

OHIO BUSINESS WOMAN

Website: www.BPWOHio.org



AMELIA TAGGART
2024-2025 President

Official Publication of
Ohio Business & Professional Women

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A New Chapter Begins:

A Message from Our President

Dear BPW Members,

I am honored and humbled to be the 2024-2025 President of The Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. As we embark on this new chapter together, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

First and foremost, I want to recognize the incredible achievements and hard work of my predecessor, Stephanie Bridwell. She has reached significant milestones and established a solid foundation for growth. The President's Project this year will be taking the initiative that Stephanie started by growing our Sponsorships. Second to thank her State Conference Chair Charisse Kellums and her Committee for another successful State Conference. I am committed to building upon this legacy and guiding our organization towards even greater success.

At the core of my vision for 2024-2025 is to Learn from the Past, Plan for the Future and Be Present Women. We live in a rapidly evolving world where challenges and opportunities abound. It is imperative that we remain agile and

forward-thinking, embracing change while staying true to our values.

In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to meeting with each of you at Region, Local and Virtual meetings to listen to your ideas, concerns, and aspirations for BPW in Ohio. Your insights are invaluable as we chart our course forward together. I have appointed a Long Range Planning Committee comprised of Linda Miller, Dee Kovach, and Claire Hoover, Brenda Anders, along with Lora Manon and Chandra Ontko. Together, we will foster a culture of collaboration and empowerment, where every voice is heard and respected. As we navigate this journey, transparency and open communication will be paramount. We are dedicated to keeping you informed about our progress, challenges, and milestones every step of the way.

I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for our organization, and I am confident that, with our collective efforts and dedication, we will achieve new heights of success and make a positive impact for women in Ohio and beyond. Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve as your President. I am eager to work alongside each of you to realize our shared mission and vision.

Warm regards,

Amelia Taggart, President 2024-25

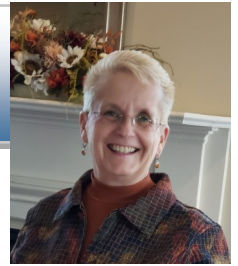


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2024-25 OHIO BPW President-Elect and Programing Chair

LORA MANON, Lancaster BPW



There's an old Pennsylvania Dutch saying that goes like this "The hurrier I go, the behinder I get." Now, I don't know about you, but it's hard to believe that time is flying by so quickly. It's mid-summer, our Annual Conference was literally months ago, and mid-year Board will be here before you know it. And that means that as President-Elect, I have to hurry up and get a lot of planning done for next year. Already. (And I'm definitely feeling like I'm on the path of getting "behinder.")

I have some questions for you that will be of help in all that planning. Please, please let me know your answers; my email address is lora.manon1@gmail.com:

1. Why did you become a BPW member?
2. Why have you continued to be a BPW member?
3. How involved are you in your local, or at the region, or state levels of our organization?
4. What is the most important work that BPW does?
5. What is the one thing that BPW/ Ohio does well?
6. What is the one thing that BPW/Ohio could improve?
7. How can I support BPW at all levels of the organization?

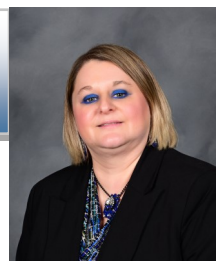
For more than 100 years, BPW has been the leading advocate for working women. It is my privilege to serve as your President-Elect, and to help us move into the next century. Together, we can build a strong organization, and pave the way for the women of the future. But rather than just hurry along, we need to work smarter and faster – together. (By the way, as of July 13, 2024, there are only 165 shopping days until Christmas. Better get a move on before all the good deals are gone.)

Best Personal Wishes,

Lora

2024-25 OHIO BPW Vice President

CHANDRA FORSHEY ONTKO, Guernsey-Noble BPW



If you are an officer or a committee chair for your local or region, please make sure I have what position you are currently holding and your contact information. As Vice President, I am responsible for making the membership program, and I am busy trying to get that completed. And of course I do not want to leave anyone out that should be included in there, so please make sure your local Presidents and Region Presidents get that information sent to me and to Brenda Anders, who is maintaining our rosters. Also, if your contact information does change, please be sure to let Brenda and I both know the new updated information. Thank you so much. I look forward to working alongside Amelia and my fellow BPW sisters on the board this year.

Chandra L. Forshey Ontko
610 North Street, Caldwell, Ohio 43724

Home 740-305-5029
Cell 740-630-7055
Work 740-432-3578

2024-25 OHIO BPW Database Manager

BRENDA ANDERS, Lancaster BPW



Well, it's a new year for BPW/Ohio with new and exciting things coming. One of those changes is upgrading our accounting system to QuickBooks Online.

What does this mean for you? Your invoice for your dues will be sent via email through Intuit, the parent company of QuickBooks. Don't worry, if you don't want to receive your invoice via email just let me know. I can still send you a hard copy.

