



The Minnesota *Business Woman*

The Official Publication of the Minnesota Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. Vol. 82, No 2 • 2015-16

¡EL MEJOR día! (The best day ever!)

April 22-23, 2016



**Shirley
Nelson**

An overview of how well we are doing in electing women to office in Minnesota.



Kabo Yang

An overview of the issues relevant to women in this election year.

Lanelle Vasichek

A first time author, noted business consultant and speaker, Lanelle believes there is a reason to celebrate the ordinary each and every day.



Beth Gibson Lilja

The bottom line...life can be chaotic and full of mayhem. During her presentation Beth will offer A to Z tips to help you bring calm to the chaos.



Vino y Diseño!

Join us for a fun Friday night ...
a little wine ... a little design ...

Being in the same room with people and creating something together is a good thing
— Robin Williams

See page 3 for more information on speakers and page 7 for the registration form



Minnesota Business Women
 – Working Women Working Together

Dear Members,

Your Board of Directors met January 30 to iron out the agenda for our Annual Event, April 22 and 23 in St. Cloud. Julie Asmus, our meetings planner, has all the details worked out with the Holiday Inn, we have our speakers lined up, and a fun Friday night planned. I'm very excited for this fun-filled, jam-packed, woman-focused event.

Our Annual Event is a great opportunity to bring us all together to share, network, renew friendships and grow personally and professionally. I know life is busy and it's easy to put things on the back burner, but please put this BPW Event on your 'need to do list'. I promise you won't be disappointed. In fact our theme this year is "The Best Day Ever" and I believe it will be.

Friday evening starts at 7 pm with "Wine and Design". Talent in the artistry department is not required. This will be a great time to wind down, enjoy a glass of wine, girlfriend time and walk away with your own Masterpiece!

Saturday, we will have a day full of interesting, interactive, empowering and fun speakers, as well as

other surprises. We will cover everything from A - Z, right Beth Gibson Lilja? There will be networking, good food, prizes, learning and laughing.....guaranteed! We will be acknowledging and rewarding the clubs with the biggest membership growth and Grand Rapids will either retain or give up the Traveling Trophy award, (club that has the best attendance at event). Will we break the First-Timers record that was set last year? New club members are encouraged to go to receive special recognition as well as getting a good feel of what we are all about.

Think of our Annual Event as your \$129 Spring Break, what a deal! I bet that you will walk away thinking, Wow! that was "The Best Day Ever"! So now while this is all fresh in your mind and you are really excited, fill out the registration and mail it in.

I want to mention that we are adding a bit of a Mexican flair to the event, so dig out your sombreros and maracas :)

See you soon!
 Joni



Joni Fauchald
 President

Blast from the Past . . .

Hillary Clinton's Campaign

As the 2016 presidential election campaign shifts into high gear, your LO editor [Connie Hill, St. Paul] went back in the files to look at clippings reporting Hillary Clinton's visit to Minnesota in July, 1992, when she was on the campaign trail for husband Bill Clinton, who won that election. She spoke to the BPWusa's 1992 annual convention, held in Minneapolis. Here are a few highlights from reporters Carol Byrne and Robert Whereati:

Hillary Clinton is back. She took the stage at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Tuesday and told the country emphatically that, whatever its idea of the proper First Lady might be, she is her own woman.



1992 National Convention



Hillary Clinton works the crowd at the National Convention.

"People try to pigeonhole me," she said. "They say, 'She's a lawyer, therefore she must be a fill-in-the-blank. She's a wife, therefore she must be a fill-in-the-blank. She's a mother, therefore she must be a fill-in-the-blank.'" Clinton told the convention that she resisted efforts to stereotype her because they ignore the complexity that is part of life.

Invitados en el mejor día siempre!

(guest speakers at the best day ever!)

Lanelle Vasichek, a first time author, noted business consultant and speaker, believes there is a reason to celebrate the ordinary each and every day. She is gifted at grabbing the best-day-ever moments like those hidden along the journey of life. Compared to Erma Bombeck in the making, her high energy and hilarious presentations break the mold: from the ordinary to the miraculous moments, each offering a reason to celebrate the crazy-goodness that happens that continuously shape our lives.



