

OHIO BUSINESS WOMAN

Website: www.BPWOHio.org



LORA MANON
2025-2026 President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President's Pen....

Pursuant to Article XVII of the BPW/Ohio Bylaws, and in conjunction with the established Policies and Procedures of this organization, it is my duty and privilege to issue this call to our 106th Annual Meeting. You are all invited to join us at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio from May 14 – 17, 2026. This unique venue will allow us to experience life on campus, perhaps, for some, for the first time, as we meet to learn, to grow, to advocate for and to encourage women of all ages.

Conference Chair Mary Clark, Conference Treasurer and the entire Conference Committee have planned a full weekend for all in attendance. We will have workshops, speakers, entertainment, and a memorial service to remember those BPW sisters who passed away during this year. There will also be time for networking and enjoying the company of friends

both old and new. Awards will be given to our outstanding locals and individuals. Of course, we will conduct the business of BPW/Ohio, and we will elect and install our next President Chandra Ontko, the other state officers and the board for 2026 – 2027. In short, there will be something for everyone. So, plan to attend and bring a friend... or two... or three.

At this Annual Meeting we will celebrate our past and our present and we will look toward our future. BPW/Ohio still has a purpose of being the leading advocate for all women. As Susan B. Anthony once said, "Organize, agitate, educate, must be our war cry." And when we come together and try (almost) anything to support each other and all the women we meet, we will succeed.

I look forward to seeing you all in Bowling Green in just a few weeks.

Best Personal Wishes,
Lora Manon, 2025–2026 President

CALL TO CONFERENCE

All members of the Ohio Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs are hereby called to the 106th Annual meeting on May 15, 2026 at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Conference Procedures will be governed by Articles XII and XIII Sections 1-7; Article XVII Sections 1-6; and Article XXII Sections 1-8 of the Federation Bylaws.

Lora Manon
BPW/OH President

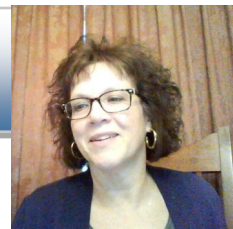
2025-2026

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2025-26 OHIO BPW Membership Chair

DOROTHY KOVACH, Ohio Valley BPW



One of the most effective ways to grow a local women’s business and professional organization is by creating opportunities for women to experience the value of the group firsthand. Rather than focusing solely on membership drives, chapters can attract new members through engaging events that highlight networking, professional growth, and community impact.

For smaller chapters especially, successful recruiting events tend to be simple, welcoming, and relationship-focused. Events that offer meaningful conversations, useful professional resources, or opportunities to connect with other women in business often spark the greatest interest.

Below are several ideas that local chapters can use to introduce prospective members to the organization while building stronger connections in the community.

Coffee & Conversations

A casual morning meetup at a local coffee shop provides a relaxed environment for conversation and networking. Members are encouraged to invite a guest, and the informal setting helps first-time attendees feel comfortable.

Bring-a-Friend Luncheon

Members invite a colleague or friend to attend a regular meeting or luncheon. Including a brief “Why I Joined” testimonial from a member can help guests better understand the personal and professional benefits of membership.

Women in Business Roundtable

This small-group discussion format encourages participants to talk about real challenges and opportunities women face in their careers or businesses. Topics might include entrepreneurship, career advancement, or balancing professional and personal responsibilities.

Headshots & Networking Night

Partnering with a local photographer to offer discounted professional headshots can be a strong draw for professionals. The event combines a practical benefit with an opportunity to network.

Community Service Project

Volunteering together for a women-focused cause—such as organizing a clothing drive, supporting a women’s shelter, or hosting a resume workshop—demonstrates the organization’s commitment to uplifting women in the community.

Wine & Wisdom Evening

A relaxed social event featuring a short guest speaker can spark conversation and learning. Topics might include leadership, financial planning, or entrepreneurship.

Member Story Night

Members share brief stories about their career journeys, businesses, or leadership experiences. Personal stories often resonate strongly with guests and highlight the diversity of experiences within the organization.

Speed Networking for Women Professionals

Structured networking helps attendees meet several people in a short amount of time. This format is especially helpful for first-time participants who may feel hesitant about networking.

Women-Owned Business Crawl

Visiting several local women-owned businesses allows participants to learn about entrepreneurship in the community while supporting local enterprises.

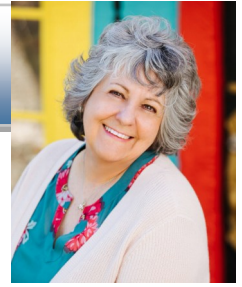
Professional Skills Mini-Workshop

Short workshops on topics such as LinkedIn optimization, negotiation skills, or personal branding provide immediate value while showcasing the organization’s commitment to professional development.

