Another great year of BPW is ahead of us. It may not look the same in each local, but each area is working diligently to make their group thrive and grow. Some of our local organizations are only meeting quarterly, some meet at noon, others meet at night. Life just seems to get busier and busier for everyone so we need to change. Whatever it takes to accommodate the most members seems to be the direction we are going.

But what DOESN’T change is great programs, a variety of backgrounds and interests of our members and the relationships that are formed. Some connections might just be professional, others are personal, lifelong friendships from many years of attending BPW functions.

As we approach our 100th birthday in 2020, our state organization is possibly looking at a historical change. Planning is underway for a fun filled state event on May 4, 2019. Mark your calendars now to weigh in on the future of our organization.

This month’s magazine is focused on the legislative process. Every election brings about change. Power from one party to another. A change in Leadership. Hopefully a change in voting habits that encourages everyone to cast their vote. Let’s make sure our voice is heard during the upcoming election.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this great organization ONE MORE TIME. Let’s have a great year!

Julie

SAVE THE DATE: May 4th for MBW’s 2019 Annual Event & Special Meeting
The Minnesota Business Woman

Women’s History
Mary Jo Igelstad, State Historian

With everything going on in our world today, it’s hard for me to write a report on Women’s History. We need to be so thankful for all the work the Suffragettes did to give us our freedoms. I also think back to our Collect, written by Mary Stewart in 1904, for club women. At each of our local BPW meetings when we recite this Collect, I think about the wording and try to use it in my daily life. It also makes me think very strongly about all that is happening with men and women in the news these days. It doesn’t seem to matter if it’s a political or popular person, our fore mothers are lucky they didn’t have “he said/she said”.

We have an election coming up November 6, 2018. We are not voting to elect a President, but other National, State, and Local representatives and authorities. In June of 1919, Congress passed, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment of the United States giving all women the freedom to vote. No matter which political party you follow, be sure to study both parties. Three years ago, (95 years after being given the right to vote) only 20% of the U.S. Government was female: 3 out of 9 Supreme Court; 104 out of 535 Congress; 84 out of 435 for the House and 20 out of 100 for the Senate. Governors: 6 out of 50; Mayors of cities more than 30k, 256 out of 1393. State Legislatures: 1793 out of 7000. Voter turnout 64% women, compared to 60 % men. “Teach us to put into action our better impulses”—VOTE!

Women Candidate Development Coalition
Shirley Nelson, Executive Director, WCDC

All elections are important, but November’s is particularly critical for women. Issues that uniquely impact our family and career lives are in danger of being ignored or having progress reversed. It is important, therefore, that all women (and supportive men) vote. Young women have a lower voting percentage than older women, especially in non Presidential years such as this one. Many, many young women have benefitted from programs enacted after years of effort. However, now some of those programs are under siege. I urge you to strongly encourage the young women in your family and daily life to vote.

A second imperative is to screen candidates on the issues important to you before you award your precious vote to them. Your vote should reflect your issues and values. Are you concerned about access to affordable health care, including for people with pre-existing conditions? Do you support adequate funding for public education? Is pay equity important to you? How about Title IX, the federal legislation that requires gender equity in all education programs including athletics? Do you believe women should have the same right to make reproductive health care decisions as men do without politicians interfering in these very private matters? Candidates running for offices at all levels of government -- local, state, and federal -- will vote to support or overturn these and other policies directly affecting us and our families. With the internet and Google it is relatively easy to learn the issues positions of candidates you are considering supporting. Don't hesitate to phone or email legislative and local level candidates to ask about their issues stances. Don't vote for candidates who are not in sync with your priorities.