With a background in Sales and Marketing, she consults companies looking to enhance their brand and customer experience through event based marketing activations and promotional awareness campaigns. Lanelle has worked with organizations both large and small; from local chamber of commerce organizations and independent entrepreneurs to General Mills, Mazda USA and Microsoft.

In 2015, she released; *Celebrate the Mommy Milestones™* which takes readers through the wild stages of the first year of motherhood with unvarnished truth and a twist of wit. *Mommy Milestones* is filled with unique insights and playful suggestions for celebrating the unsung accomplishments that speak to the hearts of moms both new and seasoned.

When she's not brainstorming the next best thing for her clients, she can be found dancing around in her kitchen to the radio, planning her next grocery run and [innocently] stalking the baristas in search of fresh coffee.

Kabo Yang is currently the Executive Director of the Minnesota Women's Consortium, a statewide nonprofit organization advancing equity and justice for all women through advocacy and collaboration. Prior to this position, she had an independent consulting practice focusing on management and leadership in the nonprofit sector. Her career has been primarily in the nonprofit sector including Greater Twin Cities United Way and Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services. Kabo is also on the faculty of St. Mary's University and St. Catherine University in their Master



of Arts in Organizational Leadership programs. Kabo received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration, a graduate degree in Organizational Leadership, a second graduate degree in Human and Organizational Systems and is currently pursuing her doctorate in that same program. She is an active volunteer, currently serving on boards of directors, working groups, task forces and committees. Kabo was born in a refugee camp in Thailand and raised in St. Paul, MN.

Shirley Nelson was one of the founders of the Women Candidate Development Coalition in 1986. She has been its Executive Director since the organization's inception. Over the course of these thirty years she has provided assistance to thousands of prospective women candidates across Minnesota. Shirley is a former high school Dean and Assistant Principal. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Public Policy from the University of Minnesota. Her Doctoral Dissertation topic was Title IX.



Beth Gibson Lilja has specialized in professional organizing for nearly 20 years. Through her company, BGL & Associates,



LLC, she brings order and peace of mind to individuals and groups. She organizes homes, offices, photographs and events. Beth also plans and hosts countless photo preservation events and hobby retreats. As a home and office organizer, Beth saves clients time and simplifies personal and professional lives. She specializes in assisting busy professionals who lack the time and/or skills required to get—and stay—organized. Beth has served as president of Minnesota Business Women and in positions at club, state and national levels.

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.
- **ARTICLES & PHOTOS:** Submissions to the *Minnesota Business Woman* magazine are welcome from both clubs and individual members.
- **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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Women and the Right to Vote

NINETEENTH AMENDMENT
TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Mary Jo Igelstad, Historian

The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution —

What it says: **Section 1: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Section 2: Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.**

What it means: Throughout the nineteenth century, most women were excluded from voting and holding elective office. In 1848, women organized a suffrage movement to win the right to vote. Western states granted women voting rights with Montana's Janette Rankin being the first woman elected to Congress-U.S. House of Representatives in 1916. After a century of women's petitions, parades, and protests, Congress responded with the 19th Amendment.

When the Constitution was adopted in 1789, all states denied voting rights to women except New Jersey, but they revoked it in 1807. The 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in New York has been known as the start of the American women's rights movement. The women's suffrage movement took hold after the Civil War during the Reconstruction Era. Women's rights leaders advocated for universal suffrage as a "civil right" in the Reconstruction amendments (the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments). These amendments did nothing to promote women's suffrage. As the nation grew, women's suffrage was established in the constitutions of the Wyoming Territory, Utah and Washington Territory. Besides being the first state to grant voting right to women, Wyoming was the first state to elect a female governor: Nellie Taylor Ross, and Wyoming's official nickname was the Equality State.

In 1869 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). They wanted a federal constitutional amendment that would grant women the right to vote. Enough momentum was gathered to lobby the U. S. Congress for a constitutional amendment. A quote from Susan B. Anthony, 1873 speech to suffrage supporters in N.Y. City "It was we, the people, not we...the male citizens, but we, the whole people who formed this Union. And we formed it, not to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them; not to half of ourselves and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people—women as well as men."

