

September  
MBW Meeting  
Tuesday  
September 17th  
at 5:30 p.m.  
At the Oaks

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**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

September, 2013

## President's Message—from Donna Brau

There are many famous women in history - the list of early "leaders" includes

**Cleopatra:** Queen of Egypt at the age of 18

**Joan of Arc:** helped the French defeat the English and was later burned at the stake

**Queen Elizabeth I:** great queen of England

**Pocahontas:** saved Captain John Smith's life

**Abigail Adams:** President's wife and supporter of women's rights

**Betsy Ross:** famous seamstress

**Deborah Sampson:** fought in the Revolutionary War, pretending to be a man

**Sacagawea:** famous guide and interpreter for Lewis & Clark

**Sojourner Truth:** African American woman who spoke out against slavery and for the rights of women

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton:** leader in the women's rights movement

**Lucy Stone:** first woman in the US to earn a college degree in 1847, organized the first national women's rights convention

**Susan B. Anthony:** formed the National Woman's Suffrage Association

**Elizabeth Blackwell:** first woman physician

**Emily Dickenson, Louisa May Alcott, Mary Cassatt, Edmonia Lewis:** famous poet, author, painter, sculptor

**Charlotte E. Ray:** first African American woman to get a law degree

**Juliette Gordon Low:** founded the American Girl Scouts

**Marie Currie:** famous scientist and Nobel prize winner

**Maria Montessori:** famous for her work with young children and education and

**Helen Keller, Georgia O'Keefe, Amelia Earhart, Margaret Mead, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Anne Frank, Jane Goodall, Madeleine Ahlbright, Jane Fonda, Wilma Rudolph, Billy Jean King, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Oprah Winfrey**

Look over this list (realizing that it is a very minimal and inconclusive list of possibilities) and contemplate the following: What did these women, who lived a thousand years apart, have in common? Why were they stand-outs, leaders? I tend to believe that there is some common ground here, something more than 'birth right' and I also tend to believe that over the centuries that given more 1) Opportunity 2) Education and 3) Positive reinforcement that our list of influential women would be so long that I couldn't have even begun to scratch the surface of names. In reality, my Google search for famous women led to several rather non-overwhelming lists that consistently listed these names. As the decades became more contemporary, the list grew to include an odd imbalance of actresses, singers, and "E" news personalities.

## WILLMAR AREA CHAPTER – MN BUSINESS WOMEN

**President's Message—from Donna Brau** (continued)

If you do the same Google search looking instead for famous men in history, the lists are exhaustive, and balanced in those lists are an impressive number of statesmen, politicians, physicians, artists, performers, scientists, physicists, psychologists, explorers ...

Leaders Of All Kinds.

A couple months ago I wrote about Sheryl Sandberg, author of *Lean In*. She is concerned because “too many people hold themselves back because they feel intimidated.” She focuses on the financial disparity between men and women, and the imbalance between the fact that women make up 51% of the population, but only 4% of CEO positions. Where does this disparity begin?

I would opt to say that little girls are introduced to this disparity at a very young age through experiences at home, in school, and through the media. They are bombarded on a daily basis with messages that focus on how we should look, how we should move, how we should dress, and how important it is to maintain our youth. What do we tell our girls, and more importantly, how do we convince our girls, that media focus on the Miley Cyrus debacle is offensive and should not be tolerated? I think we have more important things to do than watch, talk about, and acknowledge such a display, and we deserve the opportunity, the education, and the positive support to do and be all that we can be. Until we change the focus of the media and of society about where we belong and what we can do, then we, as a society, will continue to waste the creative, innovative, trustworthy, quality leadership potential of half of the world's population!

As a new school year begins, make a vow to be a part of a growing need to be involved in the education of our youth, whether at home, at school, or in the media. Our schools can't do this incredibly difficult job alone, especially when pitted against the glitz of video and media. Volunteer in the schools if you can, get involved with Career Fairs/Days, contribute any way you can, and at the very least be an advocate for children – children who deserve and require the best we all have to offer. They are, after all, our future...



## Mentoring

August is the traditional “Back to School” shopping event for the mentors and their girls. Some of the funds that are raised at our Spring fundraiser are used to get the girls ready for the new school year. The mentors have all taken their girls out shopping for school supplies, shoes and possibly a new outfit for the first day of school. We have three of our girls that are starting out at the Sr. High School this year. It’s hard to believe they’re getting that old. In September the group is planning on going horseback riding. This will be a first for the mentoring group. We’re hoping for a gorgeous fall day.



**Alayna excited about finding the perfect shoes for school**



Willmar Federation of  
Business Women

**Board Members Please Remember Board  
Meeting Tuesday September 10th at 5:30 p.m.  
at the Goodness Coffee Shop**

**Agenda to include:  
Business of the Year and  
Woman of the Year Nominations  
October Banquet**

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**MBW Monthly Meeting**

**September 17th—5:30 p.m.  
At the Oaks**

**Janessa with Distinguished Women  
will be our speaker**

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**MBW ANNUAL RECOGNITION  
BANQUET**

**October 15th—5:30 p.m.  
At the Oaks  
Woman of the Year & Business of the  
Year will be recognized  
Kimberly Giles will be our Speaker**





# **MBW Monthly Meeting**

**November 19th—5:30 p.m.  
At the Oaks**

**Mary Swatzky**

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**MBW Meeting  
August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Donna Brau Home**