By hosting events that combine networking, learning, and community engagement, chapters can introduce prospective members to the supportive and empowering environment that women’s professional organizations offer. When guests experience meaningful connections and practical value, they are far more likely to become engaged members and advocates for the organization’s mission.

2025-26 OHIO BPW Non-Dues Chair

DIANA GIBBENS, PSP, Lancaster BPW



I am taking orders now for the “Zippered Portfolios”. The portfolio has a tablet inside, it is 9½” by 12”. They will be blue in color. We will be selling them for \$35.00 each (\$30.00 for the portfolio and \$5.00 toward Lora's President's Project). You can order one or more if you like. They could be nice gifts to give someone special. The company helping us with this project is: Biller's Stamps & Engraving, Maria Moore from Greenville BPW.



If you are interested, please contact me at this email: dKayGibbens.bpw@gmail.com or call or text me at 614-325-0178. If you call and I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get right back to you.

I will also be taking orders at the April 11th Leadership meeting.

2025-26 OHIO BPW Young Careerist Chair

CAROL HOLTON, Toledo BPW



Thank You to all of you who followed through with my Young Careerist “ASK” campaign. Because some of you did, there are YC participants for the YC Speak-off at the State Leadership Training meeting on April 11, 2026.

See you on the 11th.

2025-26 OHIO BPW Retirement Foundation President

MARY ANN DUTRO, PSP, Zanesville BPW

As BPW Ohio year closes please make sure you have checked out bpwohio.org, looking for the Retirement Foundation. The Foundation offers grants to low income retirement housing facilities, STNA scholarships, and nursing scholarship. Go to the website to get all the details as deadlines are fast approaching.

Over the year we can spend up to \$5000 helping others and if we are going to continue to offer the grants and scholarships we need your help. By making a donation to the Retirement Foundation you become of Friend of the Retirement Foundation and you will be recognized at conference. The Foundation is a 501 (3) (c) so any donations are tax deductible. For the years 2026 thru 2028 if you only are able to use the standard deduction on your tax return you can get up to \$1000 single or \$2000 married filing joint additional deduction for contributing to a 501(3)(c) organization. Hope you will consider The Ohio BPW Retirement Foundation for your donation.

If you have read this article and you are interested in learning more about this group we are always looking for new board members for the Foundation. Please let one of the officers know.

BPW/OH 2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Event/Deadline	Location
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Local President Year End Reports Due	Email to your Region President
Sunday, April 5, 2026	Distinguished Member Nominations Due	Email to State Distinguished Member Chair
Sunday, April 5, 2026	EC, State Chairs, Region Pres. Year-End Reports Due	Email to State President
Friday, April 10, 2026	Executive Committee Meeting	TBD
Saturday, April 11, 2026	Leadership Training, ID, YC, Legislative Platform Meeting	Northwest Library 2280 Hard Road Columbus, Ohio 43235
Thursday, May 14, 2026	EC Meeting and Conference Committee Dinner	TBD
Friday May 15 - 17, 2025	OH BPW State Conference	Bowling Green State University



2026 Conference Update

Good day all, it's hard to believe it is time to talk conference. As you all know, the board moved to do things a little differently this year. I am taking it as we are going on a new adventure! Last time I wrote a conference document for BPW Ohio was in 2012 right before I left to start my old=new adventure in Kansas City and here I am again. Hopefully you will look at this as a good omen for me!

Our conference this year will be held on the grounds of Bowling Green State University. We will be sleeping in the dorms (NO BUNKBEDS) and meeting on campus. I never had a dorm experience and am looking forward to the fun and maybe some PJ parties? The other amazing part, our meals will be handled by the BGSU culinary students and we are looking forward to some yummy meals.

The contract was just a tad involved getting finalized and signed. So, we are off to a late start. BUT don't you worry, we have a top-notch conference committee who has been working behind the scenes to make this a business like, fun and unforgettable experience for you all.

There is still a lot to be clarified and we will send out an email blast as soon as all that is finalized. Meal speakers have been cut down so you have more time to visit with your friends from across the state and a few who live out of state. We are planning seminars on Friday and Saturday which will be informational and forward thinking. And maybe some fun. There is a lot of business to get completed for the federation as well.

Biggest change you will see is the overnight accommodations are now tied into the registration form as it will all be processed through BPW. Anyone bringing a spouse, I will be gathering info on hotels near the campus for you to stay and hopefully get you a deal. Our registration chair Ms. Charlon will have her hands full doing some juggling here. So please send your registrations early for her.

President Lora has her agenda set and let's help her go out with fireworks! We will be in touch soon with more info. In the meantime, we wanted to get all the info we have so far out to you. Mark your calendars and fill out those registration forms (which you will be able to do online as well if you want to use your credit card).

