

IMFHG Spring Meeting
April 12, 2025
Hotel Millwright Carding Room, Amana Colonies, Iowa

Following a delicious Country Buffet Brunch, President JoAnn Alumbaugh welcomed everyone to the spring meeting. She introduced our newest 2024 Iowa Master Farm Homemaker inductee, Barbara Walker, and her husband Brett, from Waverly, who were not able to attend the 2024 fall meeting. She passed around sheets with the article on Barbara that appeared in the September issue of *Wallaces Farmer* along with pictures and talked with Barb about the farm operation and other activities in which she's been involved.

Following the presentation of a pin and certificate to Barb, President Alumbaugh called the IMFH spring meeting to order. Letters from members who could not be in attendance were shared.

Vice-President Mari Lynn Heineman gave the invocation; Secretary Carol Gilbert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Classes: Forty-six members answered roll call, plus guests. Eight members 90 years or older received a special welcome.

Mari Lynn reported on deceased members for 2025, acknowledging they will be honored at the fall meeting.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report of the 2024 fall meeting was available ahead of the meeting and was accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: The full Treasurer's report was available at the registration table. Treasurer Marylou Ahrens reported there are 59 paid members. There is currently \$11,580.93 in the checkbook. Total disbursements are \$4,485.00. There is \$2,820 currently in the Scholarship Account. ACWW dues have been paid for the year. A \$500 memorial was received in memory of Bob Walker. With no corrections or additions, the report was accepted as given.

Committee Reports:

Service Project Committee Chair Joyce Stover reported on the Fall 2025 meal prep planned at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines (similar to last year). More details will follow.

Scholarship Committee Chair Marylou Ahrens reported that she received 27 scholarship applications. Four recipients were chosen for 2025, with each winner receiving a \$500 scholarship. All applicants will receive an acknowledgement letter. Monica Lursen has agreed to be the new Scholarship Chair. There was discussion on the CWC Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship and how the money we gave couldn't be designated for the scholarship because IMFH is no longer a voting member of the organization (not enough paid members in our group to reach the threshold). It was moved by Mardyll Benson and seconded by Dorothy Russell that IMFH offer its own memorial scholarship, called the Iowa Ruth B. Sayre scholarship, which will go to the top applicant of our scholarship program each year. The motion passed. Moving forward, the collection bag passed at the meetings will be for the IMFH scholarship fund.

Website Committee Chair Kelly Keitzer reported on website updates. Members were encouraged to visit the site at [**iowamasterfarmhomemaker.org**](http://iowamasterfarmhomemaker.org)

IMFHG Foundation Committee Chair Chris Cornelius reported that there is \$75,239.60 in the Edward Jones Foundation Account.

Long-range Planning Committee members Cindee Schneckloth, Joyce Stover and President JoAnn shared recommendations for members' consideration, based on responses from the survey. It was recommended by the Executive Board to have

membership dues increase from \$20.00 to \$30.00 in 2026, with dues being paid each Spring. A vote will be taken at the fall meeting on this recommendation. Dues are to be paid in the Spring, and a note will be sent to members to let them know whether or not their dues are up to date. It was also decided to develop a form for members to designate that upon their death, their IMFH pin and binder will be returned to the organization. The secretary will keep a copy for her records and the member will put the form in the front of her binder so family members are aware of her wishes.

Loy Walker suggested having a speaker at our meetings. President JoAnn said she would work on getting a speaker on protecting yourself against scams at the fall meeting.

Old Business: There are currently three applicants and more can still be accepted before May 1 for 2025. New inductees will not have a slide show, as has been done in the past. Instead, each inductee's picture will be printed in the fall program. JoAnn will be conducting the interviews and articles will be printed in a fall issue of *Wallaces Farmer*.

New Business: President JoAnn would welcome service project ideas by August 2, 2025, to be voted upon at the fall meeting. A motion was made by Leah Maass to use 4% of the Foundation fund balance for charitable purposes each year and it was seconded by Chris Cornelius. Specifically, three non-profit organizations will receive \$500 each, to be chosen by vote at the fall meeting. Each project presenter will have three to five minutes to share information about the organization they are nominating.

The additional \$500 will be set aside for IMFH service projects held in conjunction with the spring and fall meetings. Whatever is left from the 4% will go into the IMFH checking account to help with meeting expenses. The motion was approved. For the fall meeting, Joyce Stover is looking at Ronald McDonald House meals again along with possibly making care packages for new moms in Indianola (15 minutes south of Des Moines).

Leah Maass and Anne Marie Nelson willingly offered to serve on the Nominating Committee to recommend candidates for the offices of President and Treasurer, to be voted upon at the fall meeting.

The IMFHG will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2028. Carol Messer and Loy Walker volunteered to help with planning ideas. Other members were encouraged to volunteer as well.

Members were asked if they liked the one-day format of the spring meeting, and if they wanted to try a similar format in the fall. By a show of hands, members were supportive of a one-day meeting. The 2025 fall meeting will be held on Friday, September 5, at the Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines. Mari Lynn is investigating other central-Iowa locations for the fall 2026 meeting, and will share what she has learned at the fall meeting. The location for the 2026 IMFHG Spring meeting will be Le Mars, Iowa.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Gilbert, IMFH Secretary