman (15th Congressional District)

- Republican John Shimkus, 2452 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Phone 202-225-5271; fax 202-225-5880. Shimkus' Effingham office is at 101 N. 4th St., Suite 303, Effingham, IL 62401. Phone 217-347-7947; fax 217-342-1219. www.shimkus.house.gov.

Shimkus also has district offices in Maryville (15 Professional Park Drive, Maryville, 62062), Danville (201 N. Vermilion St., Suite 218, Danville, 61832) and Harrisburg (City Hall Room 12, 110 E. Locust St., Harrisburg, 62946).

State Legislators Representing Arcola Area

- Republican State Rep. Adam Brown (102nd District), 301 S. Second St., Room 314, Springfield, IL 62706. Phone 217-782-8398; fax 217-782-7012. His district office is at 510 S. Staley, Suite B, Champaign, IL 61822. Phone 217-607-5104; fax 217-607-5471.

- Republican State Sen. Chapin Rose (51st District), 103D State Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706. Phone 217-558-1006; fax 217-607-5471. His district office is at 510 S. Staley Road, Suite D, Champaign, IL 61822. Phone 217-607-1853; fax 217-607-5471.

Website: <http://www.douglascountyillinoisrepublicans.org/>

Email: douglascountyilrepublicans@gmail.com

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Illinois-Republican-Party>



Third Annual Scholarship

At the last DCRW meeting it was voted that we give another \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who will be attending college. We are going to state that the winner may either be a male or female. The essay that best meets the criteria will be the winner.

Nancy Broch heads the Scholarship Committee. She will be sending out letters to schools soon with the criteria. Last year we were able to almost entirely fund the scholarship with donations from members. You may donate any amount at any time to the club for the scholarship. Please include a note to let us know that your donation is to be used for the scholarship. Also there will be

an opportunity to send a donation with your membership dues.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Following is the criteria for this year's scholarship:

The guidelines for preparing the papers are as follows: please write a minimum of 2 pages double spaced in response to the following statement and questions. You should have your paper mailed to me by April 5, 2014. Any paper received after April 5, will not be considered for the scholarship.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are to be created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, – That

to secure these rights Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, – That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

– From our Declaration of Independence, written in great part by Thomas Jefferson.

– What do these very serious words truly mean to you?

– What did they mean in 1776? Are these words meaningful to us today? Or are they just words that were once important?



2013 Scholarship Winning Essay By Ashley Tabb

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was

once like in the United States where men were free." President Ronald Reagan said this at one point in a speech he gave, but what did he actually mean by it? Reagan had specific points he wanted to make in order to keep individuals in the United States free, and he did his best to do this during his term. Without knowing the fullness of his speech, an individual may take this statement in a completely different way than what Regan meant by it. Either way we, the people of the United States, have to find a way to maintain our freedom.

In a speech President Ronald Reagan gave on July 6, 1987, he talked about several different

topics, but his main point was to talk about how to protect the rights we have as citizens of the United States. Reagan brought up the Economic Bill of Rights, which would guarantee four fundamental freedoms. These freedoms included the freedom to work, enjoy the fruits of one's labor, own and control one's property, and participate in a free market. Reagan believed people should be able to work where they want without interference from the government. He also believed people should not have to worry about an excess of taxing from the government, especially for some of the projects they were using our tax money for. It was not necessary, but the citizens did not have a choice but

to pay the taxes. Reagan stated that it would now take more than just a majority of the Congress to raise taxes, and he told the people that he would veto anything that would raise the taxes during his term but cannot promise anything in the years following. The Economic Bill of Rights would also put an end to the debt we got ourselves caught up in from the government borrowing money. His thought on this was that if the government kept borrowing money the debt would only grow, and at some point the citizens of the United States would be forced to pay it off in some way; this would hurt many families and that is not what Reagan wanted. His plan to stop this deficit spending was to make the congress balance the budget each year. He also said that Congress would have to go into detail about how they would pay for each new program they created. President Ronald Reagan had several ideas to help maintain our freedom and keep us from future problems, but these would have to continue in the years following his term.

