



# The Minnesota *Business Woman*

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

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## Stepping Out

of your comfort zone, taking risks and  
stepping forward into greatness!



Julie Asmus, President

Hello Minnesota BPW members!

I have decided to keep the "Stepping Out" theme for the 2017-2018 year. I think it's the perfect theme to acknowledge all of the BPW members that have stepped up at the local level and state level to fill our leadership positions. Congratulations to the new officers and committee chairs and thank you for sharing your time and talents with other fabulous women in BPW!

Looking ahead to the coming year, I plan on stepping out and traveling around the state to visit the local chapters again. Your state board is already working hard to put together the 2018 State Event in Willmar on April 20 & 21. Last year's event, "Strong Women...Strong Leaders", was an incredible training opportunity and this next year's agenda is looking to be just as great. Mark your calendars now to set aside some time for yourself to have some fun and get some awesome training to boot.

I'm sure most of you are getting ready to celebrate National Business Women's Week, which is the third week in October. I hope your local clubs are taking the opportunity to recognize some of the great women leaders in your area. That is one of the benefits of being in this wonderful organization. The opportunity to encourage and support other women. It's that kind of camaraderie and personal support that encourages us to feel comfortable and confident to step out of our comfort zone, take risks and step forward into greatness.

Julie

**SAVE THE DATE: April 20-21**  
**for MBW's 2017 Annual Event**

## Lifblood of BPW!

Jeni Ritz, Membership Chair

It is not news to any one that New Members are the lifblood of an Organization BUT how to get them is not always easy is it? I've been thinking about some advice I could give to your Membership Chairs and I have come up with a couple thoughts you can expand on. Please keep in mind that you are a group and not just 1 or 2 members who should run the show. We all have different strengths and as a group you need to draw on them and support each others' ideas and suggestions.

It's important to give people a reason to come to the meeting. Are you fun to be with and as a group do you find speakers or programs that women want or need to see and do? Women who are laughing and engaged are a lot more inviting for another woman to join in with and it is important to make the new person feel like they are a part of something that is meaningful.

Are you a visible presence in your community? In other words does your town know you exist as an organization? It might be time to be the group that steps up and does something for the community by supporting a cause that is meaningful and underfunded by your town. Go look at your community to see what opportunities there are and ask questions to find out what cause is underfunded or not even acknowledged by your community and if this would be good for your group to support. Plan an event for the cause which will help make you visible to your community.

Pick a theme to build your fundraiser around to make it interesting and exciting and perhaps enticing! I went with another club member to an event this summer at the Grand View Lodge for a Fundraiser for the Brainerd Library system. Dinner, Wine, Silent Auction and a Great Program at a beautiful site helped set the event, "Words and Wine". It was a fun night which started at 6 and was over with by 9. I bought a basket that was named "Highballs and High Heels" as much because of the name and what was in it made me smile. It might be something to build off of one day.

Be the Organization that does good things for others and are the "Fun Girls" that follow through on commitments to their community as well as to other women. You might be surprised by how much more interesting your group is to other women when you do make a statement in your town.

## Women's History Month

Mary Jo Igelstad, State Historian

Earlier this year, we celebrated Women's History Month. One small part of women's history is the story of women and money. Many women in the US and Europe today have never questioned their right to open a bank account, own property, or even buy wine or beer in a pub. Even between 50-60 years ago, some middle-class women were not allowed to handle money. Having a job was seen as a sign of financial desperation.

From back in ancient times BC, women's financial rights were strained. We started to feel a change in the US in 1718. Pennsylvania women were now able to own and manage property if their husband was incapacitated. In 1771, New York became the first state to require a woman's consent if her husband was to sell property she brought into the marriage. A judge had to meet with a woman privately to be sure her signature was not forged, or she was not coerced with her consent. Between 1839 and 1848, women made a little progress with financial matters. Mississippi allowed women to own property in their own name in 1839. A married woman in Maine became the first in the US to "win the right of a separate economy" in 1844 and in the year following, New York gave women the right to file a patent. A little larger step in 1848, the Married Woman's Property Act, was passed in New York and became a model for other states which passed their own versions by 1900. By 1862, the United States Homestead Act made it easy for single, widowed and divorced women to claim land in their own names. That same year, California passed a law that established a state savings and loan industry that guaranteed that a woman who made deposits in her own name was entitled to keep her control of the money. The state recognized full financial independence of women. Ten and twelve years down the road respectively Illinois granted freedom of occupational choice to both men and women. When Myra Colby Bradwell finished her law apprenticeship, the US Supreme Court ruled the state didn't have to grant a law license to a married woman. Mary Gage opened a stock exchange for women who wanted to use their own money to speculate on railroad stocks. At the same time, a cheapskate named Hetty Green, aka "the Witch of Wall Street", consolidated her own fortune.

