



The Minnesota *Business's Woman*

The Official Publication of the Minnesota Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc.

Vol. 82, No 1 • 2015-16

Our Legacy: Preserving ...Living ...Sharing

Dear Members,

Wow! The clubs have been busy with some great Fall programming. It's so exciting to see and hear all that is going on. Membership is on the increase; that's what happens when we have membership drives, mixers, interesting and relevant speakers. Be sure to read what is going on with each club. Club information and pictures are available on the website also at: mnbusinesswomen.org ... Donna Brau from Willmar is our website manager. She's looking for some good pictures taken at club happenings. Send them to her at: dbrau@charter.net

Your board of directors met on October 3 in St Cloud. We are in the preliminary stages of planning our annual event, set for April 16, 2016.

Personally, I'm in the midst of moving to Duluth and in the final stages of THE Craft Show, held on November 7. It's the largest and best craft show in the Grand Rapids area. Our club uses the proceeds for our scholarships. So I'm trying my darndest to maintain some sanity and keep the stress level in check!

One thought I would like to share is the appreciation and respect I have for our BPW/MBW members. There are many members that give so much of themselves; their wisdom, experience and talents. When we put our minds together, brainstorm and walk the talk, great things happen. We're like pieces of a puzzle, we all connect to make it complete. Don't be the missing piece, whether you've been a member for 6 months or 20 years, you've got so much to share with your club. When you give, you'll be rewarded greatly! Keep the excitement going!

Happy Thanksgiving.

Joni



Joni Fauchald, President

*Save the Date: April 16
for the 2016 Annual Event*

National Business Women's Week®

Mary Jo Igelstad, Historian

Business and professional women throughout the United States celebrated National Business Women's Week® (NBWW), October 19-23, 2015. We need to thank the women who fought for gender equality decades before diversity and inclusion in the workplace became a popular topic. This year marked the 87th anniversary of NBWW.

The event was a nationwide salute to all working women and provided us the platform to highlight the progress we have made, it also provided us the opportunity to discuss:

- 1) The needs of all working women: Companies with a diverse corporate structure are poised for greater success in today's complex global markets. We have made some significant advances. But there still exists an uneven representation of women and minorities in the executive suites and board-rooms.
- 2) Share information about successful workplace policies: Credit Suisse has a link to "Gender diversity and corporate performance"; Dan Schwabel has a link to "Why diversity matters in the workplace"; Compass Group has a link to "Diversity and inclusion-the face of our success"; Publix has a link to "Committed to diversity"; The Coca-Cola Company has a link to "Diversity, inclusion and fairness programs and policies"; and IBM Executive Research Study has a link to "Advancing women".
- 3) Raise awareness of resources available for women.
- 4) Highlight the progress made by women business owners.



The following is excerpted from . . .



They chartered in 1980 with the largest charter ever for a local BPW unit — some 70 strong — and their track record shows the group has continued to grow and prosper since that time. In five short years, Willmar has produced a State Treasurer and District officers, chaired State Committees, won YCW District Competition, had a State IDP winner, and hosted a State Convention, district meetings, and the State Legislative Conference.

Surprisingly, it was a man that got the Willmar BPW started. Ollie Hagen, a local banker, had come from Austin, Minnesota, where there was a strong, cohesive BPW group in operation. He thought the same type of group was right for Willmar:

Letters were sent out to businesses soliciting interest and 17 women turned up at the first meeting. From then on, there was nowhere to go but up.

How do they do it? "Programs are the key," says Betty Shepperd, Willmar member and Minnesota's National and State Councilor for the Future of Women in the Workplace.

The group has broad-based representation on the Chamber of Commerce, United Way, School Board, Utility Board and Library Board, and on the Planning Commission and Police Commission.

This is what the group is most proud of. "There are more women on boards in Willmar than ever before," says Leola Erickson, former State Treasurer. "The political visibility of working women here is excellent."

Flexibility is another key element in Willmar's success story. "We let leaders lead," says June Benson. "One of our goals is not to get into a pattern that can't be broken. Each new president is different from the last, and the members accept the change in direction."

They also operate a speaker service available to local schools and other organizations.

And they get more back than they give. "What I like," says Betty, "is the opportunity to meet people from other professions."

Leola stresses personal growth. "I've been pushed to do a lot of things I hadn't done before," she says.

Others cite the benefits of a BPW support group. "Now when I miss a month, I feel out of touch," says [past president] Audrey Nelson. "It's fun to see members and the group prosper."

