

# OHIO BUSINESS WOMAN

Website: [www.BPWOHio.org](http://www.BPWOHio.org)



AMELIA TAGGART  
2024-2025 President

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear BPW Members,

I hope this message finds you well and staying warm from the winter cold. 2025 has kicked off with a new President and new outlook for many of us. Although it may seem like a time of uncertainty one constant that remains is the mission of BPW. This organization has survived for 100 years because of the women who remain focused on the mission. They way we do that is through networking and advocating. In our locals we must be open to brining in women however they are and whatever their reason for being here, so that we can welcome them to what we know... BPW is a place for all women that want to open up, encourage other women and advocate for their rights.

A new year has also brought another College Football National Championship to Ohio State University...OH...and as we work with women in Columbus and Central Ohio to encourage them as they work to start a newly forming chapter of BPW. If you have any family or friends in Central Ohio that are looking to connect and benefit from the bonds our organization brings, please send them my contact info and encourage them to join!

As we begin to emerge from our hibernation, we have two upcoming events to look forward to: Leadership Meeting and Conference.

If you have not been to a State Leadership Meeting, we want to make sure you know this meeting is a must-attend event for all members looking to grow, learn, and connect with BPW. It showcases our Legislative Platform, our ID and YC speakers, and our introduction to our President Elect and her vision for the next year. Please see the flyer in this issue or on the website. Don't wait to RSVP get the ladies from your local and let's take a road trip to the northwest corner of the state on April 5<sup>th</sup> to Owens Community College in Perrysburg OH.

The 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2025 is fast approaching. We have announced this year we will have a one-day conference. The time commitment has been reduced to adhere to all our busy schedules. We can all make time for this one-day conference which will include our Business Meeting, Lunch & Learn, Speakers, Awards and of course a Fabulous Celebration. Our Speakers will include BPW Member Amanda Darrow and her book Shift Mindset. The Conference falls on National Armed Forces Day and Holly Lewis United States Navy, American Legion - Post 557 Adjutant and Perfor-

mance Coach will be our dinner speaker. Concluding the Evening will be our Keynote Speaker Justice Jennifer Brunner, Ohio Supreme Court Justice, Ohio's first female Secretary of State from 2007 – 2011. We are excited about the opportunities this conference will offer and look forward to seeing you there! Check the website for additional information.

Thank you for being such an important part of our organization. Together, let's make these events extraordinary for our personal and professional growth.

Amelia Taggart, President 2024-25



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## Ohio BPW 2025 Calendar of Events

2025	Activity	Location
Saturday, March 15, 2025	Spring OBW Article Submission Deadline	Email articles to Pres. & OBW Editor
Monday, March 24, 2025	YC and ID Candidates Information Due	Email to YC and ID Chairs
Wednesday, March 26, 2025	Cocktails and Conversation	Open ZOOM discussion
Saturday, March 29, 2025	Local President Year End Reports Due	Email to your Region President
Friday, April 4, 2025	Executive Committee Meeting	Virtual
Saturday, April 5, 2025	Leadership Training, ID, YC, Legislative Platform Meeting	Owens Community College – Perrysburg Ohio
Sunday, April 6, 2025	Distinguished Member Nominations Due	Email to State Distinguished Mbr CH
Sunday, April 6, 2025	EC, State Chairs, Region Pres. Year-End Reports Due	Email to State President
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	Equal Pay Day	Events throughout the state
Friday, May 16, 2025	EC Meeting and Conference Committee Dinner	Nationwide Event Center - Powell, Ohio
Saturday, May 17, 2025	OH BPW State Conference	Nationwide Event Center - Powell, Ohio

### 2024-25 OHIO BPW Social Media Chair

**Elaine Schaft, NASA Glenn BPW**

Follow Ohio BPW on Instagram! 



