

**August
MBW Meeting/
Picnic
Tuesday
August 20th at
5:30 p.m.
At
Donna Brau's
Home**

2013-2014 Officers:

President: Donna Brau

Programs: Lisa Ziehl, Stacy Peterson

Treasurer: Angela Koosman

Secretary: Patti Dols

Membership: Jane Vikse

Mentoring Program: Julie Asmus

Newsletter: Kathy Dillon

Fall Banquet: Wendy Ulferts, Teri Beyer, Kathy Dillon

Minnesota Business Women Federation News

August 2013

President's Message—from Donna Brau

It has been a very busy and stressful summer for me as I once again learn how to balance a busy career and my personal life. I love what I do; it's a career that truly meets me at my life's mission, which is that "I am committed to making a positive difference in the lives of the children and families in my community by actively seeking meaningful personal, professional, and spiritual growth through continuing education, ethical leadership and dedicated service to others."

A number of years ago, I attended a national convention and in one of the training sessions, we were all encouraged to script a personal mission. Interestingly enough, I knew that I already had a mission. My entire life had been honing in on its own meaning throughout the changes in my career and my desire for continuing education. But instead of simply writing my mission quickly on the paper the instructor provided, I found myself (along with others) truly thinking this task through. What was it I was truly dedicated to? I thought I knew. And how was I going to make that mission happen? I wasn't so sure. What I did know is that the older I got, the more important it seemed to me that I make my life and my career more *intentional*. And so, after several revisions and some honest soul-searching, I wrote the personal mission statement above, and it has served me well.

Now, as I approach my sixties (no, way!! I can't believe it's true!) I find that I am looking back as much as I am looking forward because I need to know that I have done everything I can to fulfill my mission and to recognize that there are still things I can do even as I speculate about the possibility of retirement. Retirement? Wow, I don't think I'm at all ready for THAT!

A couple of days ago, I read an article in Thrivent magazine that addressed the financial hurdles that women face when trying to build and protect a nest egg. Women of today are exceptionally good at combining personal life and professional life. We dedicate amazing amounts of energy to accomplishing career tasks and caring for ourselves and our families. We volunteer when we can and we do our best to care for our physical wellness and health. But despite all we do well, it isn't uncommon that we worry about money and the future. We worry as we spend our way from paycheck to paycheck, while trying to pay off our mortgages, school loans and spending debt, put away a little for college funds, and save for our retirement.

Here are some interesting statistics from the article:

Women's retirement account balances are 1/3 smaller than men's

48% of women don't have a retirement strategy

On average, women live 5 years longer than men and then become, if they aren't already, the financial decision maker for the household and

Women are more likely than men to leave the workforce to raise children or to attend to aging parents resulting in lower overall earnings.

WILLMAR AREA CHAPTER – MN BUSINESS WOMEN**President's Message—from Donna Brau** (continued)

The good news is that a majority of women are already handling household or work related finances and we're typically quite good at it, even though we have a tendency to invest in the 'safe bet' – we're not typically risk takers with our money.

There are some things we can all do to make sure that we are ready when the time comes to retire and that includes knowing where our money is now and where it's going, investing early and as generously as possible to a retirement account even if it seems a lifetime away, getting educated about rainy day funds and insurance needs (both life and disability), and committing today to make and stick to a plan.

Just like our career path and our life's mission, our retirement needs to be a goal that we work towards in an *intentional* way. Set your priorities for 5, 10 and 25 years from now. Don't let it all just sneak up on an unprepared you.

What I really want, and have always wanted, is to know that my life has made a positive difference for others and, in the end, I want to know that I can enjoy my time out of the day-to-day hustle and bustle of the workplace. And that's what makes being financially responsible both professionally and personally well worth the planning and time.



Mentoring

The mentoring group got together in June to do our community service project of picking up garbage on Mn Business Women's stretch of highway on County Rd 5. We usually find something interesting but didn't have an incredibly unusual object to report this time. We did, however, get up close and personal with nature. Turtles, snakes and a nest of bunnies were entertainment during our walk. It was a very hot day so we decided to cool off with ice cream and a dip in the pool when we were done. Everybody's summer schedules were too hectic to organize a July outing so we'll have to make August extra special. August is also when we take our girls back-to-school shopping, so they can start a new school year with the proper supplies and possibly a new outfit or two.



MBW Monthly Meeting/Picnic **August 20th at 5:30 p.m.** **Donna Brau's Home**

1684 - 78th Ave NE

From Hwys 71 and 23, turn west on Cty Rd. that goes past the Eagle Lake Lutheran Church (I think it's 27) then turn right (or north) on Long Lake Road. Go one mile and turn right into the cul de sac which is 78th Ave. Ours is the first house on the left. Grey with a dark blue door.