In addition to exercising your political clout by voting and by screening candidates I urge you to vote for women. We cannot rely on the "good men" in office. Minnesota needs better gender balance of officeholders at all levels, with talented women serving on the inside of government to develop, promote, and vote for policies that impact our lives. Men have been doing that for years. But, don't vote for a candidate because she is a woman. Some, if elected, will vote to overturn progress already made. Screen them before you cast your vote for them. Women are the majority of Minnesotans, 52%, and we vote in higher percentages than men do. We can have an enormously positive impact on the policy director of our state if we accept the challenge to be active, knowledgeable voters. And, we can insist on civil, issues based campaigns by withholding our votes from candidates who sully the democratic process. Vote November 6th.
MFBPW 2018-19 Leadership Directory

STATE OFFICERS / DIRECTORS / COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR [Willmar]
Julie Asmus
julieasmus2@gmail.com

DIRECTOR [Willmar]
Linda Bahe
lbahe@willmar.k12.mn.us

SECRETARY
DIRECTOR [Grand Rapids]
Joni Fauchald
fauchald01@msn.co

TREASURER
EDITOR • BYLAWS
Faye Crane
faye@prestoprintofgrmn.com

DIRECTOR [Dala of Mora]
Wanda Lamprecht
lamprechtw@aol.com

AUDIT
Betty Gubrud
bagubrud@j-ots.com

DIRECTOR [Fergus Falls]
Sandy Johnson
sandyjdntasstn@hotmail.com

FINANCE
Paula Hritz-Nobs
paula@prestoprintofgrmn.com

DIRECTOR [Mankato]
Pat Kaiser
patricia.kaiser@smc-co.com

HISTORIAN
Mary Jo Igelstad
migelstad@ffpubliclibrary.org

DIRECTOR [Willmar]
Jamie Van Lengen
coralwyn@gmail.com

LEGISLATION
Susan Jordahl-Bubacz
susieq80@outlook.com
STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEETINGS PLANNER
Beth Gibson Lilja
bethilija@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP
Jeni Ritz
jritz1554@gmail.com

WEB SITE MANAGER
Linda Laitala
linda@ravenperformancegroup.com

MEETINGS PLANNER
Dala of Mora BW
Sue Hallin
sue@softgentlehealingtouch.com

Fergus Falls BPW
[Lco-president] Beverly Rund
bev.rund@gmail.com

Fergus Falls BPW
[Linda Hauge [co-president]]
lhaugebpw@hotmail.com

Grand Rapids BPW
Joni Fauchald
fauchald01@msn.co

Mankato BPW
[Pat Kaiser]
patricia.kaiser@smc-co.com

Willmar BPW
[Jamie VanLengen [co-president]]
coralwyn@gmail.com

CLUB MEETINGS
Dala of Mora — 4th Monday
Fergus Falls — 1st Thursday
Grand Rapids — 9/27, 11/15, 2/23 and 5/23
Mankato — 3rd Wednesday
St. Paul — 1st Wednesday
Willmar — 3rd Tuesday

Calendar 2018-19
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

MFBPW
 Commentary: 

A government of the people, by the people, and for the people...

Women, when did we become a country of angry shouts? Once upon a time we were a country of all parties coming to the table to practice democracy. Elected representatives congregating to roll up their sleeves to come to the proverbial happy medium for the greater good of the American people. Representing our voices, the best interest of the common man, woman and child. Where are we now? Special interests and big money have us hog tied, and in large part because many do not exercise their right to vote. Not only are we blessed as it is your right, it is your duty as an American to do your part! Make the people’s voices heard once again, hold the elected officials accountable! They work for us, and many have forgotten this as corruption is way out of control. I for one am ashamed of our current status - becoming a bottom country in education, healthcare, women’s rights, civil rights and the science of our world and environment. America is falling and I, for one, am sick at heart...we can’t afford to lose anything more on these vital issues. We need to be proactive, improve, strive for a better day/education for our children, our future on every level.

WE CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE, starting November 6, 2018, at your local voting venue.

Ladies, we had to fight long and hard for the right to vote! VOTE! Some women who fought that fight gave their all, beaten, killed, exiled, locked up to name just a few of the inflicted evils. Ratified in 1920, we are just shy of 100 years! The next elected officials will take us into our centennial of Women’s Right to Vote! It is a proven fact that women make the difference when part of any committee. Stable voices of reason, specific organizational skills and the demeanor that brings people together. America needs us more than ever...to participate in the process, to raise your voices, to run for office, or hit the campaign trail or actively endorse another woman!

