

Hi fellow BPW members. I am excited to meet all the new members at the Leadership Meeting in April. My name is Chandra Leeann Forshey Ontko. I have practiced law for sixteen years and reside in Caldwell with my husband, Michael, our two children, Addysen (11 years old) and Ayden (7 years old), our two dogs, Prancer and Diesel, our two guinea pigs, Smores and Oreo, our hamster, Lily, our canary bird, Captain Jack Sparrow, and our tropical fish. Our home becomes more and more like a zoo each year because we love animals so much. I serve as President of our local volunteer run humane society, Paws, Inc. Humane Society of Noble County, Treasurer of Guernsey Noble BPW, Past President of Women Interested in Children (supports children under the umbrella of Email Children Services), Vice Chair of the Zane State Foundation Board, and a member of the Guernsey County Lions Club. I also serve as the Daisy Leader for Girl Scout Troop 65669, the only girl troop in Noble County. I have been a member of BPW since 2005.

As Membership Chair for BPW Ohio, my main responsibility is to increase our membership rosters. We have struggled with getting people to join BPW Ohio since I first joined in 2005. What initially drew me to BPW was an article in the Daily Jeffersonian about a recent BPW event that looked like a lot of fun, so I decided to see what it was all about. I also believed, and certainly still believe, that all persons should be treated equal. That is why I decided several years ago to go to my first BPW meeting, why I ultimately decided to join BPW, and why I am still in BPW today. I believe in that mission. We do make strides, and we will continue to learn from our ancestors on how to best achieve this mission in both word and in deed. Further, our friendships that have been made possible due to BPW will remain lifetime friendships because we all have this same mission and focus.

I love our President Elect's theme for the coming year. Be Positive Women and Positive Things Will Happen! I know that if we focus our attention on showing our communities what positive things BPW is doing and can do, more people will want to join. If we show how much fun we have and how much we can learn from each other and teach each other through BPW, this positive thinking will spread. People will want to be a part of this. To that end, we are going to make 2022-2023 the year that we have the biggest membership increase ever. Each member is encouraged to get at least one new person to join our ranks with the goal of doubling our membership. The Local with the biggest increase in membership at the end of the 2022-2023 BPW calendar year will win a cash prize of \$100. Plus, the top two clubs that are runners up will also receive a cash prize of \$25 each. Our esteemed President will be giving a Bob Evans gift card to the top member that recruits the most members. Our President will also be recognizing the members who are recruiting new members. Each month starting in June 2022 through April 2023, she will reward the member who has recruited the most members with a \$25 gift card from Bob Evans. In case of a tie, the member who was recruited the earliest in the month (money received by the Treasurer and verified by the Database Manager) will be the winner. The Recruiter of the Month will be recognized in the OBW. The person who recruits the MOST members by the end of April will receive \$100.

Ohio BPW will again offer \$10 off their annual state dues for their first year when they join in October 2022 or April 2023. Membership Grants will also be offered to each Local to help hold a National Business Women's Week (NBWW) event and/or an Equal Pay Day event. Let's radiate sunshine and increase membership. Recruit for BPW! The BPW/Ohio State Treasurer must receive the New Member Form and Dues Payment by the last day of the month (October or April) to receive credit.

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP GRANT

1. Each Local can fill out an application to attain this grant to put on an event in October for National Business Women's Week or in March or April for Equal Pay Day. If the Local wants to do both events, the Local can divide the money between the two events. Receive up to \$100 for your Local to help build your club membership. The money can be used for advertising, food, handouts, gifts, etc.
2. If every Local applies, then every Local can get the grant.
3. The application will ask for all the normal BPW information. Please explain how the Local will use the money.
4. Right after the event, the Local will need to turn in receipts for reimbursement no later than April 30, 2023. Checks will be mailed AFTER receipts are received.

MEMBERSHIP GRANT FOR 2022-2023

LOCAL: _____ REGION: _____

LOCAL PRESIDENT: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: _____

How will the money be used? _____

I hope that not only every Local participates, but that every member participates as well. Thank you and good luck!

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