Did you know that we have a new Instagram account? We do! You can find it at <https://www.instagram.com/ohiobpw> or by searching in the Instagram app for “ohiobpw”. Our state organization is now using this popular social media platform to keep members up-to-date and to connect with potential new members. Posts include “Member Monday” spotlights, recent and upcoming events, and legislative calls to action.

Our Instagram account is maintained by the BPW/Ohio Social Media Chair, Elaine Schaft, who is a student member of the NASA Glenn local. Members are encouraged to share announcements and photos of their local and regional events by sending them to [schaftem@miamioh.edu](mailto:schaftem@miamioh.edu) for posting.

**Ohio Business and Professional Women**

**2025 STATE LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Saturday, April 5, 2025 -- 9:00 a.m. Registration Opens  
OWENS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
HERITAGE HALL – EVENT SPACE 123  
30335 Oregon Road  
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

- 9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee
- 9:30 a.m. Individual Development and Young Careerist Competition
- 10:30 a.m. Legislative Platform Meeting
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch/Networking
- 12:30 p.m. Leadership Training
- 2:00 p.m. Meeting closes

The cost for this event is \$35 per person. (This includes coffee, lunch, and materials.)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ID Participant    \_\_\_\_\_ YC Participant    \_\_\_\_\_ Legislative Representative



OHIO BPW

We'll try "almost" anything to support Women

Please mail reservation and payment by  
March 15, 2025 to:

Amelia Taggart, Ohio BPW President  
1714 Hamilton Pl.  
Steubenville, OH 43952

Check Payable to: Ohio/BPW    or  
Pay Online: [bpwohio.org](http://bpwohio.org)

## **BPW OHIO PAC ENDORSEES WERE SUCCESSFUL IN NOVEMBER 2024 ELECTION**

This past November, Ohio voters cast their votes to determine who would represent them in the Ohio Legislature. All ninety-nine (99) Ohio House of Representatives positions were up for election this year along with seventeen (17) seats in the Ohio State Senate.

BPW Ohio has a long history of supporting those candidates that support our Legislative Platform with our votes, working on their campaigns, distributing literature about their positions and personal donations. Additionally, we also support candidates who are running for State offices through our BPW Ohio PAC.

In 2024, we proudly endorsed and donated to the following five (5) individuals who were seeking election to the Ohio House of Representatives: Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr., (House District 42), Candidate Alica W. Roshong (House District 89), Candidate Michael Scarmack, (House District 73), Representative Bride Rose Sweeny (House District 16) and candidate Erika White, (House District 41).

Three (3) out of the five (5) (Rogers, Sweeney and White) were successful in their quest to represent us in the Ohio House of Representatives in the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Their voices will help to amplify our voices regarding issues affecting women and families in Ohio.

Your support of the BPW OHIO PAC enables us to have a “seat” at the table and a “voice” when legislation is discussed in the State Legislature. Thank you BPW Ohio members for your support. PAC Donations are welcome at any time. PAC Donation forms are available on the BPW Ohio Website under the PAC tab . Let’s continue to make our Voices Heard.

**Charlon K. Dewberry, PSP**  
**BPW/Ohio PAC Chair 2024-2025**



## Kathy Kellums Mentorship and Encouragement Award

Kathy Kellums was a leader with a passion for BPW/Ohio and the women who volunteer to support its mission and ideals. No one can question her leadership skills and service in BPW/Ohio. And as such she felt the most important part of leadership was encouraging and mentoring her fellow BPW sisters. From the very beginning of her journey in BPW/Ohio Kathy hit the ground running. She volunteered, encouraged others, and mentored many so they could experience growth in all aspects of their lives personal, career, and community. She mentored them in getting the most out of their experiences in BPW building new leaders for the future. Encouraging many to take advantage of the privilege to hold office at all levels of the organization. Those who were recipients of this attention are eternally grateful.

This is the type of individual the committee is looking for to shine a light and appreciation. If you have experienced mentorship and/or encouragement from a brand new BPW/Ohio member, a BPW/Ohio Legend or any BPW/Ohio member, please consider nominating them for this annual honor.