Susan B. Anthony collected more than 10,000 signatures from 26 states in support of her proposed constitutional amendment to guarantee women the right to vote. Congress refused to act on it. She testified before every Congress from 1869-1906 asking for passage of the voting rights amendment. Congress formed committees in the House and Senate to study and debate the issue, but when proposed to the Senate floor in 1886, it was defeated. In 1893, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, California, Oregon, Kansas, Arizona, Illinois, Montana, Nevada, New York, Michigan, South Dakota and Oklahoma had the 19th Amendment ratified.

In 1916 Alice Paul and Lucy Burns formed the National Women's Party to lobby for federal constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote. They held large protests at the White House to dramatize their case. Some were arrested and charged with obstructing traffic. Some of those arrested refused to pay their fines and were sent to prison. President Woodrow Wilson pardoned

the protesters in 1917.

It only took 72 years after the Seneca Falls Convention, for the 19th Amendment to permit women the right to vote in 1920! The NAWSA established the League of Women Voters to promote greater participation in the democratic process.

In 1922 a murder case in South Carolina, the defense protested exclusion of women from the jury following the passage of the 19th Amendment, stating "The 19th doesn't grant a right to vote or participate in jury service". By 1961 all but three states allowed women to serve on juries.

The women behind this Amendment fought hard for our voting rights. That is why with Women's History Month coming up and our National Presidential Election on November 8, 2016, I strongly encourage you to get out and use your Right to Vote; it's a hard fought right we've won



Membership

Jenny Konrad, Membership Chair

Do you know why the most recent member joined your club? Do you know what she is searching for? Do you know why another member renewed her membership for the 35th time? Was it by habit or does she choose to not give up BPW in her life?

Ask. Inquire. Listen. Discover.

Most women search to belong, to be informed, to join a sisterhood, to be at a place that is safe and supportive for her "tries" and failures, or her "tries" and successes, to explore, to grow, to share and just maybe, to have a little (ok, a lot of) fun along the way. We need to ask, to know, so we can be there, by her side, to help fulfill her wants. It can all start with that personal invitation - "hey, come with me and check out BPW - there is a great program planned for today..."

Staying relevant, providing informative and useful programming, setting and achieving goals along with insuring an upbeat, fun experience is important to maintain membership involvement. BUT do you ask? Do you inquire why that member pays her dues year after year? She wants to know she, her ideas and talents, and her friendship and support matter. She is never done learning and exploring.

All BPW members - ASK YOURSELF! Are you doing the best you can in your most important role - a friend, a mentor, a BPW sister - supportive in "brags" (successes and milestones) and "drags" (failures and grief)? When is the last time you called a new member and shared how excited you are to get to know her. Or an "old" one and told her what you treasure about her? Instead of complaining, choose to participate in the leadership and help decide the goals and direction of your club.

Get out there and make sure all women you encounter in your daily activities know about BPW! You, too, will benefit from new members - sharing new ideas, discovering new talents and skills, and possibly, making a new best friend

Legislative Update

Susan Jordahl-Bubacz
Director & State Legislation Chair

NATIONAL GOV'T NEWS

From *Star Tribune* —

Klobuchar foresees role in Supreme Court fight

By Patrick Condon

Sen. Amy Klobuchar said Tuesday she's not expecting a U.S. Supreme Court appointment but does intend to be a loud voice defending President Obama's prerogative to fill the vacancy.

"I think I have an obligation and a duty over the next months to make a case that the country can't leave this position vacant for over a year," Klobuchar told the *Star Tribune*. Klobuchar is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which vets Supreme Court nominees.

The unexpected death on Saturday of Justice Antonin Scalia has scrambled national politics. If Obama were to get his pick on the high court, it would mean five of its justices -- a majority -- would be Democratic nominees.

Obama intends to announce a nominee soon, but leading Republicans say the next president should make the pick. Klobuchar said there's no good reason to wait that long.

MINNESOTA

Both the Minnesota State Senate and House of Representatives are currently adjourned until 12-noon, March 8. The following are excerpts of items from this past month and a half of 'in session', that pertain to the legislative platform of Minnesota Business Women, and/or are hot topics within our state and communities.

