

FIBM FACTS & FUN

• 2008 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

We FIBMS know that in many ways the Annual International Convention is the same year after year; Opening Ceremonies, the Town Hall Meeting and Caucuses, Awards Presentations and Election, the Annual Meeting, and the festive Banquet and Ball. Workshops, meeting new people, catching up with friends, sharing experiences and ideas, fun, dances and laughter are all sprinkled throughout the action packed days. This year in Twin Cities, Minneapolis, "Where East Meets West" there were some differences. For the first time ever there were no candidates running for International Offices. But there were rumors of write-ins. In the end there were three write-ins for International President; *FIBM Lee Harris*, *FIBM Mary Anne Britton* and *FIBM Lois Adams*. It was a close race. *Lois Adams* from Portland, OR, Zone G, was elected International President and *FIBM Ann Hanson* from Flint, MI, Zone D, was elected International Membership VP. The "hot topic" at the Town Hall Meeting was the General Liability Insurance. To pay the premium there will be an insurance surcharge. The Chapters in Canada will have separate Liability Insurance. There were no Grassroots topics and the Zone Caucuses were combined with 2 and 3 Zones meeting together. The Annual Meeting had only one carried motion and one failed motion. The Annual Meeting was not the shortest in PWP history but it had the least motions. Every year Australia PWP competes along with PWP, International for FITAP Awards. Year after year Australia PWP walks away with the most FITAP Awards – but not this year! PWP, International won the majority of the FITAP Awards! And then – there were the tornados! There were tornado sirens going off and hotel staff telling people to stay away from the windows. One look outside at the darkening sky and the wind in the trees convinced everyone that this was the real thing. But they were not close enough to our hotel to cause any damage. There was a fun Scavenger Hunt at the Mall of America and a night out at a Casino where a few won and most lost. The *FIBM* Lunch was enjoyed by 21 FIBMS! Please note Board members listed on page 1. As always the Installation Ceremony with *FIBM Pat Boyd* officiating was moving. And for a few moments we all joined hands together in harmony and were united as one. The Convention was dedicated to *FIBM Mary Ellen Hughes*. (See page 3.)

• AUCTION

Thank you to all the FIBMs and others that so graciously gave items for the FIBM auction at the convention and all the people that worked. We made \$444 which was donated to the PWP General fund. The Scavenger Hunt at the Mall of America netted \$145 for the scholarship fund, the banner/billboard \$150 towards scholarship fund as well as the "passing of the hats". We sure had a good time and hope you can join us next year in Ft. Mitchell, KY at the Drawbridge Inn. Listed elsewhere are some old/some new officers for FIBMs. So start looking for items to donate next year. It is a fun thing to do. **Pat Boyd, FIBM AVP.**

• NEWS

Phil Yorston writes: It is always great to read the PWP Single Parent. It really does bring back great memories. I do occasionally meet persons who were PWP members at the same time I was a member and keep in touch with some other former members. I note too that we keep losing some of those with whom I served. My daughters Bonnie and Cheryl are both school teachers. I have 3 grandsons. All are doing well. I just finished leading Florida's Kiwanis District (10,700 members plus 20,000 Kiwanis Family members) as the District Governor. We led the entire world in achieving goals and were recognized as the number one Kiwanis District in the world at our convention in Orlando in June 2008. We provided hundreds of thousands of hours of community service and gave out over 150,000 dictionaries to third grade students. I am now completing 20 years of community service via my Kiwanis membership. Now, I am looking forward to getting back to Duplicate Bridge tournaments where I rank in the top 20% or so in the world and am currently a Bronze Life Master. I hope soon to have more leisure time to enjoy life. I am presently an Assistant Director for a government agency, still teach school in a university graduate program and practice a little law. In about 1983 or 1984, I decided not to run for PWP International office to go to law school full time. I did that and traveled to about 15 + countries in the process. I am still in West Palm Beach, Florida and have worked continuously in government now for over 20 years. Such stability, eh? Maybe I will see you all sometime.

