

## New York

### Presidents Message

Greetings Members:

August is one of those months when you are just getting into the groove of summer only to realize that the season is almost over and you have to shift gears from the lazy hazy days of summer to prepare for back to school, a return from a much deserved vacation, yard cleanup, fall cleaning, holiday preparation, etc. It won't be long until the fall season begins; bringing with it the brisk, cool days and nights that make us want to start doing all the things we have been putting off during the hot weather. Hopefully, you will be including BPW on your "To Do" lists. Remember sisterhood is global and not all women are as fortunate as you are. Together we can accomplish so much more. Why not consider going to Congress, joining a committee, coming up with a project or idea for our federation to take on, signing up for the CSW at the end of the year, attending our AGM next March, etc. Remember BPW can help you grow and succeed not only as a person, but also as a professional. BPW can help you advance in your chosen field and give you the recognition you deserve. BPW can also let you know what your resources are. Now is the time to ask yourself what can you do for BPW? You can start by marking your calendars for our **AGM scheduled for Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009!**

I am proud to report that several of our members have decided to attend our Congress in Mexico City. I am especially pleased that many of those attending are doing so for the first time. The New York Federation has so much to look forward to and be proud of as several of our members are prepared to jump in and take their commitment and involvement in BPW to a whole other level. Our very own Liz Benham is running for International President. It has been 25 years since there was an International President from the USA (Maxine Hayes: International President 1980 – 1983). I personally don't know of any other member who is so committed. In addition, Sujey Albert, is running for Finance Director, BPW Manhattan member, Olga Ferolito, is looking to Chair the Arts and Culture Committee, and BPW North Shore member, Mary Scott, is looking to Chair the Public Relations Committee. We are encouraging BPW Manhattan member, Danielle Boehmcke, to represent the Young BPWs in the North American region. Remember that our October 24-28, 2008 International Congress in Mexico City, Mexico is rapidly approaching. Come see what we are all about. Register today!

Read all about a proposed regional project that BPW Bay Shore member, Gayle Haines, will be presenting at our Congress in Mexico. Also go online and read about matters that will be discussed at our Congress.

Lastly, don't forget to read about what our BPWI sisters are doing, and what events lay ahead.

**With my very warmest wishes,  
Eileen Brennan**

*BPW International Theme 2005 - 2008*

*"New Dimensions of Leadership"*

## Newsletter

**Summer/Fall 2008**

Editor: Eileen Brennan, President



### Executive Board

**President: Eileen Brennan**

Ph: 631 423-8821

94 Iceland Drive

Huntington Station, NY 11746

[eibren@aol.com](mailto:eibren@aol.com)

**Vice President: Patricia Byron**

Ph: 978 448-2217 Fax: 978 448-0061

5 Lakeside Drive

Groton, MA 01450

[PBCB4@cs.com](mailto:PBCB4@cs.com)

**Treasurer: Margherita Clemento**

Ph: 718-836-6774

880 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 3J

Brooklyn, NY 11220-5703

[mclemento@nyc.rr.com](mailto:mclemento@nyc.rr.com)

**Recording Secretary: open**

**Immediate Past President: Elizabeth Benham**

## Mission Statement

BPW International members take professional responsibility in all levels of society, the economy and politics, thinking and acting locally, nationally and globally in working with the United Nations and other international organizations while practicing networking, mentoring, lobbying and enjoying lifelong learning and friendships.



**Our 2009 Annual  
General Meeting  
is Saturday,  
March 7, 2009!!!!!!**

## Visit the Web!

BPWI NY – [www.bpw-newyork.org](http://www.bpw-newyork.org)

BPW/USA - [www.bpwusa.org](http://www.bpwusa.org)

BPW International: [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org)

BPW North America & Non-Spanish Speaking  
Caribbean – [www.bpw-northamerica.org](http://www.bpw-northamerica.org)

BPW Canada - [www.bpwcanada.com](http://www.bpwcanada.com)

## Clubs of Federation

The New York Federation includes local clubs Bay Shore, Brookhaven, Nassau, North Shore and Manhattan. In addition, our individual members come from across the US. including New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, New Mexico, Texas and the Virgin Islands.