Board Members Please Remember Board Meeting to precedes the meeting/picnic at 4:45 p.m.

Agenda to include:
Business of the Year and
Woman of the Year Nominations
Come with suggestions
October Banquet
Spring State Convention planning

Girl Friends Night Out

This year's GFNO was another fabulous success for our mentoring program. We had an absolutely gorgeous evening to hold our fundraising event. The weather was perfect and allowed us to put vendors outside on the driveway and move some of the auction tables on the veranda. Shoppers were able to visit on the deck and eat the delicious food while enjoying the beautiful view of the lake. We had about 20 vendors participate and we were able to raise approximately \$3,000 for the mentoring program. We had approximately 200 women attend the event, which was a perfect amount for the house to not be too crowded. Steve Rambow and Cindy Lahr were so gracious to allow us to invade their house and Steve even helped drive shoppers around in his golf cart. Thank you again to Jane Vikse for lining up another fabulous house and advertising the event, Stacy Peterson for helping to line up vendors and set up and organize for the auction, and all the MBW members that helped line up auction items, organize and direct traffic, greet attendees, and make the event flow so smoothly. We are an awesome group of women working together for a great cause.



Upper Left—Some MBW volunteers greeting guests and pouring wine.

Upper Right—Shoppers enjoying the delicious food and gorgeous view of Green Lake.

Lower Right—It was a perfect night for shopping.

Lower Left—Steve Rambow, our wonderful host and chauffeur.



Other notes to share: from Donna

This from the most recent Ladies Home Journal Online:

As Catalyst, a nonprofit research group dedicated to advancing women in the workplace, celebrates its 40th anniversary, women are taking stock of their advances. And while more progress could be made, the gains are impressive: Between 1970 and 2000, the proportion of women ages 25 to 34 who completed four or more years of college increased from 12 to 30 percent. According to the Center for Women's Business Research, in Washington, D.C., sales generated by female-owned firms have increased by 40 percent since 1997 alone, reaching almost \$1.15 trillion today. And in another sign of the times, while the number of Fortune 500 companies without women on their boards was 155 just eight years ago, today that number is 66.

That doesn't mean that the sexes are on equal footing at work. In a recent Catalyst survey of women and men in their mid-20s to mid-30s, about 42 percent of women reported that they have to overcompensate to get the same rewards at work as men. In fact, women still earn about 76 cents for every dollar a man makes. But the office isn't the only battlefield for equality. Although almost half of both men and women surveyed by Catalyst said they are preoccupied with work while away from the office, women reported feeling more pressure at home and consequently are more interested in child care and flexible hours than their male counterparts. And younger working women know the road ahead may be rocky. Jane Lannon, a 2001 MBA graduate of Dartmouth College's Tuck business school, observes: "As I look toward my future, my biggest challenge will be balancing family and career."

Although women do two-thirds of the world's labor, they own less than one percent of the world's assets. They are paid less than men for the same work, if they are paid at all... Women are 51% of humanity; empowering them will change everything.
~ Isabel Allende





MBW MEETING

June 18, 2013

Green Mill, Willmar

The meeting was call to order at 6:00 pm by Donna Brau, President.
The Collect was recited by the group—The Brag Box was passed around

BUSINESS

Julie Asmus gave an update on Girl's Night Out. There were about 200 attendees with a preliminary fundraising effort of about \$3,000. A discussion was held on improvements to the fundraiser. Ideas discussed included increasing the entrance fee from \$5 to \$10, Charging the vendors \$50 and they would not donated a silent auction item, and having help to lift and move vendor items during the set up. A motion was made by Carol Laumer and seconded by Teri Beyer to empower the executive committee to use this input in making decisions about next year's Girl's Night Out Event. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER

Elisabeth Reynolds presented the treasure's report. Julie Asmus made a motion to approve, seconded by Carol Laumer. Motion Approved.

MEMBERSHIP

We had three new guests attend this meeting

MENTORING

On June 25 at 5:00 the mentors and mentees will clean the MBW designated ditches with a supper and fun time at Big Kahuna to follow. All MBW members are invited to help clean up the ditches.

FINANCE REPORT

For a fundraiser we will do "Bring Back that Pan" for the next year

PROGRAMS UPDATE

None at this time

PROGRAM

Doug Wilkowski informed us about the non-profit Equip Africa. The mission of this organization is to collect gently used computers and learning materials and ship them to schools in emerging nations in Africa.

Raffle item was provided for by Heather Templer

There is no July Meeting

Next meeting is August 20th for the August picnic at Donna Brau's house

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45

Respectfully submitted by Patti Dols, Secretary

**Willmar Federation of
Business Women**

**Working Women—
Working Together**