### Requirements & Qualifications:

- Any BPW/Ohio member in good standing
- Demonstrates mentorship abilities.
- Encourages others to achieve personal and/or professional growth.

### To Nominate:

- Any BPW/Ohio member in good standing may nominate another member in good standing.
- The nominee can be from your own local, another BPW/Ohio local, or a member at large.
- Complete the application and write a 250-500-word essay providing specific examples of how this individual has been a mentor.
- Email or mail both documents to the Mentorship and Encouragement Chair to be received by the deadline.

The committee will review all the nominations and select one person from the nominations to receive the 2024-2025 BPW/Ohio Kathy Kellums Mentorship & Encouragement Award. The selected individual will be recognized at the BPW/Ohio 2025 State Conference.

Applications must be received by: **April 15, 2025**. If mailing your application, please mail it early.

Email to:	Mail to:	In Person
Paulette Knazek, Mentorship and Encouragement Chair <a href="mailto:pknazekbpw@gmail.com">pknazekbpw@gmail.com</a>	Paulette Knazek, Mentorship and Encouragement Chair 228 Adams Street Zanesville, OH 43701	At the BPW/Ohio Leadership Training on April 5, 2025

This information sheet and nomination form are available online at <https://www.bpwohio.org>

Sincerely,

Kathy Kellems Mentorship and Encouragement Committee

Region1: Charisse Kellums, Vermilion  
Region 2: Rene Butler, Youngstown  
Region 3: Paulette Knazek, PSP, Chair, Zanesville  
Region 4: Nancy Copenhaver, Logan  
Region 5: Gail Snyder, Greenville, Logan  
MAL: Bonnie Crall

## Young Careerist (YC) Competition Information

The Young Careerist (YC) Competition is a dynamic and inspiring program dedicated to nurturing the leadership and presentation skills of young professional women. Specifically designed for women aged 21 to 35, the Virginia Allen Young Careerist program offers a golden opportunity for participants to advance their careers, enhance their networking capabilities, and express themselves confidently in the workplace.

### Participation Requirements

Participants are encouraged to deliver speeches on various topics from the Ohio/BPW Legislative Platform,

To join the competition, here's what you need to do:

1. Download the necessary forms from the website and complete your bio.
2. Select a topic, research it, and craft a compelling speech.
3. Ensure your speech is exactly 4 minutes long, with no props allowed.
4. Practice diligently, aiming for 1-2 hours of practice per minute of speech.
5. Engage in local and regional speak-offs to hone your delivery.

Submit all paperwork to region chairs, who will then forward it to the state chair.

The YC Competition is an unparalleled platform for young women to showcase their talents, gain recognition, and propel their professional careers forward. It's more than just a competition; it's a journey towards becoming a powerful and influential woman in the workplace.

Participating in this competition can truly be a transformative experience, setting the stage for future success and leadership. So, if you're ready to take your career to the next level, the Young Careerist Competition might just be your launching pad! For more information reach out to Rachael Yoder ([spanglerr.115@gmail.com](mailto:spanglerr.115@gmail.com))



# BPW Local News

## Vermilion BPW Celebrates 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Vermilion Business & Professional Women celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and National Business Women's Week on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at the Ritter Public Library. In attendance were VBPW members, scholarship winners, past members, as well as members from around the state including four (4) past state presidents.

A bit of history about the Charter Members of the local chapter was presented by speaker Rich Tarrant, curator of the Vermilion History Museum. Many of the charter members were active in the organization and the community in the 1950s and 1960s. These women were inspiring businesswomen and community leaders. They were an essential part of the local business community as well as being involved in politics. The October 24, 2024 edition of the Vermilion Photojournal had a piece written by Rich Tarrant about one of our charter members. A donation was presented to the Vermilion History Museum.

To commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and National Business Women's Week, the City of Vermilion, Mayor's office provided VBPW with a Proclamation and declared October 23, 2024, Vermilion Business and Professional Women's Day. The proclamation also recognized VBPW member, Kathy Fischer, for her 53 years of membership.



Leona Phillips presents to Rich Tarrant, curator of the Vermilion History Museum.



L to R back row - Carol Holton, Lois Mason, Bridget Triana, Nancy Young, Cheryl Wolfe Cragin, Erlene Trsek, Dina Bauer, Lurlene West, Amber Barton, Kathy Fischer, Nancy Ostrander, Linda Miller, Marcia Kingsley, Jane Morner. Front row - PSP's Karen McCready, Leona Phillips, Charlon Dewberry, Karen Prelipp.

## Vermilion BPW donates to The Road to Hope

Vermilion Business & Professional Women presented a donation to The Road to Hope for their Recovery Housing Program located in Vermilion. The donation was presented to Assistant Executive Director Aubrey Oliver by VBPW member Marcia Kingsley at their program meeting on Dec 4, 2024 at the Vermilion Country Club.



L to R: VBPW member Marcia Kingsley and Assistant Executive Director Aubrey Oliver



# BPW Local News

## Coshocton BPW Annual Cake Auction Fundraiser

Coshocton BPW held their signature fundraiser, the 19th Annual Cake Auction on November 2nd at the Frontier Power Community Room. Most Unusual was the turkey dinner by Whit's Frozen Custard; People's Choice was a 3-tiered cake by Service Welding Material; and Kid's Cake winner was Avery Tiedt.



## Ashland BPW hosts NBWW

Ashland BPW celebrated NBWW at Ashland University's Convocation Center, Oct. 21, 2024. Sharon Jeffries, a clinical counselor, spoke about "Who Are You Forgetting? Self-care Isn't Selfish." Rebecca Garcia, program director at Safe Haven, accepted donations of disposable wipes, disinfectant spray, body lotions, trash bags, sweat pants, and conditioner for the local domestic violence shelter.



L to R: Jill Taylor and Rebecca Garcia, both representing Safe Haven, Sharon Jeffries, speaker; Teresa Clark-Chamberlain, Roberta Weiler, Kathy Norris, Lori Marsh-Lykins, BPW members stand behind the donations to Safe Haven.

## BPW/Region 4 Update

We held our Region 4 meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> in Logan. We had members from Logan, Lancaster, Circleville and McArthur. Also Karen McCready, PSP joined us along with our current State President Amelia Taggart. We held a very successful auction of donated items from our members. Amelia talked about her plans for the year and we had a good discussion on building our membership. Since our meeting, Logan has signed up two new members. Let's all keep up the good work. See picture on last page of OBW.



# BPW Local News

## Lancaster BPW presents Festival of Little Trees

Our last big event for 2024 was our “Festival of Little Trees”. Our trees, donated by members, family and friends, were on display at the Outerbelt Brewery for 3 weeks. At the end of the 3 weeks we contacted the highest bidder to come and pick up their tree. This year was another successful year and all the proceeds of \$1,055 will be given to “ALS United for Fairfield County”.

As we move into a brand new year, our focus will be on growing our membership and making our group better known by meeting up and checking out some other women’s groups in our area. We are already working on our Spring Event to support our Scholarship Program. Our date and place will be Sunday, April 27 at the Lancaster Golf Club. Mark your calendar, we would love for you to come and join us for a wonderful, fun day.



## Guernsey-Noble BPW hosts NBWW Event

Monday, October 21, 2024

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

# Guernsey News

Communities Coming Together

## Cindy King Named Woman of the Year at BPW Annual Fall Luncheon



**Featured speaker, Crystal Smith, AVP Banking Center Manager, Wesbanco.**



**Cheryl Lowry-Miller presenting a donation check from Guernsey Noble Business & Professional Women to Michelle Carpenter, CEO of Haven of Hope.**



**Betty Duche, left, with the 2024 Guernsey Noble BPW Woman of the Year, Cindy King, right.**

Cindy King was named Guernsey Noble Business & Professional Women’s 2024 Woman of the Year at last week’s annual fall luncheon, held at Theo’s in Cambridge.