**Remember – Your Dues are the  
Lifeblood of our Federation.**

## Counting on you for the future of BPW!



**Renew Your Membership Now!  
We Miss You and Need You.**

Please send your dues to Margherita Clemento, Treasurer at the following address:

BPWI / NY  
880 68th Street Apt 3J  
Brooklyn, NY 11220-5703



I would like to welcome our new members for choosing BPWI/NY.

## Together Everyone Achieves More....

**XXVI BPW International Congress  
"Power to Make a Difference"  
October 24-28, 2008**



The XXVI BPW International Congress will be held in Mexico City on 24-28 October 2008 at Gran Melia Mexico Reforma Hotel. The theme of the Congress is "Power to Make a Difference" to recognize the contribution of women through leadership, action and advocacy. You can register by visiting <http://www.bpw-international.org/XXVI-congress/registration.htm>.



Read up on the proposed Resolutions and [Proposed Amendment to our Constitution and By-laws](http://www.bpw-international.org/XXVI-congress/about-congress.htm) by visiting <http://www.bpw-international.org/XXVI-congress/about-congress.htm>.



**Win Prizes for Attending  
the XXVI BPW  
International Congress!!!**

<b>1st Prize:</b>	700 USD support for airfare to Mexico City (1award)
<b>2nd Prize:</b>	300 USD support for airfare to Mexico City (1 award)
<b>3rd Prize:</b>	1 free night at Gran Melia Hotel (5 awards)
<b>4th Prize:</b>	1 day post congress tour to Teotihuacan Pyramids & Gaudalupe Basilica (10 awards)

Members who registered early & the first 120 BPW members who register for Congress at standard rate (US\$ 560) who have paid pay in full and made a reservation at Gran Melia Hotel by September 15, 2008 will be eligible to win.



## Early Registration Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** 5 FREE night stays at Gran Melia Hotel

- Ms. Marta Susana Solimano, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** Room upgrade from a Standard Room to Junior Suites for 5 consecutive nights at Gran Melia Hotel

- Ms. Eufemia Ippolito, Puglia, Italy

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** ONE free night stay at Gran Melia Hotel Oct. 24

- Ms. Christine Nendick, BPW Yorkshire, UK
- Ms. Gillian Lewis Coles, BPW Adelaide, Australia
- Ms. Sigurveig Fridgeirsdotir, BPW Reykjavik, Iceland
- Ms. Sujatha Anthony, BPW Auckland, New Zealand
- Ms. Sylvia Dillinger-Brigl, BPW Salzburg, Austria

These winners are the members who registered to attend XXVI BPW International Congress in Mexico City, Mexico during October 24-26, 2008, paid their registration fee and reserve their hotel accommodation at Gran Melia Hotel before June 25, 2008.



## Support BPW New York Members Seeking International Positions

Our very own Liz Benham is running for International President. It has been 25 years since there was an International President from the USA (Maxine Hayes: International President 1980 – 1983). In addition, BPW New York member, Sujey Albert, is running for Finance Director. Also BPW Manhattan member, Olga Ferolito, is looking to Chair the Arts and Culture Committee and BPW North Shore member Mary Scott is looking to Chair the Public Relations Committee. We wish you the best!!!!

For the XXVI BPW International Congress in 2008, a total of 19 nominations were received for positions in BPW International Executives Board 2008-2011 and 15 nominations for Chair of Standing Committees. If you wish to review their profiles and supporting statements, please visit

<http://www.bpw-international.org/XXVI-congress/nominations.htm>



## CARIBBEAN LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE FOR BPW NORTH AMERICAN REGION

Dr. Gayle Haines, Bay Shore Club, and Liz Benham, International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, invite you to join the challenge to help fuel the economy and save our maritime heritage by participating in the new DVD production of “Caribbean Lighthouses, Imperial Forts, & Pirates’ Castles”. Sponsors and members of all BPW Clubs are invited to participate in a demonstration that will show government officials, business leaders, school administrators, teachers, parents and children that there are tremendous opportunities for learning through interdisciplinary activities to protect and preserve their maritime/cultural heritage and environment.

This DVD project will be filmed on those Caribbean Islands that have been identified as having several lighthouses, forts and/or castles which have been forgotten, neglected or lost. Lighthouse enthusiasts will flock to the islands when they hear and see what they’ve been looking for. This project will be filmed in HDTV/Blue Ray by a professional production crew. Five DVD’s, each playing 90 minutes for a total of 450 minutes, will be packaged and distributed by Madacy Entertainment, Inc. from Montreal, Canada to major retail and outlet stores throughout the world. Smaller gift shop proprietors will be able to purchase sets through a US distributor.

