

North Shore BPW

Business & Professional Women, North Shore Chapter

President's Message

Dear BPW Members,

As I write my last newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their encouragement and support during my tenure as President. I am very excited about our fabulous new board, but they will especially need your support as we all engage new challenges towards a new BPW paradigm. Although we are in a transition period for BPW, I am confident that if we stay true to the ideals, culture and mission of BPW that we will continue to thrive and stay relevant.

On September 11th we will be having our International Night Fundraiser where we will be honoring Liz Benham and Gayle Haines. Both North Shore and Bay Shore have a cohesive committee that includes roughly 12 women from both Chapters. I encourage the entire membership to participate to make this a successful event, even if you cannot join the committee you can still pitch in by selling raffles, and inviting friends and colleagues.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to lead this historic North Shore BPW Chapter this past year. It has been a worthwhile and enriching experience.

Have a Fantastic fun filled Summer!!

Warmest Regards,

Melissa Badlu

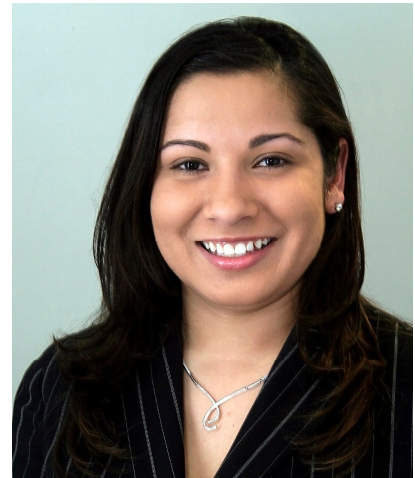
Mission Statement

Building Powerful Women
Professionally
Personally
Politically
through advocacy, education, and information

Newsletter

June 2009

Melissa Badlu, President



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Here is the Press Release regarding the BPW USA and BPW Foundation Merger. Please note that BPW NYS voted against paying the \$40.00 per member charge to continue using the BPW Name after June. Therefore, we will have to go by a different Organization Name which is still to be determined.

Press Release:

Historic Organizations Merge to Improve Workplaces for Women and Families

Nonprofit Focuses on Workforce Development and Workplace Policy

May 21, 2009, Washington, DC -- Business and Professional Women/USA (BPW/USA) will merge with Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation effective July 1, 2009.

BPW Foundation is dedicated to promoting and advocating for successful workplaces for women, families and their employers. BPW Foundation defines successful workplaces as work environments that embrace and practice diversity, equity and work life balance.

On Friday, May 15, 2009, BPW/USA members approved a friendly merger with its sister organization, BPW Foundation, ensuring that their advocacy and support for working women and families would continue. This merged organization represents over 143 years of combined experience and will offer membership opportunities.

“In this economic climate, the best business decision was to consolidate the two organizations’ assets in a fiscally sound manner, to continue our shared vision and improve workplaces for women,” said BPW/USA President, Diane Polangin. “This pragmatic business decision allows the united organization to thrive in today’s economy.”

BPW Foundation Chair Roslyn Ridgeway said, "The missions of BPW/USA and BPW Foundation have always been closely linked. Energized by the merger, BPW Foundation will continue transforming today’s workplaces by focusing on issues that impact women, families and employers."

“BPW Foundation brings together women, employers and policy makers to create change and expand workplace options, in order to develop an equitable and diverse workforce,” Ridgeway added.

“BPW/USA has always been at the forefront on issues important to working women. A merger with BPW Foundation will improve programming and resources for working women and employers seeking to create equitable workplaces,” says Polangin. “BPW Foundation will continue to focus on public policy and will rely on grassroots activists to ensure that key issues are addressed at all levels.”

“Through our groundbreaking research and unique role as a neutral convener of employers and employees, we strive to redefine today’s workplace. A Successful Workplace is one where working women can succeed and businesses can profit,” said Ridgeway. “BPW Foundation is leading the way to develop and advocate for policies and programs that ‘work’ for women and for business.”

With an enhanced mission, BPW Foundation will continue to support workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, communities and businesses. Examples of ongoing work include:

- *Successful Workplaces Digest*, a publication showcasing policies and best practices of companies that are improving the workplace. The Digest also highlights BPW Foundation’s role as the bridge between working women and employers to establish and sustain work environments that quite simply ‘work’ for women and families.
- *Women Joining Forces: Closing Ranks, Opening Doors®*, a program that provides resources and research to women veterans transitioning from the military into their civilian lives. The focus has been educating veterans and employers on the support necessary for a successful re-entry into the workforce. This unique research shines light on issues that are impacting all working women including pay equity, benefits such as paid sick leave and healthcare as well as career training and continuing education.

- The *Young Careerist* research project, an examination of the needs and challenges of Generations X and Y in today's multi-generational workplace. This primary research gives voice to a distinct group of working women who are vital to developing a diverse and skilled workforce. This project dovetails with WJF program research.
- *Women in non-traditional careers*, an issue that BPW Foundation has historically studied. Research and program development will continue to ensure that women are represented and have access to careers in non-traditional industries.
- *Career Transition Resources*, an integrated focus area that addresses the three types of transition that women typically face: life-cycle induced, career-focused and market or workplace-induced. Resources include BPW Career Center which highlights the policies of women and veteran friendly employers, as well as financial assistance for professional development, training and education.
- *Advocacy for workingwomen and families*, a cornerstone for the work of BPW Foundation that will continue to inform and guide our research and programming and vice versa. We will mobilize our grassroots network in support of policies that promote successful workplaces for women and employers.