**An abbreviated meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Donna Brau**

**Program**

**A catered lunch was served with time for fellowship and reconnection. The Brag box brought a lot of joy and laughter to the groups and a sizeable amount of financial contributions!**

**Treasure Report**

**The treasurer's report was presented by Angela. A motion by Lisa and seconded by Stacy to approve the report. Motion carried. The 2013-2014 budget was presented by Donna. A motion by Terri and seconded by Wendy to approve the budget. Motion carried.**

**Fundraising**

**Jeni explained the "That's my Pan" fundraiser. For each item we need to add \$1.90 for shipping. Orders are due at the October Banquet. If you need an order sooner, as soon as there are 8 items, Jeni can place an order.**

**Linda shared Mary Kay items for the mentees for Christmas. We can help purchase \$10.00 items for \$5.00 and if we buy items for personal use, Linda will return 30% back to the mentoring program.**

**Raffle item was provided for by Donna Brau**

**Next Meeting is September 17th, tentatively at the Oaks**

**Respectfully submitted by Patti Dols, Secretary**



## Other notes to share: from Donna

### Hot Topics

#### Social Security

Seventy-eight years ago, on August 14 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill that created Social Security into law. And yet, some in Washington are still obsessed with undermining this foundation of retirement security in America.

Nobel-prize winning economist Paul Krugman wrote, “Conservatives hate Social Security for ideological reasons. Its success undermines their claim that government is always the problem, never the solution. But they receive crucial support from Washington insiders, for whom a declared willingness to cut Social Security has long served as a badge of fiscal seriousness, never mind the arithmetic.”

While Social Security is a program that is vitally important to all Americans, it is especially critical to the financial security of women. There are a number of reasons why this is so.

Read more @ [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/terry-oneill/social-security-turns-78\\_b\\_3755073.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/terry-oneill/social-security-turns-78_b_3755073.html)

#### The Broken Water Ceiling?

You’ve heard of the glass ceiling. Maybe even the lavender ceiling. But what about the broken-water ceiling?

[A couple of weeks ago], New York City Council candidate Raquel Batista gave birth to a baby girl—making Batista one of only a small handful of women to run for public office while pregnant, let alone (as Batista hopes) to win. Yet throughout the gestation of her political run, Batista has been dogged by questions—and doubts—surrounding her pregnancy.

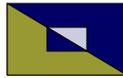
Earlier in August, at a debate featuring Batista and other candidates in the Bronx council district, a local newspaper wrote:

*Looking only slightly uncomfortable at almost nine months pregnant, Raquel Batista, the former housing and immigration rights activist, somehow managed to hang in there for the full two hours.*

In fact, that was the only mention of Batista—even though, as a lawyer, former Executive Director of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights and former community organizer with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, Batista is arguably the most well-known and qualified candidate in the race. And she arguably would be seen as such, were she not female and pregnant.

Following the birth of her daughter, one of Batista’s opponents, Joel R. Rivera, supposedly congratulated Batista, saying, “I hope she’s able to have the time-management skills to be there for her child and run her campaign.” It’s hard to imagine a new father facing such barbs running for office.

Read more @ <http://www.thedailybeast.com/witw/articles/2013/08/22/sally-kohn-on-breaking-the-water-ceiling-for-pregnant-politicians.html>



**MBW Executive Board Meeting – August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Present: Donna Brau, Jeni Ritz, Wendy Ulferts, Lisa Ziehl, Angela Koosman, Patti Dols, Jane Vikse, Terri Beyer, Kathy Dillon, Stacy Petersen,**

**Business items:**

The list of nominations for **Business of the Year** and **Woman of the Year** from last year was reviewed. After discussion, another **Business** was added to the list. Members of the executive team will make contact with the proposed nominees.

The **October banquet** will be **October 15<sup>th</sup>** most likely at the **Oaks restaurant**. The speaker, **Kimberly Giles**, address is titled **“Bucket Fillers”**.

A discussion was held on the **Spring State Convention** planning. We will be asking the **State Association** to let us set the date for the **Saturday** after **Girl’s Night Out** so that attendees can join us on **Friday night**. We are planning for **30-40** attendees. **Jane Vikse** and **Jeni Ritz** will be in charge of organizing welcome bags. All members are asked to look for items to place in these welcome bags.

**Treasurer’s Report – Angela**

The current report shows a checkbook balance of **\$5,996.82**, a saving account balance of **\$2,767.77**, and a total balance of **\$8,764.59** the same report showed a proposed **2013-2014** budget. **Donna** reviewed the few changes from last year. Motion by **Jane** and seconded by **Stacy** to approve the financials and proposed budget.

A discussion was held on meal costs for next year. We will keep it at **\$12.00**

**Membership Report – Jane**

Check new member list and current member list for any changes or updates

**Fundraising – Jeni**

We will currently do the **“That’s my Pan”** fundraiser for our scholarship fund. Fundraising orders are due to **Jeni** at the **October banquet**. If anyone needs items earlier, an order can be placed when there are **8** items ordered.

**Newsletter** items are due to **Kathy Dillon** by **September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Next Exec Meeting: September 10<sup>th</sup>** at noon at the **Goodness Coffee shop** downtown **Willmar**, across the street from **Interior Design**.

**Respectfully submitted by Patti Dols, Secretary**

**Willmar Federation of  
Business Women**

**Working Women—  
Working Together**