See you all on May 15th in Bowling Green!



BPW/OHIO CONFERENCE 2026



We'll try "almost" anything to support Women!

May 15-17, 2026 – Bowling Green State University (BGSU)

Please provide a separate registration form for each person attending.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Local: _____ Region #: _____

Affiliation (✓all that apply) Past State Pres. 2025-26 State Board Member – Position _____

BPW Member* (voting privileges) First Time at State Conference 2025-26 Local President
(*membership must be current at conference)

Sleeping Room Reservation @ BGSU (Please ✓ one Occupancy type). No refund after 04/20/2026.

Two Person Occupancy

Two nights (Minimum).....\$45.00 per night

Select Nights

Thu 5/14 Fri 5/15 Sat 5/16

Yes, I have a preferred roommate.

Name:

No, I understand one will be assigned by the Conference Committee.

One Person Occupancy

Two nights (Minimum).....\$90.00 per night

Select Nights

Thu 5/14 Fri 5/15 Sat 5/16

Seminars: Friday, May 15, 2026 (✓those attending)

Seminar.....
TBD

Seminar.....
TBD

Seminars: Saturday, May 16, 2026 (✓those attending)

Seminar.....
TBD

Seminar.....
TBD

Volunteers needed at Conference (✓those of interest)

Doorkeepers Pages Timekeepers

SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

Please identify any dietary or special needs. Every attempt to accommodate you will be made.

REFUND POLICY:

No refund of Registration. No refund of Meals after 04/20/2026.

Registration & BGSU Fee (Please ✓ registration as applicable)

Member (postmarked on or before April 20, 2026).....\$ 95.00

Late Member (postmarked after April 20, 2026).....\$120.00

Non-Member.....\$120.00

Note: To be eligible to vote you must pay the registration fee, BGSU fee AND be a member in good standing.

Meals Available (✓ as desired)

Friday Breakfast.....\$15.00

Friday Lunch.....\$16.00

Friday Dinner (Including Past State Presidents).....\$36.00

Speaker TBD

Friday Evening.....\$10.00

TBD

Saturday Breakfast.....\$23.00

Saturday Lunch.....\$25.00

Speaker

Saturday Banquet.....\$40.00

Distinguished Member, YC & ID Speeches, Mentorship Award,

Installation of Officers

Sunday Breakfast.....\$24.00

Awards Presented

BGSU Sleeping Room Total (✓ from above) \$ _____

Selected Meals Total (✓ from above) \$ _____

Plus Registration (✓ from above) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Pay Online at BPWOhio.org

You MUST send your completed registration form with payment to contact below.

Make checks payable to: BPW/OHIO Conference

Send with this form to: Charlon Dewberry

1 Edith Court, Bowling Green, OH 43402

Ph: 419-266-1291 * E-mail: chardew1@yahoo.com



2026 BPW/OHIO CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISEMENT

Advertise your business.
Acknowledge BPW as an advocate for women.
Do you, your Local or Region have a message to share?
Acknowledge a BPW Member by creating a Shout Out Statement.

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

BPW Affiliations: _____

Phone: (____) _____ (C) ____ (W) ____ (H)

E-Mail: _____

Conference Sponsor? ____ (Yes) ____ (No) Conference Vendor? ____ (Yes) ____ (No)

Advertising Procedures and Guidelines

Advertisers must complete this form and send with payment to the Conference Program Ad Chair.
Carol Ater, Program Ad Chair
730 Biers Run Road
Chillicothe, OH 45601

Check must be made payable to **BPW/Ohio Conference**. Final copy and payment must be postmarked no later than **4/20/2026** to guarantee a space in the Conference Program Book.

Advertising materials should be sent electronically to Carol Ater by **4/20/2026**.

E-Mail: carollater@gmail.com

Questions can be directed to Carol Ater at 740-703-1033.

Electronic ads should be submitted in PDF, JPG or GIF form. Print ready logos, graphics and photos must be sent in with resolutions of at least 300 pixels. Please send in either black & white or color formats.

<u>Ad Sizes: (enter 1, 2, 3, etc)</u>	<u>Width X Depth</u>	<u>Amount</u>
__ Cover (color)	4-1/2" X 7-1/2"	\$150
__ Full Page	4-1/2" X 7-1/2"	\$100
__ Half Page	4-1/2" X 3-1/2"	\$ 50
__ Business Card	4-1/2" X 1-1/2"	\$ 25
__ Shout Out	2 Lines (max total of 150 characters)	\$ 10

Have you wondered how to acknowledge BPW Member from across the state, in your local or region? Create a 2-line shout out statement for the Conference Program Book.