When I first read this statement, I would not have thought about it like president Ronald Reagan intended for it to be. Just because we are free now does not mean we always will be; people lost their lives in order to provide us with the rights and freedoms we have today. If we do not take certain steps now, our children or grandchildren may not have the privileges we have today in the United States because we cannot just pass down the freedom

like you pass down family traits. Freedom is like a family heirloom we have to protect and treat as if it is one of a kind. The difference is we cannot just hand it down to our children. We have to teach them about freedom and explain to them how important it is and how to protect it. Sometimes I feel that citizens of the United States today take our freedoms for granted; I think this becomes worse in the younger people because they do not know a world without freedoms. Personally, I agree with what Reagan said because right now taxes are being raised, and that is causing hardships on many families. The first example that comes to my mind is schools not receiving the money they need to support the children, facilities, and faculty they need to be educated. This is huge because the people that are going to be defending our country someday are having a hard time being able to attend school because schools are not getting by with the money they have. This statement also brought the present day to my mind because the government is changing every day it feels. The way the government is changing our old ways, it feels like they are trying to be in every part of our private lives which is what Reagan was against because it took our freedoms away. So, I think we need to stop raising taxes, stop borrowing money, and have a plan for the budget just like Reagan said. I also think we need to explain this to our children and educate them on the situation. If we do this now, and they are

educated in the same area, there might be an even brighter future with all of our freedoms secured. "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United State where men were free." President Ronald Reagan said this at one point in a speech he gave, but what did he actually mean by it? Reagan had specific points he wanted to make in order to keep individuals in the United States free, and he did his best to do this during his term. Now, we have to take pride in our country and take steps to secure our freedoms.

2013 Scholarship Winning Essay By Austin Carmack

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." Ronald Reagan gave this speech over 50 years ago and yet how appropriate it is right now. Reagan was telling us that freedom must be won again and again and that the fight is never over. Our forefathers fought for this freedom. It is a freedom that every once in a while would be taken for granted. He referenced children several times in this one paragraph warning us of the importance of passing freedom on to the next generation. Ronald Reagan is saying that we need to keep fighting for our freedom and educate our children so they know

what freedom is truly about. If we don't fight for this freedom, then it will vanish and be nothing more than a memory to those who experienced it. It will only be there in the form of a story to tell our children. Above all he was telling us that losing freedom in America is possible. This is why President Reagan's words are so true even today. We must fight for freedom. President Reagan's speech means to me that fighting for freedom is not an easy battle. There have been many wars to keep this freedom, but the war now is not really on the battlefield. We see our freedoms slowly eroding, but who is the enemy? We are facing an elusive enemy right now, the worst kind of enemy. It is a silent, well hidden and protected enemy. An enemy that isn't bold in its attack as the attack on Pearl Harbor in World War II or the bold Hitler marching across Europe taking over peaceful nations. Unbelievably, our enemy is right here in our own country. The war is against our government. A small group of elected officials and others are attacking our freedoms daily. They have over the years, pecked away little by little pushing the bar of freedom back in our faces. Most recently we have seen them cram regulations into one bill and pass them in one massive act as they did with Obamacare. Taking away the rights of the people was not the intent of our forefathers. They set the government in place to keep us strong and united and free. It was also set up as small and not intrusive. Our government now is

actually having the opposite affect that we want. The right to own a gun, to choose healthcare, or protect the unborn are examples of freedoms under attack. Present Ronald Reagan's quote has never been more appropriate than today. It's hard to imagine freedom being taken away from us. We never really think about freedom very much. It's just there, in our minds, like the sun rising or taking in a breath of air. One doesn't worry about the sun coming up or think about being able to breathe. Although we don't worry about freedom, it is as important as taking a breath or having a new day begin. Without this, we are prisoners. Our freedom is being stomped on. Our constitution is being ignored. Our right to bear arms and our religious freedoms are being compromised. The arguments by our elected officials say they have our best interests at heart. Would President Reagan believe how far things have slipped away from us under our own elected officials? However, all is not lost. The people of America can direct their own future. I believe that following conservative principles will move us in the direction of freedom and prosperity. Reagan believed in small government, low taxes, a strong military, and the rights of the unborn. He believed in God the Creator, and wasn't shy talking about it. America is a country of God and predominantly a country of conservative beliefs. Liberal ideas have crept into our way of living. We must follow our

conservative principles and speak up proudly to defend them. Knowledge and teaching are keys to preserving our freedoms. We must inform our children in our homes, our students in our schools, and our citizens in this country about what our freedoms are, how we achieved them, and how we must preserve them. When Election Day comes, we have the power to put America on the right path.

**Illinois Federation of
Republican Women
Mary Jo Arndt
Scholarship 2013-2014**

I am pleased to report that Douglas County Republican Women former President, Linda Brown has been selected as the winner of the 2013-2014 Mary Jo Arndt Scholarship through the IFRW. She has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship toward her continuing education. Criteria for this scholarship can be found on the IFRW website. Applications for the 2013-2014 scholarship were due August 1, 2013. No information is available for the 2014-2015 school year, to date.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ~ Jeremiah 29