MN House of Repr. Updates, 2016

- Rep. Joe Atkins won't seek re-election in 2016
- New select comm. will look at child care costs
- DFL unveils legislative priorities focused on Greater MN
- Idea to expand education tax credit put forward
- Task force looks at Corrections Department treatment options, successes

- Dayton pitches \$220 million plan to fix state's aging water systems
- Experts, lawmakers discuss medical cannabis intractable pain decision
- Group thinks economic disparities too big an issue for special session
- No working group decision on additional Iron Range unemployment benefits

Minnesota State Senate, 2016

Need for Special Session Differences

Governor Mark Dayton and legislative Democrats emerged from a meeting with Republican leaders on Friday, January 29, to announce that no agreement has been reached on a 2016 special legislative session to address issues relating to economic disparities for minorities, the extension of unemployment benefits for workers on the Iron Range, and the adoption of Real I.D. provisions. In a press conference at the Veterans Building in St. Paul, the governor called the meeting "inconclusive," and he told reporters that he was not ready to concede attempts to secure an agreement for a special session.

Large Number of English Learners Challenges Schools

Amy Hewett-Olatunde, the 2015 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, addressed the Senate Education Committee Tuesday, January 26, at the MN Senate Building in St. Paul. As an advocate and supporter of immigrant and refugee English learners in Minnesota, she gave testimony to committee members about some of the educational and personal obstacles facing those students.

Hewett-Olatunde related the story of an eight-year old girl in a mainstreamed, eleventh grade English Literature class. "She understands thirty percent of what she reads in her textbook. She's failing all of her classes, and she's expected to translate Elizabethan English with her understanding of modern day English at a fourth grade

level." Hewett-Olatunde said. "...her self-worth is at an all time low."

Visit www.senate.mn/media for the complete committee hearing and testimony.

Lawmakers Voice Concerns Over Health Care Enrollment

The MNSure Legislative Oversight Committee heard from state officials Tuesday, January 19, about the latest problems and efforts to improve health care enrollment. A portion of the meeting focused on the cause of delayed eligibility termination notices being sent to MinnesotaCare enrollees, who depend on the public program for their health care services. Minnesota lawmakers questioned state officials on their plans to end ongoing problems with MNSure, the state's portal for public access to subsidized health care coverage.

Lawmakers Raise Questions About Real ID Compliance

In 2005, Congress enacted the Real ID Act, which requires states to comply with federal standards when issuing sources of identification, such as driver's licenses. In Minnesota, standard driver's licenses do not meet the federal standards, but enhanced identification cards that do comply can be purchased for an additional fee.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has indicated that in the future, possibly as soon as 2018, all citizens will need a federally-approved identification card to board a plane. Minnesota driver's licenses, as currently issued, do not meet that standard.

Medical Cannabis Industry Has Success, Challenges

Minnesota Medical Solutions opened its door to state legislators this fall, presenting policymakers and other key officials a glimpse into the start and progress of the state's medical cannabis industry, authorized by the legislature in 2014.

continued on page 7



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

DALA of MORA BW *Leona Dressel, vice president*

In December our Club celebrated with a Holiday Party and collected much needed food items for three local food shelves within our area. We continue engaging our members in women's issues and inviting the communities of our area to learn more about us, the women of our area and across the state.

Shirley Nelson, Executive Director of the Women's Candidate Development Coalition, attended our January Meeting and provided us with a very informative program. Women comprise over 50% of the population, and in Minnesota, 33% of the state legislature. MN currently ranks #5 in representation by women: 1 of 2 Federal Senators, 1 of 8 Federal Representatives, 23 of 67 state senators and 45 of 134 State House members as well as other state level elective offices. This is very encouraging but as Shirley informed our DBW club, we can do better.

In February we Danced the Night Away (Margarita Monday). After working as an amateur instructor for ballroom and Latin dances at Iowa State, Lisa Bremer led us in new moves.

On March 28, we will feature Girlfriends Night Out with Kirsten Dierking and hold a silent auction in support of the



DBW scholarship fund. March is Women's History Month and Kirsten will discuss inspiring highlights of women's history, along with a few of the startling lowlights - including excursions into topics such as women's work, women's health and medical knowledge, and artistic views of women and their roles.

Susan Brower, MN State Demographer, will speak to us on April 25 about how her work applies an understanding of demographic trends to changes in a range of areas including the state's economy and workforce, education, health, immigration and rural population changes.



WILLMAR BPW

Stacy Petersen, president

Willmar BPW extends a warm welcome to our newest members: Kristin Dresler, Sharyl Helgeson, Deb Kruger and Terri Scott, we are so glad you decided to join us!