BPW will benefit through visibility, membership recruitment, education, mentoring, economic gain directly to the Caribbean Islands, monetary gain (5% royalties donated by Lighthouse Safaris to BPW International for the North American Region), pride, self-esteem & FUN!

Club members wishing to hop on board need only to contact [gayle@lighthousesafaris.com](mailto:gayle@lighthousesafaris.com) or [liz.benham@bpw-international.org](mailto:liz.benham@bpw-international.org). Do it now before Congress in Mexico City so that we’re ready to roll!



If you would like to make an announcement about yourself or another member, contact your BPW- New York President.



## Interim Secretary Needed



## Commission on the Status of Women

The 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from March 2 to 13, 2009. The themes that will be considered are the following:

**Priority theme:** "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS"

**Review theme:** "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels."

As a member of BPW International you can sign up to attend. I can assure you this is an opportunity not to be missed. Watch for further information as to the end of the year registration deadline.

### Membership

Liz Benham, 2nd Vice President/ Membership Chair 2005-2008

Membership is everyone's responsibility! Why? Because, members keep us as an organization viable and sustains us financially! Membership provides the opportunity to maximize the efforts of our voluntary organization in order to accomplish the mission, goals, day to day management and the many projects that are important to our affiliates. That being said, the importance that membership growth places on the organization is extremely relevant and a major priority! Without members we are nothing. They are our inventory and the basis of why we exist and espouse that we are one of the leading organizations of the world.

In order to focus on this as a strategic long term strategy we must have a plan. So what are your marketing and development plans for membership for your club or federation? How often is the status addressed? In order to have successful growth, a timeline, goals, scheduled tasks, and a budget should be set. In business, sales figures are checked and measured as to the success in achieving the set monthly or annual goals. How often are the federation or club membership levels checked? Is there an analysis done on how many new, how many renewed and how many losses and why each month? If not, then may I suggest that this should become a top priority? Just as financial statements and meeting minutes are presented monthly so should the membership status. This will bring the awareness and focus to all members that it is a combined responsibility and a critical component.

The Triple One Crown membership challenge was designed to bring membership recruitment to the attention of all members and to emphasize the importance. If we are committed and care about our organization then we must all take up the responsibility of membership growth and retention. All members who recruited a minimum of 3 new members from 2005 – 2008 are eligible to receive a Triple Crown pin. This will identify all those members who contributed to our organizations growth, viability and sustainability. In addition, anyone who recruited 10 or more new members will be entered for a drawing on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 to win an airplane ticket to Congress in Mexico City from anywhere in the world.

Let us all commit to making BPW International grow and visible to the world!



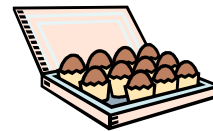
### BPW RIGA, Latvia on Your 15th Anniversary!!!



BPW Canada National Conference held in Winnipeg, Canada - July 24-27, 2008

### BPW- Canada

Liz Benhaam recently joined our BPW sisters in Canada. Congratulations and best wishes to their newly installed President Sue Calhoun in her new term. Our best wishes also go to Fran Donaldson as she steps down after a job well done.



### BPW-New York Hosts International Chocolates and Liqueurs

Once again BPW- NY hosted our International Chocolates and Liqueurs event at the BPW/NYS Conference, which was held in Staten Island. Once again we extend our congratulations to Neale Steiniger on her new role as BPW/NYS President. We wish Neale and her board a successful and productive year.



BPW- California President Trudy Waldrop standing on far left and newly installed Secretary Sandy Thomson far right

## BPW – California

Our BPW sisters in California were wonderful hostesses when Liz Benham and I are attended their Annual State Conference. Liz did an outstanding job on her PowerPoint presentation which gave an informative overview of BPW International. If you would like to see this presentation at your club meeting, please contact your Board and we will make arrangements to do so. We congratulate incoming President Trudy Waldrop and wish her the best in her term. Also we congratulate outgoing President, Kathryn M. Hopkins, on a job well done.