The honor was bestowed by BPW member Bette Duche.

The welcoming address was delivered by Chairwoman Bonny Mitchell, and Past President Sherry Wilkins bestowed an invocation and closing remarks.

Also at the luncheon, which was held in honor of National Business Women’s Week, Cheryl Lowry-Miller presented a donation to Michelle Carpenter, CEO of Haven of Hope, a group which the Guernsey/Noble BPW has supported for years.

Keynote Speaker for the event was Crystal Smith, AVP Banking Center Manager, Wesbanco, a Meadowbrook grad and banking professional who discussed the subject of fraud and scams.

Smith informed the group that one in three Americans were scammed last year in some way, costing the nation roughly \$23 billion. She debunked the notion that the most probable victims of scams in general are the elderly, saying that the highest percentage of victims fall between 24 and 44 years old.

Smith offered a number of pieces of advice to avoid becoming a victim, and advised anyone who isn’t sure who is asking them for money to stop – don’t hand over your personal information or money. Instead, call your bank or the police, or, in the case of someone claiming to be a family member in trouble needing money fast, again, stop. Find a way to contact that family member to see if it really is them asking for money.

Anne Chlovechok briefly addressed the assembly to inform them about the coming launch of The Guernsey News as a locally-owned weekly newspaper that will cover Guernsey County events. She said the anticipated new local paper will launch on January 20, following a GALA launch party at Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center on Thursday, January 16, to which the public is invited.

There were many door prizes given out, as well as a raffle and 50/50 drawing.

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# BPW Local News

## Greenville BPW hosts Successful Guest Night

Greenville Business & Professional Women's Club (BPW) guests and members recently enjoyed shopping, special raffles, a silent auction and an awesome taco bar at their successful annual guest night "Fall Into A Night of Giving!" event on October 10th. Over \$7,000 was raised at this successful event to go toward their fundraiser for awarding scholarships to the young women of Darke County.

Photo: **Fall Into A Night of Giving** Guest Night Committee pictured from left to right: Maria Moore, Stacy Sykes, Hal-lie Foureman, Vicki Cost, Terra Denniston and Alexia Sykes.



## Darke County on Target to Lose 14% of Population by 2050 reports BPW Speaker Denise Elsas

The Individual Development Program Committee of the Greenville Business & Professional Women's Club (BPW) hosted the November 14, 2024 meeting which was held at the Winery at Versailles in Versailles. The committee consisted of Chair Deb Niekamp and members Sue Huston, Desteni Mason, Leah Dumas and Shelly Acker. Elsas has been a workforce specialist for 16 years and works for Darke County Economic Development.

Pictured from left to right are:

Members Shelly Acker, Deb Niekamp, Speaker Denise Elsas, Members Leah. Destini Mason, Sue Huston



# BPW Local News

## Greater Cincinnati BPW held Membership Event

The GCBPW had a membership event on October 22 with a guest speaker and a new member both speaking. Julia Mourer, spoke about Harvesting Connections, the 4DX Power of Networking and Candidate Connie Pillich spoke to us about running for office in Cincinnati. They had a great turnout and gained more members.



GCBPW President Ursula Bess pictured with Connie Pillich.



GCBPW President Ursula Bess pictured with Julia Mourer.



### Cocktails & Conversation

### Virtual Meetings



Join fellow BPW members from across the state for an open discussion on all things BPW. No RSVP needed—just drop in and join the conversation!

2025 Date: March 26

Time: 7:00pm (the waiting room will open at 6:45pm)

Zoom meeting link: Will be emailed prior to the meeting

If you have a topic, please send it to President Amelia Taggart at [president@bpwohio.org](mailto:president@bpwohio.org).



Region 4 meeting held on October 26, 2024 in Logan.