Our goals in Willmar remain true to our mission while maintaining a community focus and incorporating FUN along the way. In addition to our clubs college scholarship, mentoring program and supporting the women's shelter in Willmar, we also gifted two local organizations with \$500 each, they were: Grace Place of Willmar, a women's transitional home and the local Distinguished Young Women group because we believe in investing in these women.

Plans are underway for our April Membership Mixer hosted by a local business and our Annual Girl Friends Night Out on June 3rd when we "take over" a home on Green Lake and fill it with vendors for an evening filled with oohs, ahhs, wine, hors d'oeuvres and, of course, shopping!



Willmar BPW Women connecting Mind, Body and Spirit with a Basic Yoga session before our regular meeting.

FERGUS FALLS BPW

Jenny Konrad, co-president

Happy winter is almost over, Fergus Falls BPW is re-energizing with programs to promote health (yoga, essential oils and vaccines), successful small business ownership, networking and entertaining and of course, FUN! We are inspired every day with words Michelle Vogl shares from "Twelve Pillars" - most recently, Be A Life Long Learner - self-education will make you a fortune. It's what you learn along the way that will help you to improve and grow. Learning is the beginning of wealth and health.

We have grown! Two new members joined our club - neither has hesitated in participating - we are so excited to share with them!

We celebrated another successful fundraiser with our now world-famous CheeseBalls - we look forward to this spring and fall sharing with the recipients of the scholarships we sponsor. Hearing their stories and expressions of gratitude is humbling and inspiring. Due to the ongoing success of this fundraiser, we are working to create and support an additional scholarship that is linked to our members - to assist in education for a daughter, granddaughter, niece or A MEMBER HERSELF.

We supported Someplace Safe - an organization supporting women experiencing domestic challenges. Several members attended their annual tea/silent action/fashion show/dance performance.

We anticipate an event to promote membership growth this spring - one that will be enriching and of course, FUN!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the MBW State Event in St. Cloud.

GRAND RAPIDS BPW

Deb Bounds, president

The Grand Rapids BPW Club has been actively working towards increased membership and community visibility. To grow our club we are seeking to do more community outreach by volunteering with The Second Harvest Food Shelf, Habitat for Humanity, and The Community Café. We are in the process of organizing this endeavor to not only "give back" but to also get some marketing in for our organization. We are also trying to switch our venue up a little to create more interest from the younger generation. With a little trial and error we will continue to try new things until we can provide an environment where all women can grow professionally and personally. If you want your membership to grow you need to "feed" your members information and ideas that will help them grow! We will work toward this by bringing in speakers that "speak" to the needs of our area women. Our first "mentoring" opportunity is coming up on February 28th! Our organization is sponsoring a Girl Scouts "On The Go" program. If this night turns out to be a success we will be doing more to reach out to our young girls and women to give them opportunities to learn and grow! Change is painful and is a constant on the road to success....we are working through that pain, and will continue down that path in the hopes that we empower women of all ages along the way.

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future" — John F. Kennedy

ST. PAUL BPW

Jane Peterson, president

St. Paul BPW welcomed new member, Marlou Hough, and Laurie Reinhart renewed her membership, bringing total current membership to 11.

Our February meeting featured as speaker Dr. Pam Talley, talking about her work during the Ebola epidemic, and the current outbreak of Tiki virus. Dr. Talley is a specialist in communicable diseases with the national Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, currently a visiting fellow with the MN Dept of Health.

Around the State continued on page 8

Minnesota Business Women *¡El mejor día!* — April 22-23, 2016

Holiday Inn & Suites, 75 37th Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301 • 320-253-9000

Registration Form Due By April 15, 2016

Name _____ Work Phone _____
 Address _____ Home Phone _____
 _____ Email _____
 Cell Phone _____ Member of _____ Club

The event fee is all inclusive: Friday night Wine and Design, Saturday breakfast, event speakers and lunch.

