



# **WHAT'S HAPPENING ?**

## **North America/Caribbean News**

*BPW International*

*The Power to Make a Difference*

*2009 Leadership*

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## Spring 2009 Issue

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I have just returned from California Federation's 89th State Convention, which was held in Fresno. President Trudy Waldroop ran convention very efficiently. She and all the members made me feel right at home. It was an interesting program with the first female Deputy Sheriff, a County Board Supervisor, a professor of Women's Studies, Lynie Hjelmstad, a BPW/USA representative and myself as the keynote speakers.

After some brainstorming, business was taken care of and the Federation is strong and unified.

With activities, coordinated by Barbara Davis, we had a lot of fun and I hope to post pictures on the web site soon. President Janet Ramsey has as her theme "BPW Spirit -A Grass Roots Heritage" .

Congratulations to Janet and executive. I send my best wishes and thanks again for the warm hospitality.

### New Web Site for BPW International

Visit [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org) to see new features:

BPW video interviews of members—"What BPW Means to Me"

BPW Projects - a description by country

CEDAW and countries reporting

Activities at the United Nations

Congress - 2011 Helsinki, Finland

Facebook

BPW Business Pages- [www.bpw-business.org](http://www.bpw-business.org)

**We make BPW members visible by publishing contacts on our web site.**

## New Clubs in 2009

BPW Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, Africa	Congratulations to the new executive and members
BPW Lome, Togo, Africa	We wish them well and notice that some of these
BPW Kuwait City, Kuwait	clubs are in new countries.
BPW Tomsk, Russia	Contact information is on the International web site.
BPW Valetta, Malta	We hope to have new clubs in our region !!!
BPW San Jose, Costa Rica	

## Paso del Norte

President Liz and I attended the Paso del Norte luncheon, April 11th, which was a spectacular event. As well as the BPW members there were many guests and potential members from the community. President Nancy Melendez Forbes was a very professional MC; the entertainment was really enjoyable - singing and dancing along with much BPW networking. President Liz gave an excellent presentation and I am sure the membership has increased as a result of this event.

## OAS ( Organization of American States)

After many years of effort, BPW International is able to provide accreditation to our members to attend meetings of the OAS. There are many meetings in Washington, DC but also around the region. Kathleen Ray, from Chicago Lagrange, is our North American contact person for OAS.

## CSW

The United Nations 53rd **Commission on the Status of Women**, in New York, was attended by over 200 members of BPW International myself included. BPW has General Consultative status with **ECOSOC**, the UN Social and Economic Council and any BPW member can be accredited and invited to attend as an observer of a Non-Governmental Organization (**NGO**). The theme for 2009 is "Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS" Attendance at CSW helps clarify the opportunities available to BPW members to work on International issues affecting women. Our Second Vice President, Freda Miriklis, is the UN Chair: check the web site for her report.

## CLAIRE FULCHER DINNER

This dinner was launched in honour of Claire, our representative at the UN who is retiring after many years of service to BPW International. This dinner will be held every year during CSW in New York.

BPW International launched their "**EQUAL PAY DAY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**" **equal**  
 March 4, 2009 with an Equal Pay Day Workshop. **pay\_**  
**day, -**

## **Presidents' Meeting**

This two day seminar was launched following the CSW and before the executive meetings in New York.

There were presentations by all the executive as well as "Emotional Intelligence in BPW" by Dr. Antoinette Ruegg. Twenty six countries were represented which was most interesting when we split into groups as they could have participants from every region. There is a video link that has been sent out. I would be happy to forward it to you if you haven't seen it.

Membership - 1+1 by our First Vice President, Gabriella Canonica is available as a download from the web site.

## **Events**

There is a new page on the International web for North American events so please send any information, pictures etc. to me or to the presents office with a copy to me. I will be attending as many of your special events as possible this triennium. Send me the details so I can make arrangements to be there.

## **Young BPW Web Site [www.young.bpw-international.org](http://www.young.bpw-international.org)**

Nadia Munawar, our Young BPW Representative, is very enthusiastic and will personally contact any interested young members.

## **Standing Committees/Task Forces**

The chairs are elected at Congress and are posted on the web site. Please send me your resume if you are interested in participating. There will be members serving as "experts" in their specific area.

## **Regional Meeting**

The North American Regional meeting will take place in the fall of 2010. If your club or Federation would like to hold the meeting, please advise me as soon as possible. Bidding information will be sent out very shortly and once received, I will release details and ask the members to indicate the preferred location. It is important that as many members as possible attend this meeting

## **Dues**

If you have not paid your dues, please make arrangements to do so - we need your support ! Thank you to those who are keeping current, it is much appreciated.

**BPW International develops the professional leadership and business potential of women on all levels, through advocacy, mentoring, skill building and economic empowerment programs and projects around the world.**

## Greetings from Young BPW North America and Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean!

President Elizabeth Benham has mandated a great new initiative for involving Young BPWs with the BPW International Standing committees and task forces! This is a brilliant learning and networking opportunity for Young BPWs. If you are interested in any of the following taskforces, please send your resume and area of interest to me at [dboehmcke@gmail.com](mailto:dboehmcke@gmail.com).

The taskforces are:

Agriculture, Arts and crafts, Business, trade and technology, Development, training and employment, Environment and sustainable development, Health, Legislation, Projects, Public relations.

For further information on these taskforces, please visit [http://www.bpw-international.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=66](http://www.bpw-international.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=66)

Also, we really would love to share the great work that you and your clubs are doing with members around the world, so that we can all learn and gain inspiration from each other. Any brief blurb or article is important to us and the development of Young BPWs. Please send all information to [dboehmcke@gmail.com](mailto:dboehmcke@gmail.com).

We are beginning a database of all Young BPWs so at the very least, please send along your contact information.

Thank you!

Danielle Boehmcke

Young BPW Representative for North American and Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean

## EVENTS

BPW Canada Annual General Meeting	June 19 and 20th, 2009	Toronto, Ontario
BPW Europe Regional Meeting	September 4—6th, 2009	Munich, Germany
BPW Africa Regional Meeting	October 13-15, 2009	Abuja, Nigeria