Between 1908 and 1963, more things changed for women. 1908, Oregon limited the workday for women to 10 hours-implying that women are too fragile to work longer than that and they are needed at home. 1919 brought us the First Women's Bank of Tennessee in Clarksville. It catered to women customers only. The employees and board of directors were all women, but the stockholders were men.

Alice Mary Robertson of Oklahoma became the second woman in Congress running on an anti-feminist platform. She scorned the League of Women Voters or any group that was used as a club against men. Rebecca Felton of Georgia, became the first woman to become a US Senator at age 87. She served for one day. Wyoming elected the nation's first female governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross. The federal minimum wage was born with the Fair Labor Standards Act. It wiped out common pay differences between men and women for hourly jobs. The US passed the first legislation requiring equal pay for equal work, but it would need to be expanded on in 1972 to salespeople, executives, administrators, etc.

From 1967-2014 we gained ground. Affirmative action benefits were expanded to cover women. It became illegal to place help wanted ads specifying gender in the US. In *Bowe vs Colgate-Palmolive*, an appeals court ruled that physical labor couldn't be limited to men. A federal appeals court in the case of *Schultz vs Wheaton Glass* made it illegal for a company to change job titles so they could pay women with the same position less than a male. Katharine Graham became the first woman to be CEO of a Fortune 500 company. The Equal Credit Opportunity Act passed in the US. Pregnancy Discrimination Act is passed. Women could not legally be dismissed from their job for becoming pregnant. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission hear the first case of sexual harassment. Family Medical Leave Act became law in the US. In 2009, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, which allows people to sue companies for pay discrimination even if more than 6 months has passed.

# MFBPW 2017-18 Leadership Directory

## STATE OFFICERS / DIRECTORS / COMMITTEE CHAIRS



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**Grand Rapids BPW**  
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### Calendar

2017-18

October 15-21, 2017 . . . . . National Business Women’s Week  
February 16, 2018 . . . . . Deadline for Issue 2  
*Minnesota Business Woman*  
March 2018 . . . . . Women’s History Month  
April 4, 2018 . . . . . Equal Pay Day  
April 20-21, 2018 . . . . . State Annual Event, Spicer  
October 21-27, 2018 . . . . . National Business Women’s Week

### CLUB MEETINGS

Dala of Mora — 4th Monday  
Fergus Falls — 1st Tuesday  
Grand Rapids — Thursdays: 6/15, 9/28,  
11/16, 2/22 and 5/24  
Mankato — 3rd Wednesday  
St. Paul — 1st Wednesday  
Willmar — 3rd Tuesday



**Mankato BPW**  
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**Willmar BPW**  
Jamie VanLengen  
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# Legislative Update

**Susan Jordahl-Bubacz**  
*Director & State Legislation Chair*

## Minnesota Legislative News

The 2017 Minnesota Legislature adjourned after special sessions in May, 2017. Governor Mark Dayton declared a special session was needed to give lawmakers more time to complete their work.

The funding bills sent to Dayton added up to a record \$46 billion budget, a tax bill that included \$660 million in tax cuts and a host of policy provisions favored by the Republican-controlled legislature. One key bill that many were watching was a statewide preemption language prohibiting cities from passing sick leave and minimum wage laws.