## BPW-NY Members Welcome BPW International Members



Eileen Brennan, President BPW-NY, Liz Benham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Ebru Nurluoglu, Istanbul, Turkey, at the UN



Eileen Brennan, President BPW-NY, Meena Karna, Katmandu, Nepal, and Liz Benham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, in Oak Beach, NY



Michela Graci, YBPW Italy, is given a NY welcome by BPW Manhattan member Danielle Boehmcke

In June Danielle Boehmcke, BPW Manhattan, met with visitor Michela Graci of BPW Italy (Milan and now Sicily) when she came to the New York area. They went to the top of the Empire State Building despite some fog. On another night, she brought her Italian friend, Martina Vinci, to meet up with Danielle and some of her friends. Martina is currently here in NYC on a Saatchi and Saatchi internship. Rounding out the party was a BPW Italy member, Maria Luisa Manis, who had been working in NY at a law firm and attending BPW Manhattan meetings. They all went to Water Taxi Beach in Long Island City to get a wonderful view of the Manhattan skyline. There was an outdoor film festival going on, as well as some food tastings and sangria. A great time was had by all. Michela is interested in coming to New York for a marketing/advertising internship and Danielle is hoping we can make this a reality for her. Please contact Danielle if you know of anyone who is in need of a summer intern in advertising. All in all, it was a wonderful experience for Young BPWs to meet and obtain contacts from across the globe. Why not join our Hospitality Committee for a similar experience of your own.



If you are interested in providing for international members to stay at your home (gratis or for a fee), please contact me so I can prepare a listing for when these members reach out to me. Also if you know of any inexpensive or nice places to stay or visit in the area please let me know so we can add them to our website liaison section. Lastly, please let me know if you are interested in signing up to join our Hospitality Committee so that when our international guests arrive we have members available to act as hostesses and show them around. I can assure you that you will not only have a great time, you will learn a lot and will be reciprocated should you ever travel internationally.



## The Time to Run Has Come Get on the Ballot Before the Time Runs Out!!!!

Once again it's time for qualified members to step up and run for the Executive Board. This is a great opportunity to not only learn more about our wonderful organization, but also to grow and develop as an individual. The Executive Board consists of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Young BPW, and the Immediate Past President. **Extended to September 30, 2008** - Nominating Committee's **slate of officers** will be **closed, November 15, 2008** - Candidates **ballots** will be **mailed to all members** by the Secretary. **January 31, 2009** - Completed **ballots must be postmarked and returned** to the Secretary. **March 2009** - **Results** will be **announced** at the Annual General Meeting. Members interested in running should contact the Nominating Committee - Liz Benham, North Shore BPW, 631-422-7012, [liz.benham@bpw-international.org](mailto:liz.benham@bpw-international.org); Alyce Daly, Brookhaven BPW, 631-447-5377, [BPWINY@aol.com](mailto:BPWINY@aol.com); and Helen Long, Nassau BPW, 516 483-2956, [hellofriend33@aol.com](mailto:hellofriend33@aol.com).



## Members Needed to Join Committees

Openings in Finance, Membership, Public Relations and Bylaws. Welcome our international members to New York as part of the Hospitality Committee. This is a wonderful learning experience and we are in great need of more members to **serve on the TEAM.**



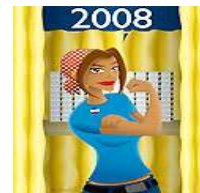
Women celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment granting them the right to vote: Aug 26, 1920.

## August 26th - Women's Equality Day

In 1920, women won a difficult and brilliant 72-year political campaign that began at Seneca Falls in 1848. Ratified on August 26th, the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the United States Constitution secured full

voting rights for women. In 1971, Representative Bella Abzug was able to get a Congressional Resolution passed that

designated August 26th as Women's Equality Day to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. According to a Census report, modern women appear to be taking advantage of their enfranchisement. In the 2004 presidential election, 65% of women cast their vote, compared to 62% for men. **If we don't celebrate this important anniversary, who will?** Do whatever you can to remind your friends, male and female, about the importance of voting in a democratic society. Remember to celebrate the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this milestone by honoring the hundreds of thousands of women and men who worked to win women's right to vote and, more importantly, **DON'T FORGET TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!!!!**



## What a Difference a Vote Can Make

In May, 1919, the necessary two-thirds vote in favor of the women suffrage amendment was finally mustered in Congress, and the proposed amendment was sent to the states for ratification. By July 1920, with a number of primarily southern states adamantly opposed to the amendment, it all came down to Tennessee. **It appeared that the amendment might fail by one vote** in the Tennessee house, but twenty-four-year-old Harry Burns surprised observers by casting the **deciding vote for ratification.** At the time of his vote, Burns had in his pocket a letter he had received from his mother urging him, **"Don't forget to be a good boy" and "vote for suffrage."** Women had finally won the vote.

