

Minnesota Business Women Federation News

May 2013

President's Message—from Donna Brau

AH ILLUSIVE SPRING and Blessings...

I can't remember a spring like this in my life ever before. Not to say that we haven't had one, I just don't remember ever experiencing such a frustrating spring in my life before this one. I am an avid gardener, anxiously waiting for the daffodils and tulips to emerge from the seemingly lifeless ground. I'm always amazed when the green tips poke through soon to be followed by the bright splotches of yellow, pink and purple as the buds explode throughout the garden. One of my favorite pictures of my son finds him completely surrounded by hundreds of bright green and pink tulips one wonderful spring about 12 years ago. I wish I could have replicated that picture every year.

Part of my garden is also the large pond, which lies in mostly frozen splendor throughout November, December, January, February and March. The fish hunker down at the bottom, mostly motionless until the water slowly warms and they rise to the surface, hungry. My husband and I love to see them wake and there's a sort of reassurance that comes with seeing them amazingly survive these cold Minnesota winters.

We see the deer at nearly every dusk raiding the neighbor's bird feeders, culling every last seed that has dropped to the ground and we watch to see them joyfully discover the apples we've thrown near the crest of the hill. What a treat that must be, as I imagine the choices of food for them throughout the winter has been pretty limited.

These relaxing glimpses into the yard as we yearn for spring are wonderful reminders of the resiliency of life. For as cold and snowy and as stubborn as this winter has been, I feel wonderful knowing that the fish will wake to the shimmer of sun on the pond, the flowers will stretch out of the soil kissed by warmth, and the deer will kick their heels across the soft lawn of growing green. These are only three of the many blessings of each new day, and I believe that when we allow ourselves to slow down and appreciate small daily blessings, every day is a joy.

May

MBW Meeting

Tuesday

May 21st at 5:30
p.m.

Roosevelt Room
at Green Mill

2012-2013 Officers:

President: Donna Brau
Programs: Deb Paterson/Jeni Ritz
Treasurer: Elisabeth Reynolds
Secretary: Chris Carlson
Membership: Wendy Ulferts
Finance: Lisa Ziehl
Mentoring Program: Julie Asmus

Newsletter: Kathy Dillon
Fall Banquet: Julie Asmus, Teri
Beyer, Kathy Dillon

WILLMAR AREA CHAPTER – MN BUSINESS WOMEN

**MBW Monthly Meeting
May 21st at 5:30 p.m. - Roosevelt Room at
Green Mill**

**Officers will be installed
New Members will be Recognized
Scholarship Award - Ridgewater**

Raffle Donations
May - Beth Wepplo
June - Heather Templer
September - Chris Carlson & Elisabeth Reynolds

MAY DAY IS PAY DAY
Remember to Pay Your MBW Annual Dues

2013-14 Slate of Officers

President – Donna Brau
VP Programs – Lisa Ziehl & Stacy Peterson
VP Membership – Jane Vikse
Treasurer – Angela Koosman
Secretary – Patti Dols



Other notes to share: from Donna

I recently drove a long snowy road to Iowa to attend the Iowa Women's Leadership Conference and had the opportunity to hear Bernice King (Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter), Martha Stewart, Eleanor Clift, Benita Mosley, Gloria Steinem and many more speak to a crowd of nearly 900 professional women. It was an amazing chance to see iconic leadership at it's finest and I am impressed with the level of dedication of the Iowa women to supporting women in the workplace. It is a model that I would wish for in Minnesota.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We should be proud of our local Willmar Chapter of MBW. The state conference was held on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27. Friday is filled with speakers and networking opportunities and Saturday is the annual meeting. When the group breaks for lunch on Saturday, awards are presented. This year Willmar received three awards. Our Business of the Year, Northern States Supply was also selected at the state level. We received recognition for our excellence in Mentoring, and "yours truly" received the President's Re-visioning Award. I was so proud to be there to receive these awards on your behalf – **CONGRATULATIONS!!**



