

Writing Her Story: Inspirational Hoosier Women

Betsy Sierk Corridan



As a freshman in college Betsy Sierk Corridan joined the Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity. Little did she know that after college she would start her career with them and go on to serve as the Theta executive director for 14 years and counting. In her 28 years with the organization, she has

helped to lead them in a new direction. “You have to be able to change with the times and look beyond the status quo and keep things moving and interesting and fresh for the organization.”

Betsy understands the value of relationships and bringing together

the right people to make things happen. She is a dynamic leader who likes to do things by the book, but also understands that “if the rules don’t work for you right now, figure out how to change them so you can keep moving on.”

In 2009, she was appointed by Governor Daniels to serve as the Chair for the Indiana Commission for Women and has brought her leadership and experience to help guide the commission into a new era. “I think the commission does great work and I think we have the opportunity to do a lot more, but I’m often disappointed that there is work to be done...we never should have had these issues in the first place.”

Betsy acknowledges that there are still many challenges that confront women in Indiana and hopes that the commission can help to create a society where they become non-issues. “I’d like to see a time when the commission is no longer for all of the right reasons; where it isn’t a big deal that a woman is our Lieutenant Governor.”

Many women start their careers while also trying to start their families. Betsy separates her life in two. She took a nontraditional path in life, but never thought that it was out of the ordinary. She was career minded, focused and was able to pursue her own interests and accomplishments. She was single until she was 38 and then started

a new chapter in life. When she was 40, she and her husband, Jim, decided to start a family.

After she and Jim were married she moved to Vincennes and thought she would leave her career with Kappa Alpha Theta to turn a new leaf professionally, but was encouraged by the new Theta president to stay on and try a flexible working schedule. While she hadn’t thought about an alternative working situation, she was grateful to have the opportunity to continue working with an organization that she is passionate about.

Betsy has been able to fill many roles in life and celebrates her journey. She grew up the oldest of four daughters and she never felt like she wasn’t able to do the same things that men were able to do. Women’s issues, in many ways, were not an

issue for her when she was growing up in eastern Iowa.

While she sees

that this is not always the case, she firmly believes that “women need to continue to stand up and speak out...because no one else is going to do that for us.” Through the realities that women face and the obstacles that they must overcome, Betsy is inspired by Indiana women. “They don’t strike me as the kind of women who sit around and wait for someone to do something and take care of them. They figure it out and don’t really look for any glory in that; they just do what needs to be done.”



Women in Indiana have an important role to play. You can make a difference by:

- Voicing your opinion
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Pursuing higher education
- Mentoring another woman
- Learning more about the issues that affect women in Indiana.

Go to www.in.gov/icw to learn more about the Indiana Commission for Women and their current initiatives.

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