• SHIRTS

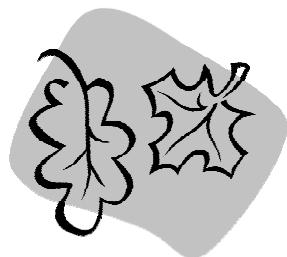
Need a FIBM shirt? If you are in need of a FIBM shirt or know a FIBM that is, please contact Barbara Spade at barbaraspade@worldnet.att.net

• FAREWELL FRIENDS

Did you know it was time to fly?
I didn't want to say goodbye.
We all know this is not the end,
Farewell for now, our dear, dear friend.

Marie J. Messina, 66, of Tucson, Arizona, died August 6, 2008 of a massive heart attack. Marie donated her organs to research. She was the Mother of Theresa M. (Rick) Reynolds, Grandmother of Leighann M. and Samantha L. Reynolds and sister of Rose Palm. Marie was employed by the University of Arizona where she served the Department of Spanish and Portuguese for over 21 years. A Memorial service was held at St. James United Methodist Church where she was a member. Contributions may be made to Tucson Teen Challenge, P.O. Box 77370, Tucson, Ariz. 85703, or to Parents Without Partners, Inc, 1650 Dixie Hwy, Suite 510, Boca Raton, FL 33432. Marie served as an International Director from 1993 -1995. She touched our lives and shared her friendship during those years. She will be missed.

Mary Ellen Hughes, 73, of Green Cove, Florida passed away on July 1, 2008 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was serving a term as the International Treasurer at the time of her death. She also served as Zone L President; 1996-1998 and International Membership VP; 1989-2002. Mary Ellen enjoyed sports and attended many games for the Jacksonville Jaguars. Her hobbies included Sewing, Quilting and Creative Memories. Last year she made the beautiful quilts for the 50th Anniversary of PWP as well as making several items for the FIBM Auction. Mary Ellen is survived by daughter Cari and her husband David Nunes, grandson Josh Nunes and son Mark Hughes, son Kelly Hughes and his son Josh Hughes and her sister Betty Sue Vincent. Donations at the families request to either Hospice or The Cancer Society. Mary Ellen was a delight to know. Her memory will be cherished.



Edward G Shupsky, 71, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania died on March 14, 2007 from pancreatic cancer. Word was recently received from his widow. Ed started his professional career working for Universal Cyclops and ended his career working for Westinghouse Electric in 1985. Through his life Ed belonged to a number of professional and social organizations. Ed's lifelong passion was helping boys and girls develop their character through competition and recreational swimming. He worked with thousands of young people through several generations. Ed was known as Coach "Whoops" because he preferred to get one's attention with his "whoop call" rather than blow a whistle. On July 3, 2003 Ed married his high school friend, Dee. Ed is survived by his widow Dee and his sons Edward and Daniel. He served PWP as International Director; 1976-78 and First Vice President; 1978-1979. Ed will be remembered for his dedication to children.

Judy Lloyd's Mother recently passed away and *Ida "Sam" Berger's* brother has also passed away. *Chris Longley* lost her step-son Cristoffer (husband Geoff Fulton's son) in a car accident in August. May they each find comfort and peace during this sad and difficult time in knowing that they have many friends who care. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

• DUES

Your annual FIBM membership dues are **\$5.00**. They are due on July 1. *If you have not paid your dues; this may be your last newsletter.* Send your check to:

Lee Harris
2905 Fallston Road
Fallston, MD 21047-1325

Make checks payable to The FIBMS. The dues help pay for the FIBM newsletter. Please pass on dues information to FIBMS you know that may not be receiving the newsletter.

• FIBM REUNION

A new FIBM Reunion Committee was elected this year. Ann Sigler is the Chair. The Committee will be "meeting" soon. Have a favorite place you would like to go? How about a cruise? Your input is needed. Send your thoughts and ideas to:
ann.sigler@verizon.net