Calendar

2015-16

February 17..... Deadline for Issue 2
Minnesota Business Woman

March Women's History Month

April 12..... Equal Pay Day

April 16..... State Annual Event, St. Cloud

October 17-21 National Business Women's Week
Start planning now for a successful event next year!

MINNESOTA BUSINESS WOMAN

- **ADVERTISING:** *Minnesota Business Woman*, the official publication of the Minnesota Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. is published twice each year (October and March). Ads are welcome, but *Minnesota Business Woman* reserves the right to refuse advertising that does not meet the standards of the organization and this magazine. For ad rates, contact the editor.
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- **Articles** are subject to editing for space availability, clarity, etc.
- **Photos** are appreciated. High resolution digital photos (approx. 1 MB) are preferred, but regular photos may also be submitted by postal mail.
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Whatever we decide to do...is what we do. — Morgan Freeman

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MFBPW 2015-16 Leadership Directory

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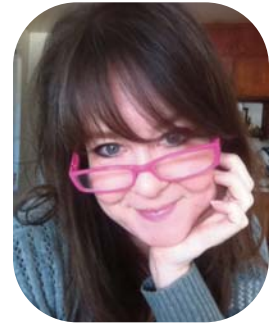


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CLUB MEETINGS
Dala of Mora — 4th Monday
Fergus Falls — 1st Tuesday
Grand Rapids — 4th Thursday
Mankato — 3rd Wednesday
St. Paul — 1st Wednesday
Willmar — 3rd Tuesday

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Preserving...Living...Sharing
around the state!

DALA OF MORA BW *Evette Wissler, president*

The Dala Business Women have been active and growing in 2015. We started the year with 10 members and we've added 5 bringing us to a total of 15 members.

We started in August with a social for women to learn more about the Dala Business Women. That netted us 4 new members.

In September we attracted over 20 women interested in the topic of Human Sex Trafficking with experts from Duluth who gave an overview and a panel from Lakes and Pines Community Action Council who spoke on the effects in our community.

Our National Business Women's Week scholarship fundraiser was October 19th where we netted another new member. Our speaker was Kathy Zachman Mathiasen who owns Favorite Cowboy Coffee. A portion of all her profits go to support therapy horses and charitable endeavors.

In November our program will focus on buying local. We will have an expert on the subject give us facts and figures and a panel of two business owners talk about how they support the community through donations, student programs and collaboration with local social service organizations. December is a fun evening focusing on the members. We have a white elephant gift exchange and members bring food for the food shelf.

2016 will find our organization moving forward, growing and enriching women's lives in the community.

ST. PAUL BW *Jane Peterson, president*

St. Paul BPW's Sept. 2 meeting featured another in our series of "My Story" programs with member Liz DeLay presenting her career story, and also hosting the meeting at her Highland Park home. Liz recently retired after a long-term career with the State of Minnesota, beginning with the DOT and then with the state driver's license division. We marked the passing on Aug. 25 of long-time member Jean Todd, a past president of the club and 1989 Woman of the Year.

Our Oct. 7 meeting featured a discussion of National Business Women's Week, and a reminder of the needs of the homeless. For a number of years our local has supported the daytime shelter in downtown St. Paul with warm clothes and other necessities. That collection will take place at our December 2 meeting.

Our Nov. 4 topic is pending. The business meeting will focus on BPW local and state bylaws.

— GENDER WAGE GAP —	
White Men	\$1.00
Latina or Hispanic Women	\$0.54
American Indian and Alaska Native Women	\$0.59
African American Women	\$0.64
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women	\$0.65
White Women	\$0.78
Asian American Women	\$0.90

FERGUS FALLS BPW *Michelle Vogl, co-president*

Below is our schedule of meetings and topics for the year. In addition to these programs, we also had a member/guest wine and paint night October 22nd. We mix Cheeseballs on November 11 and roll them on November 14th. We will participate in the Somewhere Safe Tea in February and have a murder mystery event in April. Please let me know if you would like additional information. Our club is down slightly in numbers this year, but we are working hard on growing our team.