## 9/11 Tribute in Memory of Our Fallen Sisters and Brothers

The Freedom Flight Staff and volunteers invite you to a *day of remembrance, hope and healing* on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Riverside Blvd., Long Beach, New York – 12pm – 4pm., where there will be large kites, art, singing and other activities to honor those who gave of themselves unselfishly. In addition, the New York City commemoration ceremony will again take place at Zuccotti Park, adjacent to the WTC site at Liberty Street between Broadway and Church Street/Trinity Place. For the reading of the names, family members will be paired with international students representing the 91 countries who lost individuals. We must never forget.

## Bay Shore BPW Honoring Women Veterans

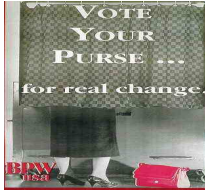
On September 11, 2008, the Bay Shore BPW will be co-hosting *Women Veterans Day* at the Long Island Ducks Stadium. Along with Newsday and Citibank, Bay Shore BPW will be sponsoring Suffolk County Female Veterans and their families by providing them with sky box tickets to watch the **Long Island Ducks** play the **Somerset Patriots** as they participate in the 9/11 Memorial at the Stadium. In addition, goodie bags will be provided to the veterans and their families.

The September 11th 6,000 seat game at Citibank Park is already sold out. The Bay Shore BPW will have a table sponsored by Prudential set up at the park entrance in order to pass out journals to the attendees commemorating the event and recognizing our women veterans. As a public service, Prudential will be doing ID a Kid, taking fingerprints and DNA swabs.



Domestic violence is a leading cause of death for women ages 15 - 44, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. It is a leading cause of death of pregnant women, mortality research shows. African American and Native American women are at the highest risk of intimate partner homicide. Sexual violence is so prevalent that it touches every family in the United States, advocates say. Nearly one-third of all U.S. women report experiencing violence from a current or former spouse or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Estimates show that 272,000 sexual assaults against people age 12 and older occurred in 2006.

Women who have experienced domestic violence are 80 percent more likely to have a stroke, 70 percent more likely to have heart disease, 60 percent more likely to have asthma and 70 percent more likely to drink heavily than women who have not experienced intimate partner violence, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Also there's still a sexual assault every two minutes in the United States. Women in college are particularly vulnerable to gender violence. Over the course of a college career between 20 and 25 percent of female students will be sexually assaulted, according to a 2000 report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. **WEAR A PURPLE RIBBON DURING OCTOBER!!!!**



**On November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Sixteen women who lost congressional races in 2006 are running again in 2008, a record number of female comeback bids for congressional office that could mark a new era in the evolution of the female political candidate. Historically, women have sought political office after the death, resignation or retirement of husbands or male relatives. That pattern began to change in recent decades, and today, many of the 88 women currently serving in Congress established political careers without following in the footsteps of male relatives. Now women are running on their own initiative, sometimes for a second or third time.

## Honor a Legacy

The Alice Paul Women's Suffrage Congressional Gold Medal Act commemorates Alice Paul's role in the women's suffrage movement and salutes her leadership in advancing equal rights for women. The House of Representatives has voted to recognize Alice Paul with the Congressional Gold Medal. Now it's time for the Senate to do the same! **Take action!**



**Remember Our Vets  
November 11**

More than two million women have served in the U.S. Armed Forces throughout history. We need to honor and respect their dedication and sacrifice.