**The key topics addressed in the 2017 Legislative Session included: K-12 Education, Health and Human Services, Environment, Energy, Taxes, Transportation and Bonding**

**K-12 EDUCATION:** The Governor came out strong with his budget recommendation in January to increase the general education formula by 2 percent each year. This is a \$330 million initiative. Through negotiations with the legislature, the final education bill included the 2 percent increase along with additional funding of voluntary pre-kindergarten programs.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:** Controlling health care costs has been a bipartisan goal for years, and in 2017 the Republican-led legislature looked to put their stamp on those efforts. In addition to bills enacted earlier in the year to buy down premiums in the individual insurance market (\$326 million) and re-establish a state reinsurance program (\$542 million), a budget package cutting \$463 million from the 2018-19 HHS budget was also passed. The omnibus budget bill relies heavily on the Health Care Access Fund, almost completely draining it by the end of FY2021 to pay for Medical Assistance expenditures. The omnibus bill passed with bipartisan votes as legislators continue to keep a close eye on the federal government; decisions made in Washington over the next several months could cause significant ripple effects in Minnesota.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Environment and Natural Resources omnibus bill included a number of streamlining reforms to the state's permitting and regulatory processes. The final version saw a number of changes supported by business and industry, including those related to permit timeline requirements, contested case petitions for a permit to mine, wetland replacement, makeup and operation of the Environmental Quality Board, and implementation of Governor Dayton's signature buffer initiative.

**ENERGY:** In January, GOP leaders in the energy area committed themselves to ratepayer reductions across the board. Many of their ideas focused on reworking or removing archaic and inefficient mandates. Ultimately, two primary issue areas were addressed – both related to the Renewable Development Fund (RDF), which itself will get a makeover going forward.

The RDF originated as a fund, assessed as a surcharge on customers, related to nuclear waste casks (barrel like containers). That money is then used to spur growth in other, more environmentally friendly energy sectors. It has been used to promote solar, wind, biomass and higher education research. As it stands, the

RDF board accepts applications and makes recommendations for project funding to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Going forward, the PUC will still hear the RDF's recommendations, but the legislature will have the final word on approval of the slate of expenditures.

**TAXES:** For the first time in three years, the legislature passed an omnibus tax bill that includes \$660 million dollars of tax relief during the 2018-2019 biennium and about \$790 million during the 2020-2021 biennium. This is one of the largest tax cut packages ever passed by the Minnesota legislature and is a direct result of the Republicans running on returning Minnesota's approximately \$1.6 billion budget surplus back to taxpayers during last fall's general election. The bill contains numerous deductions, including for Social Security income, student loans and first time homebuyers. The bill also contains an increase in the amount of assets that are excluded from the state's estate tax and a "first \$100,000 of value" exemption from small business property taxes.

**TRANSPORTATION:** As part of the special session, chairs of their body's respective Transportation Committees, Representative Torkelson and Senator Newman brought forward HF3, a transportation bill that was nearly identical to the regular session transportation omnibus bill. Although vetoed by the governor a few weeks ago, HF861, the regular session omnibus bill, was largely agreed upon between the legislature and governor.

**TRANSIT:** Provides \$70 million in FY18-19 to the Met Council to address the current budget deficit in metro area bus service. HF3 is the largest infusion of money into Minnesota's transportation system since 2008.

**BONDING:** Usually the budget year at the legislature does not include a substantial bonding bill. Since the last substantial bonding bill was passed in 2014 and there is a backlog of major public infrastructure projects statewide, the DFL minority caucuses in both bodies were able to leverage their power to get a nearly billion dollar package passed. A super majority of 60% is needed to pass a bonding bill. The package passed overwhelmingly in both the House and Senate.

## Heading into 2018

The legislature will get back to work next February 20, 2018. We expect a lot of interim work will be taking place in preparation for what is expected to be a busy year to take up policy that was never under consideration this year due to leadership's insistence on staying focused on bread and butter issues like the budget, tax cuts and capital bonding. To stay on top of the latest, follow the legislature's interim calendar and committee schedules by visiting the Minnesota State Legislature website.

## Additional legislative topics of interest:

Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson said she will be a candidate in 2018 — but is in no rush to decide which office to seek. "It is still early. We are still more than a year out and we're incredibly busy in the attorney general's office," Swanson said Tuesday. "Right now, I'm just focused on just doing that job." Swanson's decision would shake up the races for Minnesota governor and for attorney general. Already two Republicans and three Democrats have said they will run for

Swanson's office, assuming she vies for governor. And more than a dozen people from both parties have said they will run for governor. A Democrat who has been re-elected to be the state's attorney three times, Swanson is considered a top prospect for a gubernatorial run given her name identification and past electoral success. (*Pioneer Press*) **Other Minnesota women candidate news:** A handful of Republican women considering major political bids in Minnesota in 2018 would be looking to buck a daunting historical trend: Their party has never chosen a woman to run for governor or U.S. senator. So far, the nine Republicans to join the open race for governor in 2018 are men. So is the one candidate so far for U.S. Senate, seeking to challenge DFL Sen. Amy Klobuchar. Both of the party's candidates for attorney general are men, as are the state's three members of Congress and all the declared GOP contenders so far for the other five House seats. (*Star Tribune*)