- July Program: Wine Tasting
- August Program: You're A Good Man Charlie Brown
- September 1, 2015 – Cancelled due to a funeral
- October 6, 2015 Program: Yoga and Relaxation
- November 3, 2015 Program: How To Make Coffee/Etc.
- December 1, 2015 Program: Christmas Party - This will include a food drive for our local food shelf and auction for fundraising.
- January 5, 2016 Program: Essential Oils
- February 2, 2016 Program: Gourmet Foods
- March 1, 2016 Program: Women's Health
- April 5, 2016 Program: Organizing
- May 3, 2016 Program: Gardening
- June 7, 2016 Program: Installation of Officers

GRAND RAPIDS BPW *Deb Bounds, president*

The Grand Rapids BPW is gearing up for a fantastic year of fun, excitement, and growth! Officers this year include President Deb Bounds, Vice President Mary Andrews, Treasurer Faye Crane and Secretary Michele Palkki. Because we know how important BPW is, we wanted to make sure we get recognition and exposure in our community and throughout Itasca County, we selected June Johnson as our Publicity Agent (I love that title). Knowing that we all could use a little more fun in our lives we invited Joni Fauchald to plan some social nights or days so we can get out and "get a little wild"! We are working on scheduling our August meeting on a pontoon on an area lake!!!!

Our goals for this year are to grow our membership and also start a mentoring program with our local Girl Scout Troops. September's membership night was very successful with a total of eight area business women/students stopping in to check out what BPW is all about. We will continue to invite guests to each meeting to help increase our numbers and create diversity.

Our signature fundraising event each year is THE Craft Show. This event helps us sponsor two to three area non-traditional women students as they further their careers through education. THE Craft Show is on November 7th at The TimberLake Lodge. Stop in and say hello!

Our Program lineup for this year will feature speakers on; Identity Theft, Physical Health, Mental Health, Financial Health, Women's History Month, and Environmental Health. We want to make sure each meeting gives our members an opportunity to grow personally or professionally. I am excited to say that everyone is doing a fantastic job volunteering to chair these programs.

Another highlight of our year is to present our "Woman of The Year Award" or "Business of The Year" Award acknowledging either a woman or business who represents what BPW stands for. "Working Women Working Together".

MANKATO BPW

Kelly Hulke, president

Fall has arrived and there are many exciting happenings at Mankato BPW! We are excited to report that our chapter is growing! We welcomed four new members in the last few months. They are Darla Manke, Denise Peters, Kristi Schaffer and Jan Taplin. Welcome Ladies, we're excited to have you join us!

In August, we had Senator Kathy Sheran speak on the topic of "Life Balance." Sheran is on six legislative committees and is the chair of the Health, Human Services, and Housing Committee. She was first elected in 2006. For the September Mankato BPW meeting, we enjoyed a picnic lunch and then toured the streets of Mankato enjoying the art exhibits featured in the 2015 Mankato ArtWalk. This is the fourth year that our group has taken the tour as part of our fall social event.

We kicked off our cheese ball fundraiser at our Oct. 19th meeting. The "mixing" date for cheese balls will be Wed. Nov. 18th and the "rolling/delivery" date will be Nov. 22nd. We are offering three flavors of cheese



Some of Mankato BPW members pose on one of the art exhibits in downtown Mankato. Front, left to right: Jackie Derner, Pat Kaiser, Lana Karstens. Back row: Sue Van Boening, Tami Ellis, Judy Ringler Mountain, Kelly Hulke

balls: Plain, Tangy Chipped Beef and Pecan with Raspberry. Our goal this year was to sell 300 cheese balls and we are over 25% to our goal. One customer just ordered 15 cheese balls as gifts! Our goal is to offer another \$1,000 scholarship in the spring of 2016, and have enough in the coffers to fund a second scholarship. On October 13, our club participated in the "Clothes Closet Service Project" at Encore Clothing Store in downtown Mankato. Over twenty women chose free clothing, shoes and accessories. This project helps disadvantaged women from three facilities in Mankato. The next date for this event is January 19, 2016.

WILLMAR BPW

Stacy Petersen, president

Willmar is continuing our focus on growth and how we can broaden our community support. We recently awarded a non-traditional Ridgewater college student with a scholarship and continue to hold fundraisers to replenish that account for future sustainability.

We held our annual banquet where we had a speaker talk about "Making Meaningful Connections" and awarded the Woman of the Year to Jane Vikse and our Employer of the Year to Jennie-O Turkey Store.

We formed a new mentor/mentee relationship and enjoy the monthly updates on our mentoring program and how we're making a difference in the lives of these young women.

We are looking forward to a fall fundraiser coming up in November and are in the planning stages for our Annual Girlfriends Night Out coming this spring.