## Women's Battles in the Military

According to an article by *Women's E News*, the military disproportionately discharges women under its policy banning homosexuals from service. In fiscal 2006, women made up 17 percent of the Army but 35 percent of discharges under the "don't ask" law. One year later, women were 15 percent of the Army, yet discharges of women increased to 45 percent of the total. Air Force statistics are much the same. Statistics were not available for other branches of the military. Sexual assault remains a pervasive problem for nearly 60,000 female veterans reported being raped or assaulted since 2002

Sexual assault remains a pervasive problem for women in the military, including those currently deployed overseas. Of the 2,212 reported rapes in the military in 2007, only 8 percent of the cases ended in court-martial of the perpetrator, while the rate of prosecution in civilian courts is 40 percent. Under congressional pressure, Pentagon officials have moved in recent years to improve the way the services handle sexual assaults, which historically were largely underreported. Efforts have also been made to increase training and awareness of the issue, so that military members were more comfortable coming forward to report the assaults. Some of the changes came after problems with sexual abuse at the service academies came to light, as well as ongoing problems in units stationed overseas.

litigation, 47% were settled out of court favoring the employee who brought the suit, and in 12% of the cases, the employee dropped the suit. With regard to equal pay issues and women occupying key roles in organizations, the study found that **17% of all organizations do not offer the same pay for women with like expertise/experience of men**; 62% report that women serve on their organization's board of directors. Overall, **women hold upper-management positions within companies to a lesser extent**. The findings suggest the glass ceiling still seems to be in place and would distress the generation of women who, starting in the 1960s, broke barriers into the workplace and hoped to find equality for themselves and those that followed. The Taking the Pulse: Sexual Discrimination survey was conducted by i4cp, in conjunction with HR.com, in July 2008.



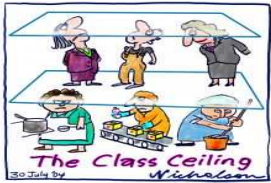
**Study Finds Most Retirement Funds Won't Last a Lifetime**

A recent study done by Ernst & Young for Americans for Secure Retirement found that most middle class retirees will outlive their savings. In addition, the study found that most middle income Americans entering retirement today will need to reduce their expenses by at least 24 percent if they want their retirement funds to last until the end of their lives. Due to pay inequity women will be even harder hit!



**Equal Opportunity Job Losses**

The Joint Economic Committee released a report finding that the current downturn threatens women's employment more than ever before. The 2001 recession was the first in decades during which women not only lost jobs, but also did not see their employment rates recover to their pre-recession peak. Unlike in decades past, families can no longer rely on women's employment to help boost family income during a downturn.



**Sexual Bias and Glass Ceiling Issues Remain Intact in the 21st Century**

A recent study by the Institute for Corporate Productivity (i4cp) found that more than half of the companies polled report they've had a sexual discrimination complaint lodged, and 43% say they've experienced personal clashes over sexual discrimination issues in their organization. Companies are paying attention - 83% have specific written guidelines regarding sexual discrimination. Most companies also provide training and other options regarding sexual discrimination issues. More than 76% offer reporting avenues (such as hotlines, supervisor contacts, etc.), while 67% provide sexual discrimination training for managers and supervisors, 57% offer such training for employees, and 39% have counseling services available. The study also showed that most sexual discrimination complaints do not end up in court. Eighty percent of companies queried say they have not been sued as a result of complaints. The majority of complaints (66%) were handled in-house, and 15% were turned over to outside mediation. Of those cases ending up in



**Legislation**

**House Passage of Paycheck Fairness Act**

The House of Representatives recently past (247-178) the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1338). If signed into law, the measure would strengthen and update the Equal Pay Act—passed 45 years ago—and would provide critical tools in the fight to close the sizable wage gap between men and women. Nearly a century after a call for a repeal of salary restrictions in the Women's Bureau, women working full time earn, on average, about 77 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn.\* Women of color face an even larger wage gap. AAUW's 2007 *Behind the Pay Gap* report found that the pay gap between college-educated men and women appears the first year after college—even when women are working full time in the same fields as men—and continues to widen

over time. Championed by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), the Paycheck Fairness Act would deter wage discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and by prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages. Under the bill, employers would have to show that wage gaps truly are the result of factors other than sex discrimination. It would also require the U.S. Department of Labor to reinstate activities that promote equal pay, including collecting wage-related data. The bill had 231 co-sponsors when it passed.

## Access to Birth Control in Danger

One hundred members of Congress wrote a joint appeal to President Bush to urge him to stop any action on a proposal limiting women's access to birth control, ABC reported July 21. The Bush administration was preparing regulations that would severely limit women's access to reproductive health and family planning services, including some of the most common forms of birth control. While current law does prohibit providers from using federal money to perform abortions, as well as prohibiting discrimination against employees who refuse to perform abortions, the possible new regulations would go many steps further. Among the most startling of changes in the draft regulations proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services is language that would redefine abortion to include "any of the various procedures - including the prescription, dispensing and administration of any drug or the performance of any procedure or any other action - that results in the termination of the life of a human being in utero between conception and natural birth, whether before or after implantation." Under this broad definition, many common forms of birth control, including birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception would be falsely labeled as abortion.