**CURRENT PAY EQUITY DATA:** (Note, women are not specifically reported upon, but it is still the third week in April that women must work to in order to equal man's pay, working in the same position) Minnesota's median income has increased in the past five years, but some racial groups are left staggering behind. While many of the trends are positive on the surface, they mask persistent racial disparities. The state saw an overall rise in median income from \$61,000 to \$66,000, but median household income for black Minnesotan families was at \$33,000. The unemployment rate for black Minnesotans dropped from 20 percent to about 10 percent, but there's a significant disparity between the black unemployment rate and the overall state unemployment rate of 3.9 percent. (*MPR News*)

The number of Minnesotans who died from opioid overdoses continued to rise last year, according to new data from the Minnesota Department of Health. Opioid overdoses took the lives of 376 people in the state in 2016, an increase of 12%. That's more than half of drug overdose deaths overall. Minnesota's Health Commissioner Ed Ehlinger said deaths from drug overdoses in the state have increased six-fold since the year 2000. "This means that on an average day, nearly two people died in Minnesota from drug overdose in 2016, more Minnesotans die from overdose than from traffic fatalities," Ehlinger said. (*MPR News*)

## National Political Updates:

Sept 5, 2017, Congress headed back to work, and lawmakers have a lot to do by the end of September. On the agenda: funding the government and avoiding a shutdown, raising the debt limit, and preventing the National Flood Insurance Program from lapsing while vast stretches of Texas are still under water and steer billions in federal aid to victims of that catastrophe. All this comes amid President Trump's feuds with fellow Republicans who control Congress, his push for a Mexican border wall and attempts to build momentum for a tax-cut package. "This is a landmark month," Sen. Amy Klobuchar said in an interview. "We really have to show our stuff — that people can work across the aisle and do what's best for America." (*Star Tribune*)

Minnesota, 14 other states and the District of Columbia filed suit against the federal government, claiming the Trump administration's proposed end of the DACA program that offered protection for childhood immigrants violated the constitution and federal law. "The lawsuit alleges that the federal government's rescission of DACA violates the promises made to these young people — 97 percent of whom are in school or in the workforce — who have relied on the law to make important decisions about their lives," Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson said in a statement. The suit is being brought by officials in Minnesota, California, Maine and Maryland. (*Pioneer Press*)

Join Grand Rapids BPW at their annual fundraiser . . .

## THE Craft Show

November 4, 2017

TimberLake Lodge, Grand Rapids

Take a "road trip" and experience great shopping!

## Women Candidate Development Coalition

Julie Asmus, WCDC Representative

One of the things I love about BPW is that our dues work for us even if we can't make every meeting at the local level or the state level. Being a member of BPW gives us a voice in issues that matter to women. One example of our membership dues working for us is our participation in the Women Candidate Development Coalition (WCDC).

Each month, a representative from BPW goes to St. Paul to represent us at the WCDC board meetings. The WCDC is a coalition of eight major Minnesota women's organizations that are committed to legal and economic rights for women and girls. WCDC's mission is to provide the education and assistance needed to motivate and empower women to become politically involved at all levels, from school board to U.S. Senate.

Shirley Nelson is the executive director of the WCDC and she is a wealth of information. She will assist women candidates with all aspects of running a campaign. When I was running for city council, she helped me with the strategy and layout of my my brochures and lawn signs and gave me tips on door knocking and public speaking. The WCDC is the first and only organization of it's type in the country and we have it in Minnesota!

The Women Candidate Development Coalition holds an Annual Event, typically in May, at the Woman's Club of Minneapolis. It is a treat to attend an event in this beautiful building. This is the only fundraising event they have to raise funds for the vital work that they do to help elect women candidates that support women's rights. For more information on this event or how to donate to the Coalition, contact:

Shirley Nelson at 612/724-6348 or wocandevcoal@yahoo.com

### 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 preferred (approx. 1 MB), but regular photos may also be submitted by postal mail.
- Faye Crane, Editor • e-mail preferred: [faye@prestoprintofgrmn.com](mailto:faye@prestoprintofgrmn.com)  
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Stepping Out . . .  
around the state!