Enter your **"Shout Out"** verbiage below: (max of 150 characters) PRINT IN CAPS:



BPW Local News



Ohio Valley Celebrated Women's History Month

Women's History Month was celebrated at the March meeting when members heard from Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney Jane Hanlin about the legal safeguards women should take. Hanlin was recognized as Ohio's Prosecuting Attorney of the Year for 2025. She was also voted Woman of the Year at the 2025 Wine and Shoe Extravaganza.

Invitation to 2026 Wine & Shoe Extravaganza

The chapter is in the midst of planning the 2026 Wine & Shoe Extravaganza. This year's event is led by co-chairs Phyllis Riccadonna and Jeannine Sawon as the chapter celebrates local businesswomen who provide meaningful work in the Ohio Valley. Proceeds from the event fund the chapter's annual scholarship awards through ticket sales, sponsorships, and auctions featuring gift baskets and designer purses.

This year's event will be held at St. Francis Centre, 805 Lee Road, Follansbee, WV 26037, on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend can register by following the QR code provided.



BPW Local News



Lancaster Business and Professional Women
present



Run for the Roses



DERBY PARTY LUNCHEON

PUT ON YOUR FANCY HAT AND JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON
OF DERBY-INSPIRED FUN AS WE RAISE FUNDS TO PROVIDE
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DESERVING STUDENTS IN OUR
COMMUNITY.



Entertainment



Comic/Entertainment Columnist/ 100.9 Hank FM
On Air Personality/Host of The Morning Hustle:

50/50!

Food provided
by:

Lori Graves!



When? May 3, 2026 @ 11 am/ lunch at noon

Where? 700 S. Maple St., Lancaster, OH 43130



*Raffle
Baskets!*

Tickets:

\$40 each

Contact Brenda Anders, BPW
Lancaster's Treasurer, at 740-652-0114, at
Lancaster.BPWT@gmail.com, or pay via
Venmo, Zelle, or check made payable to
BPW/Lancaster.



Cash Bar!



venmo

OR



To 740-652-0114 or
Lancaster.BPWT@gmail.com

BPW Local News

Ashland BPW Celebrated Women's History Month at March meeting

Ashland Business and Professional Women met, March 2, 2026 for their monthly dinner meeting. A group of 8th grade students in teacher Mrs. Amy Nelson's class in Ashland Middle School gave presentations on famous women in recognition of National Women's History Month. With the Olympics recently taking place, the students chose women who were trailblazers in sports.

Leah and Danica teamed to present Michelle Akers. Akers is regarded as one of the best soccer players in United States history. She was a gold medal winner on the 1996 Olympics team.

Reagan, Ellie and Jillian chose Kathrine Switzer to study. In 1967, she became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon as an officially registered competitor. She registered as K.V. Switzer.

Faithlyn and Ella told about Billie Jean King. In 1973 at 29 years old, Billie Jean played rival Bobby Riggs, Wimbledon champion, and won! King won 39 Grand Slam titles in women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles.

The girls said they admired the women. The women gave them courage and confidence to try new things. One trailblazer encouraged fearlessness for women.

Teresa Clark Chamberlain, 2nd vice president of BPW, presented each girl with a certificate and a gift bag. Mrs. Nelson was also given a gift bag.

President Karen McCready shared information about Equal Pay Day, March 4. Everyone received an informational handout and a PayDay candy bar. Women need to work until March 4 to earn as much money as men earn in the previous year.



Pictured L to R: Teacher Mrs. Amy Nelson, Ella, Faithlyn, Ellie, Reagan, Jillian, Leah, Danica, Ashland 2nd Vice President Teresa Clark-Chamberlain

BPW Local News

Coshocton BPW and Region 3 Young Careerist Winner

2026 Coshocton BPW and Region 3 YC Winner Bailey Bowman. Her speech title was, "How Can a YC Participant Use Her Experience in the YC Program to Enhance/Change Her Life or Influence Others?" Bowman will compete in the BPW/OH YC Competition on April 11.



Coshocton BPW and Region 3 Individual Development Winner

Coshocton BPW President Katie Hultz; 2026 Coshocton BPW and Region 3 ID Winner Shelly Klein; and Coshocton BPW ID Chair Liz Herrell. Klein's speech topic was "Grief".



Coshocton BPW Basket Winners at February meeting

Guest Jamie Henderson (L) and member Bailey Bowman (R) won the self-care gift baskets at the February Coshocton BPW meeting.

OHIO BUSINESS WOMAN
557 Ross Rd. SE
Lancaster, OH 43130



Mariwyn Heath Memorial Service - Sunday May 17th

Please send to Lynnette Dawson, PSP,
4LCDawson@gmail.com, any member who has passed
away during our confederation year.