REGISTRATION DUE: APRIL 15, 2015

2-DAY EVENT RATE:	MEMBER FEE \$ 129⁰⁰	NON-MEMBER FEE \$189⁰⁰
SATURDAY ONLY:	MEMBER FEE \$ 99⁰⁰	NON-MEMBER FEE \$159⁰⁰

(PLEASE NOTE: Late registrations are not guaranteed availability of meals as count must be given early to the hotel.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ Check # _____ MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MFBPW

Send check and form to: **Presto Print • 1235 S Pokegama Ave • Grand Rapids, MN 55744**

QUESTIONS: Julie Asmus at 320-979-2035 or email: julieasmus2@gmail.com

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Room Block under: **"Minnesota Business Women"**

Standard room (1 queen or 2 double beds): \$119.95 + sales tax

**HOTEL
DEADLINE:
MARCH 23, 2016**

Calendar 2016

March Women's History Month
 April 12 Equal Pay Day
 April 22-23 . . . State Annual Event, St. Cloud

State Event – Tentative Schedule April 22-23, 2016

Friday, April 22

- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. *Registro* (Registration)
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Vino y Diseño!* (Wine and Design)

Saturday, April 23

- 7:30 - 8:00 a.m. *Registro* (Registration)
- 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. *Desayuno* (Breakfast)
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. *Bienvenidos* (Welcome) & First Timers Introduced
- 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. *¡El mejor día!* Lanelle Vasichek
- 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. *Temas de actualidad* (Hot Topics)
Shirley Nelson & Kabo Yang, moderated by Susan Jordahl-Bubacz
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. *Almuerzo* (Lunch)
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. *doblar en el mejor día* (double down on the best day ever)
Lanelle Vasichek
- 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. *la mente de su caos* (Mind Your Mayhem) Beth Gibson Lilja
- 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. *Puerta del sol del Tequila* (Tequila Sunset)
Premios (Awards)

Legislative Report cont. from page 5

"We've been blown away by the results we've seen in patients, particularly patients with seizure disorders," said Dr. Kyle Kingsley, CEO of the company. According to Kingsley, the company offers over twenty different medical cannabis medications, and they are working to customize the medications according to the patient's needs. "Every patient has different needs," said Kingsley. "We've developed some treatment algorithms to help people work their way through with what works for them."

WOMEN'S CANDIDATE NOTES:

- Women representatives not seeking another term:
- Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington)
- Rep. Kim Norton (DFL-Rochester)
- Rep. Carly Melin (DFL-Hibbing)

MANKATO BPW

Kelly Hulke, president

Spring is arriving soon and there are many exciting happenings at Mankato BPW!

We are excited to report that our chapter is growing! We welcomed two more new members. They are Julie Nelson and Cindy Grams. Welcome Ladies, we're excited to have you join us!

In November our featured speaker was Melinda Wedzina, founder of Feeding Our Communities Partners, a childhood hunger-relief nonprofit. Originally known as the back-pack program, it provides weekend meals to children in their backpacks. Her non-profit has raised over 1.6 million dollars and provided nearly 500,000 meals to children in need. In December we had our social Christmas meeting and in January, we had Dr. Ruth Bolton speak on the topic of "Balance." Dr. Ruth was the director of a residency program at the UM Medical School for 8 years and then started her own Christian non-profit medical center in 1997. Currently she is director of the Urgent Care Center in Mankato, which is affiliated with Mayo Clinic. Both Melinda and Dr. Ruth are inspiring women who graciously shared their stories of trials and triumphs.

Our Mankato BPW scholarship application season is in full swing. The application is available through the state website and we are currently gathering applications. We will present two, \$1000 scholarships to two young women from one of our area colleges: Minnesota State University-Mankato, South Central College, or Rasmussen College.

Mankato BPW members enjoyed themselves as they handed out cheese ball samples at Chankaska Ranch & Vineyard. They sold over 480 cheese balls and will be offering two, \$1000 scholarships this spring.



Pictured left to right: Lana Karstens, Tami Ellis and Kelly Hulke.

On January 19, 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 March 15, 2016.

Mankato Women's Night Out is scheduled for May 23, 2016, starting at 4:30 pm. This is the fifteenth year that Mankato BPW has been involved with this event. The theme is "An Evening with the Wine Teller" and it will feature Jude DuHoux. Her name should be familiar as Jude presented wine tasting at the April 2015 MBW State Event. We are excited to hear her again! Plus there will be over thirty vendor booths, door prizes and great food to pair with your favorite wine. It will be held at our local vineyard, Indian Island Winery.

Looking ahead to the fall and National Business Women's Week®, we will be kicking off our cheese ball sales and promoting the week with public service announcements.