Business and Professional Women's Foundation is creating successful workplaces by focusing on issues that impact women, families and employers. Successful Workplaces are those that embrace and practice diversity, equity and work life balance.

BPW Foundation supports workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, communities and businesses. BPW Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) research and education organization.

Calendar of Events

June 24, 2009 6:30pm-9:00pm

North Shore BPW Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn

Plainview, NY 11803

Program : Installation of New Board

Guest Speaker: Leanna Archer

“ Journey of a Young Entrepreneur”

July 8, 2009 5:30pm-8:30pm

International Night Committee Meeting

American Legion

Bay Shore, NY

September 11, 2009 6:00pm-10:00pm

International Night Fundraiser

Marriott in Uniondale



Virginia Russell was awarded on May 14th as one of Long Island Business News Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business, which recognizes the important role women play in Long Island's economy. The honorees represent the most influential women in business, government, education, and the not-for-profit fields, and are selected by a panel of business leaders based on professional accomplishment, mentoring and community involvement. I was thrilled to be there in person to see Virginia recognized for all her good work. Way to go Virginia!!

Visit the Web!

BPW/NYS - www.bpwnys.org

BPW/USA - www.bpwusa.org

BPW International: www.bpw-international.org

BPW Roster

BPW members can now view BPW Roster for Federations and Associate Clubs from all 5 regions online via www.bpw-roster.info OR via 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.

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/

**Paid Leave is Good for Women and Employers
Business and Professional Women Support FIRST Act and
Healthy Families Act**

Thursday, June, 11, 2009 - Washington, DC -- Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation CEO Deborah L. Frett, in testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Education and Labor Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, supported two important work-life bills – the FIRST Act (HR 233) and the Healthy Families Act (HR 2460) saying these bills “will start us on the road toward successful workplaces for employers and employees. A *successful workplace* is one where women can succeed and businesses can profit.”

“Business and Professional Women's Foundation strongly supports paid leave because many families can not afford to take the unpaid leave provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act. As more working families struggle to make ends meet during the current economic downturn, it is especially important to ensure that workers are not forced to choose between their mortgage and their new children,” stated Frett.

“One of the most significant trends of the past 50 years has been the movement of women, especially mothers, into the paid labor force and the growth of women-owned businesses. Achieving a sustainable work-life balance is of paramount concern for working women and their families. Many women business owners tell us that they left their previous employer to start their own business to have greater work-life balance and they are more likely to offer that flexibility to their employees,” Frett continued.

“The **FIRST Act** will provide grants to the states so they can provide *paid* leave to working families for the birth or adoption of a child, to recover from serious illness or to care for a seriously ill family member. This reliance on a public-private partnership assures that the burden of providing a much-needed benefit does not fall solely on business.

“In addition, BPW Foundation is particularly supportive of the provisions in the **FIRST ACT** that allow workers to take time off to care for an injured service member or to deal with a family member's military deployment. BPW Foundation has a history of supporting women veterans. We have conducted groundbreaking

research on the unique needs of women veterans transitioning from active duty to the civilian workforce and understand the strain on today's military families. Paid parental leave not only provides important benefits to military families, it also recognizes their sacrifice.

“BPW Foundation supports the **Healthy Families Act** and its goal to guarantee full time workers seven paid sick days each year to recover from an illness, care for a sick family member, seek routine medical care, or seek assistance related to domestic violence.”

Frett pointed out that there currently are no state or federal laws guarantying all workers a minimum number of paid sick days. “The lack of this benefit has forced millions of Americans to choose between their paychecks and their health or the health of a family member.”

“The lack of paid sick days hurts families. It hurts moms and dads, kids and grandparents and singles – everyone gets sick. Unpaid time impacts the entire household because of the lost income. Without paid sick days, workers and families face financial difficulty in cases of illness or family health emergencies.

“The American family has changed dramatically in the last 50 years. Employee benefits should reflect the way we live now. Today, two-thirds of families with children have either two employed parents, or a single employed parent, most of who work full-time.

“The success of FMLA shows that business will not collapse if they provide time off to their employees. In fact 15 years after its passage, business has good things to say about FMLA.

“If we are really committed to the American family, we need leave policies that allow everyone to achieve the work-life balance that is so frequently talked about. If we are truly interested in fostering a strong and productive workforce and strong families, then we must ensure that workplace policies support employee success. And paid sick days is such a policy.”

Frett concluded. The full testimony can be accessed on the [BPW Foundation website](#).

46 Years and Counting...



BPW President Dr. Minnie Miles was at the signing of the Equal Pay Act back in '63. That is her in the black hat.

Wednesday, June 10th was the 46th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act ensuring “equal pay for equal work.” In honor of the anniversary, [ask your Senators to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act \(S 182\)](#). The Paycheck Fairness Act will update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, closing loop holes and improving the law’s effectiveness.

Write your Senator tomorrow using the [BPW/USA Advocacy Center](#). Just enter you zip code and click on “Write Your Legislators”.