The possible proposed regulations would also permit health care providers to refuse to perform *any* service they deem morally objectionable. In addition, the proposed regulations would trump state laws that protect women's access to reproductive health care, including those requiring health insurance plans that provide drug benefits to include coverage of contraception; laws that require hospitals to offer emergency contraception to rape survivors; and laws that require pharmacies to fill patients' valid medical prescriptions.

The proposed regulations also could severely limit access to counseling, education, contraception, and preventive health care services for low-income and underinsured women and men-those who need it most.

We need to support the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services, as well as access to complete reproduction health information and services in

order to enhance women's reproductive choices. We need to improve the reproductive health and safety of all women and girls, rather than limit it.

## House Reauthorizes Program to Process Untested Rape Kits

The U.S. House of Representatives reauthorized a program that urges states to process nearly 400,000 untested rape kits nationwide, reported the Washington Post July 22. The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program started in 2004. It is named for Debbie Smith, a rape victim, who gave congressional testimony about untested rape kits in 2001. The bill awaits Senate authorization.

## Tight Jeans No Longer Sexual Assault Defense

Italy's highest criminal court, Court of Cassation, overturned a ruling that women wearing tight jeans "cannot be raped." In a controversial 1999 court decision a 45-year-old man in Potenza--convicted of raping an 18-year-old--was let off when the judge ruled that it would have been impossible to have taken her jeans off "without the collaboration of the person wearing them." This month a 37-year-old man convicted of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old based his appeal on that case. But the court ruled that "jeans cannot be compared to any type of chastity belt."



Congratulations newly installed BPW/USA President Diane Polangin, Maryland BPW and Vice President Susan Parsons Reed, dual member of BPW/NJ and BPW/PA, and the rest of your TEAM!!!! Our best wishes also go out to newly elected Area One Reps Carolyn Frazier - 3 Year Term, Shelley Maloney - 2 Year Term, and Laura K. Bauver - 1 Year Term.

## BPW/NYS



BPW National Conference 2008 Atlanta, GA

BPW/NYS members Mary Goutos, Pat Fanning, Pat Ferguson, Toni Tiberi, Carolyn Frazier, Neale Steiniger, Kristy Kennedy, Helen Rico, Sally Cappitelli, Helen Long, Ramona Gallagher attending the national conference in Atlanta.

## **BPW Business and Member Pages**

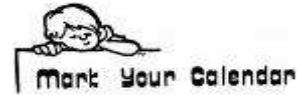
Are you looking to increase your business exposure or to expand internationally? Be sure to register on BPW's Business and Member Pages at [www.bpw-business.org/](http://www.bpw-business.org/) **Members can register their personal information for free, so don't pass up this great opportunity, especially if you want to interact internationally or plan on travelling.** It is a wonderful tool to make your membership visible and to link you worldwide by profession, trade, business, etc., which is one of the great benefits of our international network

## **BPW Roster**

BPW members can now view BPW Roster for Federations and Associate Clubs from all 5 regions online via [www.bpw-roster.info](http://www.bpw-roster.info) or via [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org) under MEMBERS / ROSTER. The roster online brings you the latest contact information when you need it. There are instructions in all 4 official languages on how to make updates.

### **Vision Statement**

"To achieve a just and equal status for women in all levels and areas of society where the decisions are taken in true partnership with man, based on mutual respect, for a more balanced and peaceful world."



October 24 - 28, 2008  
26<sup>th</sup> BPW International Congress  
Mexico City, Mexico  
[www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org)

March 2 – 13, 2009  
Commission on the Status of Women  
NYC

March 7, 2009  
BPWINY Annual Meeting  
Harmonie Club  
New York, NY

**Equal Pay Day - April 28, 2009**

September 4 – 6, 2009  
13<sup>th</sup> BPW European Congress  
Munich, Germany

June 17-21, 2011  
27<sup>th</sup> BPW International Congress  
Helsinki, Finland