These past couple years, all of our hard fought battles and wins of the long drawn out decades are going backwards, we’re losing ground! Committees of all men, no women, putting laws in place that affect us, our bodies, our rights. The old boys club laughing as sexual assault, rape, even drugging women becomes a joke...chuckles of frat boy like pride, and total dismissal of anything being wrong with such a situation. If fact in many cases blaming the victim, the woman. There's nothing funny about any of it — VICTIMS NO MORE!!!

‘My plea to you is that TOGETHER, "WE" can make the difference in our country! Voting is the first step in its healing process, in equality on every level. VOTE!!! Vote as a woman, vote as a mother, VOTE AS AN EQUAL to the opposite sex! The lines of parties have become so blurred, VOTE AS A WOMAN, not as a political party entity/sheep. Listen to your heart, vote in support of all women issues to move all Americans forward! Use your head, not the antiquated old habit of following party lines. Say NO to oppression! Say yes to a new day!!! Together we can make a difference! Seriously, revisit the MBW legislative platform and get back to the real issues and work of a greater America for a better day! Really revisit, think about your own core values. As, the core values of how MBW/BPW have existed as a proactive, progressive bipartisan group for so many years. Ladies we are POWERFUL, WE ARE STRONG! Let’s flex those muscles ladies!

Thus, the answer is simply to RAISE UP AND GET OUT AND VOTE!!!!!
security, responses to the opioid epidemic, and the state elder care system, among other things. Dayton said he regretted vetoing some of the bill’s provisions. In his veto letter, he wrote: “Included in this enormous bill are workable responses to problems that I sincerely hoped would become law: school safety and HA VA funds. I was sincere in my oft-stated desire to work with you and make these provisions become law. However, you knowingly prevent their enactment by inserting them into a bill, containing policies and agency budget cuts that I had said I would not sign.” Thus, Dayton and legislative leaders placed blame on one another. Dayton said Republicans failed to compromise, while Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka(R) said the governor’s veto was impulsive and vindictive. Dayton said he would not call a special session to address state finances.

Gov. Dayton signs last bill as governor, changing public employee pension system

Gov. Dayton(D) signed legislation (HF 3053/SF 2620) passed unanimously by the state Legislature. The legislation directs the state of Minnesota to allocate $27 million in 2019 and $114 million in the 2020-2021 two-year budget to public employee pension plans, requires increased contributions from current employees, changes cost-of-living adjustments for current retirees, eliminates cost-of-living adjustments for employees who retire early until they reach normal retirement age, and, according to the governor’s office, “adopts more realistic assumptions for investment rates of return.” A press release from the governor’s office said the legislation “places the State of Minnesota on a path to fully fund state pensions within 30 years. In addition, the new law will immediately eliminate $3.4 billion in unfunded liabilities to ensure the security of workers’ hard-earned pensions and strengthen the state’s long-term fiscal security.” Minnesota faced $16.2 billion in unfunded liabilities prior to the bill’s passage.

The legislation was the last signed by Gov. Dayton, who did not run for re-election. Minnesota will hold an election for governor on November 6, 2018. Democratic and Republican primaries were held on August 14, 2018.

Legislatively referred constitutional amendments

In every state but Delaware, voter approval is required to enact a constitutional amendment. In each state, the legislature has a process for referring constitutional amendments before voters. In 18 states, initiated constitutional amendments can be put on the ballot through a signature petition drive. There are also many other types of statewide measures.

Remember . . .

Save The Date:

May 4, 2019

Join Grand Rapids BPW at their annual fundraiser . . .

THE Craft Show

November 3, 2018

TimberLake Lodge, Grand Rapids

Take a “road trip” and experience great shopping!

The Best Kept Secret

Linda Laitala, Web site Manager

Over and over I’ve heard BPW members lament that no one knows there’s a Business & Professional Women’s club in their community, even though they have been around for years, have interesting programs, and are a really nice group of people. Why aren’t women beating a path to their door?

