

IFBW HISTORY

Certificate Number 2266 was issued to the Illinois Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs by the Illinois Secretary of State the 24th of December 1919. No formal convention was held until 1921 when Miss Ida Patterson was elected President of the new corporation. During the forming stage, three directors were selected to control and manage the corporation for its first year in existence. These ladies were Joanna E. Downes, Anna R. Ranes and Mary A. Gallagher. The object for which the corporation was formed was "the betterment and advancement of women".

On April 30th, 1927, at the annual convention, a resolution was adopted modifying the purpose of the corporation to include promoting the interests of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Another resolution was adopted by that body increasing the number of directors to 30. The Illinois Secretary of State approved the amendment to issues associated with both resolutions on December 5th, 1927.

At a annual convention held May 4th 1941, a resolution was adopted "That the certificate of incorporation of the Illinois Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. dated December 24th, 1919 and the resolution providing for change in the number of members of the Board of Directors, dated December 5th, 1927, are both hereby amended to increase the number of Board members to thirty-five; and further amended to provide that hereafter the number of directors in which the management of the Federation is vested may be changed from time to time by amendment of the by-laws". That action was approved by the Illinois Secretary of State on March 10th, 1941.

At the annual convention April 25th of 2009, a Resolution was adopted to amend our corporate charter to allow IFBW to move forward as an independent organization with no ties to any national unit. July 1st, 2009, BPW USA merged with BPW Foundation and the new national group required a fee of \$40 per member to allow IFBW to continue using the national logo or any programs developed by national. Illinois had always been an active part of the national organization and many of our members, as volunteer committee members and chairs, had assisted in preparing the actual programs adopted by the national group as theirs. Paying \$40 per member for something we were involved in creating was not what many of our members wanted. According to Illinois Law, the Resolution adopted at convention 2009 had to be voted upon by allowing all members the opportunity to vote on the issue since we no longer had delegate voting representing the members. In July of 2009, a ballot was provided to all members and the results of that vote were to adopt the Resolution of the convention body. August 20th, 2009 the Illinois Secretary of State accepted the amendment to our purpose without any requirement to promote the interests of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

At the 2010 annual convention, members present had an opportunity to vote on our IFBW logo and a new name for our corporation was discussed. Suggested names were solicited from our members and on February 26th 2011, another special vote by all members desiring to participate was conducted to determine what our name would be. On March 15th, 2011, the Illinois

Secretary of State accepted our name change to The Illinois Federation of Business Women's Clubs, Inc.

The one constant fact of IFBW is our purpose has remained the same since 1919. In 1919, it was stated simply as "the betterment and advancement of women" and today it is stated as "to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information. Our bylaws Mission further states "IFBW advocates professional and personal growth, leadership development and participation, equity and economic self-sufficiency for working women through education, legislation and networking". Additionally, all our locals remain subunits of the mother corporation and are covered by a group exemption by the IRS. We must pay sales tax to the state of Illinois; however, we do not pay tax to the federal government on our funds.

We also no longer have 16 district organizations for our local groups but have 4 regional organizations containing locals throughout Illinois. While transportation today is much improved from that of 1919 and technology has aided in conference/webinar meetings, we still meet annually for an interim board and annual convention. Our Regions meet twice per year; once in the fall after that year's annual convention and again in the following spring prior to the upcoming convention.