## WILLMAR BPW

*Jamie VanLengen, president*

The Willmar chapter currently has 31 paid members and one pending new member. Our annual fundraiser called Girl Friends Night Out was held June 2 with a total of 200 attendees including vendors, guests, and BPW members. Our group raised over \$5,000 for the mentor program which has seven girls from 5th to 9th grade paired with seven BPW members. We also had a Mum fundraiser where we sold almost 300 mums with the benefits going to our Ridgewater College Non-Traditional Women's scholarship fund. We are able to double our scholarship award to \$1000 with the result of this fundraiser. We celebrated our success on September 6, at The Green Lake Cruise boat. We were able to have fellowship, a fajita meal, and enjoy the view of the water on Green Lake.

Our next meetings will be a fall floral pumpkin arrangement (September) and Woman of the Year event (October).



*Members enjoying the Green Lake Cruise on Sept 6th*

## GRAND RAPIDS BPW

*Joni Fauchald, president*

Fall Greetings!

Our club is gearing up for our signature event on November 4, THE Craft Show. It is held at the Timberlake Lodge in Grand Rapids, only one day from 9am - 4pm. The show is filled with professional artisans displaying and selling their beautiful and one of a kind handmade wares. Come our way to do some shopping, many other craft and vendor shows going on in Grand Rapids that weekend.

At our June meeting, we decided to have a different meeting format. We will be doing meetings only four times a year: our next one is September 28th, then November 16th, February 22, 2018, and May 24th, 2018. We are going with quality not quantity, we'll see how that works out for us.

One of our focuses is researching non-profit organizations that we can award scholarships to. There are several in our area that really do good work in the community and we want to help them.

## FERGUS FALLS BPW

*June Pittenger, co-president*

"Life is about using the whole box of crayons" Color was the theme chosen for the installation of the 2017-2018 Executive Board on June 6th at the American Legion in Fergus Falls. Beth Gibson Lilja, state director, conducted the installation ceremony. She gave each new board member a flower of the color representing qualities of the position each would hold. Installed into the Executive Board positions were Co-Presidents, June Pittenger and Mary Jo Igelstad; Co-President Elects, Bev Rund and Heather Brandborg; Co-Vice Presidents of Programming, Jan Jones and Sandy Johnson; Co-Vice Presidents Membership, Jenny Konrad and Linda Hauge; Treasurer, Wendy Reiten and Secretary, Deb Hegseth. Beth closed the ceremony asking the membership to pledge to the board their loyal support and to show that by attending meetings, serving on committees, sharing goals and inviting new members. Our new board has received much support from the exiting board making the transition smooth.

The Executive Board met in June at Wendy Reiten's home for a potluck meeting to begin plans and set goals for the coming year. Our programming vice presidents compiled a great program list and that was approved. We held our first membership meeting on September 5th and had a wonderful speaker, Teresa Magnuson. She spoke on starting her business, where she started her fabric design business and where she hopes to take it. We are looking forward to October's program 'Trends and Challenges for women in the work place' with speaker Leanne Jaenish, electrician.

Our local knows how to have fun! Members attended a play in late June at Theater L'Homme Dieu in Alexandria. On August 1st there was a members potluck dinner at Jo Ellen's lake cabin where we all enjoyed the deck, good food, great conversation and swimming. A short board meeting was held also to assure the start of year would take off well in September. Our main goal is to provide scholarships for women and this year we will again raise funds by making and selling Cheeseballs.

Our Cheeseball project is rolling along. We started selling them in September. Our 'Cheesehead' (committee chair) is once again Megan Beckler and her assistant chair, Wendy Reiten. We are very grateful they have stepped up again for us this year. They did a great job last year. As usual we will be making the cheeseballs in November and deliver them the same day. So everyone can have their delicious cheeseballs for the holiday.

Colors will be coming very prominent at this time of year. The beauty of nature and its seasons is amazing. Although natural disasters have had many parts of our country reeling recently, it has brought out the humanity in us all. It brings to mind our Collect, Let us take time for all things, make us grow calm, serene, gentle." Please take time to enjoy the colorful splendor of Fall.

## MANKATO BPW

*Tami Ellis, president*



*Mankato BPW August meeting, Samantha Hay, VP programming presenting \$1000 scholarship awards.*

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If the date on your mailing label is **red**  
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