Times change, and so does the way people communicate and locate resources. Fliers, an occasional ad in the newspaper and word of mouth used to be enough. No more.

Here are some social media strategies that will help raise visibility and increase membership for your BPW Club.

Don’t be afraid of social media. If you don’t have a Facebook account for your club, create one. Post items every week. Share your mission, post pictures of members and meetings and celebrate women’s achievements.

If you aren’t using Facebook ads, you’re missing an opportunity. Facebook remains the top social network and it’s never been cheaper to build your BPW brand.

Typically, however, less than 0.5% of your fans or target market will stumble upon your page and see your updates.

To combat this, try Facebook ads. You don’t need a lot of money. $50 or less will get your message in front of 5,000 to 10,000 people and you can be extremely picky about who sees your ad. You can target users by location, demographics, age, gender, interests and connections and more.

Creating visibility for your club is a journey, not a destination. It happens one post and one ad at a time. Be diligent and persistent with your postings. The science of sales tells us it takes a person nine touches before they make a decision. Once they do you won’t be the “best kept secret” anymore.

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.

- Fay Crane, Editor • e-mail preferred: faye@prestoprintofgrmn.com

1257 S Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

- NEXT COPY DEADLINE: Feb. 15, 2019 — Issue 2

PRESTO PRINT

for ALL of your paper and printing needs!

Paula Hritz-Nobs & Faye Crane

(218) 326-6200

orders@prestoprintofgrmn.com

1257 South Pokegama Avenue

Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744-4208
For our annual member picnic in August, the group enjoyed food and refreshment at Goat Ridge Brewery. Some of you may remember it as the first stop on our Pub Crawl in April.

At the end of August, members Jeni Ritz and Nancy Welch organized our Mum Fundraiser. We raised $1,418.27 for our scholarship fund.

In September we took a tour of the Little Crow Country Club between New London and Spicer. They showed us 3 types of rooms they have in the hotel.

October 23 will be our Honor Banquet. We will be honoring Jeanne Ashburn as our Woman of the Year. Jeanne is a local financial advisor and is involved with the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, and NEXT Young Professionals Group. She is also a mentor for the Kandiyohi Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities program. Our speaker, Kim Madsen, has asked us to donate her fee to the Willmar Regional Cancer Center for breast cancer awareness month.

Our programs group is keeping us in suspense about the November program, but promise it will be a good one. December will be our Holiday Event and is still in the planning stages.

Mankato BPW is excited to start our fifth annual Cheese Ball event and kicked off the season during our September meeting. This event started in the fall of 2014 and we have given away $7,000 in scholarships over the last four years. Our 2018 winners, Elisa Thompson and Madison Barber, were each awarded with a $1,000 scholarship during our August meeting. They shared their story and we were inspired with their enthusiasm. It was a good feeling knowing we made a difference in their lives! We are now going to offer a discounted student membership to hopefully expand our group.

As another way to give back to our community, items are gathered quarterly for our local safe shelter for parents and children, CADA, which stands for Committee Against Domestic Abuse. One of our members is on their board and drops off items such as clothing, gift cards, and anything else listed on their current need list. Our next donation will be in December for the holidays. These activities support our mission statement: “Working together to promote person empowerment, profession development, and political awareness while creating an environment for building relationships and connecting the women of the greater Mankato area”

What an amazing opportunity that I wanted to run away from and now I find myself running toward it! “It” is the DBW of Mora President position. I am blessed to be a part of an inspiring, committed, fun, beautiful group of women. Of all the experiences in my life, this ranks at the very top. Being part of this organization has caused a ripple effect in my life that is so positive and that ripple effect is making such a difference in my life and others’ lives as well. With great joy I humbly want to express my gratitude for the excellence in commitment of this local chapter and the entire organization. I believe in the coming years, this organization will continue to inspire all the women, young and old, in each one of our lives in a positive way.

Upcoming events: October 22nd celebrating caregivers, and in the Spring we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary!
Photos from the 2018 — Friday night “Wine and Dine” and Saturday’s State Event

Four of the famous “Willmar 8”