Willmar Federation of
Business Women

**Working Women—
Working Together**

MBW EXECUTIVE MEETING

MBW Executive Board Meeting – April 9th 2013

Present: Donna Brau, Julie Asmus, Deb Paterson, Jeni Ritz, Elisabeth Reynolds, Wendy Ulferts, Lisa Ziehl, Chris Carlson

Business items:

The application has been sent for Business of the Year state level award – Should know by end of week and the application was sent for the Mentoring Program state level award – Should know at the State Convention to be held April 27th. Donna is planning to attend. Also, Iowa Women Leadership Association has their convention April 22-23. Donna was able to get a scholarship to attend, which covers the registration cost. Some discussion on Owatonna's decision to withdraw from State MBW, precipitating further discussion on our options to continue MBW State or to pull out and go back to Business Professional Women (BPW). Much more in depth discussion is needed.

2013-2014 slate of officers:

President – Donna Brau

VP Programs – Lisa Ziehl and Stacy Petersen

VP Membership – Jane Vikse

Treasurer – Angela Koosman

Secretary – Patti Dols

Treasurer's report: Elisabeth

The March report was presented, as the last meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. April's checkbook balance was \$2,507.92, Savings Account balance \$2,767.35 with a total of \$5,275.27. Motion by Jeni to accept the Treasurer's report and seconded by Lisa.

Elisabeth reported that Green Mill is increasing their cost of MBW meals. Jeni will check with Dave Baker at the Oaks, for pricing and room availability starting in September.

Membership Report – Wendy

The board reviewed the membership list in order to update the retention list.

We have three prospective new members.

Programs – Deb/Jeni

April – Mary Huesing, Community Owned Grocery (COG)

May – Installation of Officers

June – Equip Africa

Finance Report – Lisa

Nothing new to report

Mentoring – Julie

April – None (there will be 2 meetings in May)

May 4th – Demo, Inc – Making paper

May 7th – Flower pot for Mother's Day

Girl Friends Night Out (GFNO) will be at the Steve Rambow home on June 7th. Stacy Petersen will help with vendors, there are less vendors this year (22). Val Selness will do the food. Lisa will provide 2 golf carts. Wine will be served in the unattached garage.

Newsletter articles are due to Kathy Dillon by April 29th

Next Executive meeting: May 14th, 5:20 at Jazz N Java



MBW MAY MEETING

MBW MEETING

April 16, 2013

Green Mill, Willmar

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Donna Brau, President.
The collect was recited by the group.
The Brag Box was passed around.

Business:

Donna was pleased to announce that Northern States Supply was awarded the State Employer of the Year!

2013-2014 slate of officers:

President – Donna Brau

VP Programs – Lisa Ziehl and Stacy Petersen

VP Membership – Jane Vikse

Treasurer – Angela Koosman

Secretary – Patti Dols

A motion to approve the officers was made by Vickie Melbe and was seconded by Linda Mickelson

Committee Reports:

Treasurer:

April's checkbook balance was \$2,507.92, Savings Account balance \$2,767.35 with a total of \$5,275.27.

Membership:

The membership list was updated. Dues should be paid in May (\$60). Everyone is encouraged to bring a guest to the May and June meetings. May meeting will include New Member Recognition.

Mentoring:

April – No meeting in April (there will be 2 meetings in May)

May 4th – Demo, Inc – Making paper

May 7th – Flower pot for Mother's Day

Finance:

This year's Girl Friends Night Out will be at the Steve Rambow residence on Green Lake at 5-8 pm (address and details of this event will be sent out at a later date).

There will be room for 22 vendors, each vendor will donate a \$50 item for the silent Auction. Sponsors/Donors will be contacted. A generous donation of \$250 was given by Yvonne Meyer Johnson for the mentoring program.

Programs:

May – Installation of Officers, New Member Recognition, Scholarships

June – Equip Africa

Program:

A presentation was given by Mary Huesing on the Community Owned Grocery (COG), which is a member-supported food cooperative which is hoping to build in downtown Willmar.

Raffle item was provided by Donna Brau. Beth Wepplo will provide the raffle item for May.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Carlson, Secretary

**Willmar Federation of
Business Women**

**Working Women—
Working Together**