Payments can be made directly from your emailed invoice by simply clicking on the link provided. You will be taken to a secure site to enter your card information. No more filling out a long form like you do when you pay online through the website.

You can still pay online through our website, www.bpwohio.org, and choose Online Payments OR you can send a check to my address listed on your invoice. You choose the option that will work best for you.

What does this mean for BPW/Ohio? Easier access to reports, instant updates from banks, faster processing of your payments, easy transition to the next person to hold this position to name just a few advantages.

Please feel free to call or send me an email if you have any questions. I am always available to answer your questions. Sometimes it may take me a day or two, but I will get back with you as soon as I can.

Sincerely,

Brenda Anders

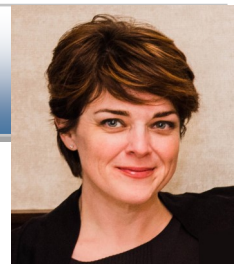
BPW/Ohio 2024-2025 Treasurer

(740)652-0114

Treasurer@OhioBPW.org

2024-25 OHIO BPW Recording Secretary

RENE BUTLER, Youngstown BPW



As an engineer, my professional background has centered on gathering and analyzing data, ensuring precision and accuracy in every detail. This skill set has been invaluable in my role as the recording secretary for the state over the past year. Trusted with the responsibility to faithfully capture the facts and dialogue of Executive Committee (EC) and Board meetings, I have diligently tried to document the discussions, decisions, and actions taken.

The role of recording secretary has allowed me to contribute to the transparency and effective communication within our organization. By accurately recording meeting proceedings, I have helped ensure that members are well-informed about the developments and decisions made at the BPW/OH state level.

While my background emphasizes data and facts, my dedication to effectively communicating and documenting our organization's activities remains strong. I am honored to contribute to the BPW/OH state level and look forward to another year of serving our membership.

BPW/Ohio 2024-25 Budget

Approved May 2024

INCOME

Member Dues (400 @ \$40)	16,000.00
Member @ Large (10 @ \$50)	500.00
Student Dues (20 @ \$20)	100.00
Local Dues Received	4,000.00
Meeting Income (Nov - \$35/member)	1,050.00
Leadership/Leg Plat/YC/ID	1,500.00
Non Dues Income	500.00
President's Project	1,500.00
Ecumenical (30 @ \$30)	900.00
Sponsorships	2,000.00
Total Income	28,050.00

EXPENSES

Donation to BPWWRF	500.00
Standing Chair Expenses	
Finance Chair	100.00
ID Chair	150.00
Program Chair	150.00
Legislation Chair	150.00
Membership Chair	150.00
YC Chair	150.00
Total Standing Chair Expenses	850.00

Other Chair Expenses

ByLaws Chair	100.00
Distinguished Member Chair	100.00
Nominating Chair	100.00
OBW Editor Stipend	200.00
Database Manager Stipend	200.00
Webmaster Stipend	200.00
Social Media Stipend	200.00
Total Other Chair Expenses	1,100.00

Mileage Expense

Board Mileage (based on 5,000 miles @ .40)	2,000.00
Total Mileage Expense	2,000.00

Meeting Expenses

Meeting Expenses	2,000.00
Leadership/YC/ID/Leg Platform 2024	2,000.00
ASCAP License	275.00
Total Meeting Expenses	4,275.00

Other Expenses

Annual Financial Review	225.00
Bank Fees	100.00
Crime Policy	400.00
General Liability Ins	1,200.00
Conference Site Chair	100.00
Executive Committee Expense (mileage, hotel, & EC meeting expense)	3,500.00
Local Dues Reimbursed	3,750.00
Non Dues Expense	300.00
OBW Production	4,000.00
Credit Card Processing Fee	400.00
Subscriptions	300.00
Supplies	700.00
Postage	350.00
President Expense	1,200.00
State Directory	300.00
Web Hosting	700.00
Virtual Meetings	200.00
Membership Referral Grant (Up to \$100/member)	1,000.00
Ecumenical	600.00
Total Other Expenses	19,325.00

Total Expenses	28,050.00
Projected income	28,050.00
Projected expenses	(28,050.00)

Upcoming Region Meetings

Region One: September 7

Region Two: September 21

Region Three: June 15 (complete)

Region Four: October 26

Region Five: August 17

Contact your Region President listed on the Board of Directors page for meeting time and location.



2024-25 Region 3 BPW Officers

L to R: Installing Officer BPW Ohio President Amelia Taggart (Ohio Valley BPW); Region 3 President Paulette Knazek (ZBPW); President Elect Sherry Wilkins (GNBPW); Recording Secretary Aimee Neighbor (Coshocton BPW); Rhonda Stemmer (GNBPW); and Nomination Chair Betty Duche (GNBPW). VP Jennifer Reiter (ZBPW) and Legislation Chair Raine Hammond (Coshocton BPW) were unable to attend the meeting which was held at The Dockside Restaurant in Senecaville, OH on June 15, 2024.



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!



2024 Dates: July 29, Sept 26, and Nov 26

2025 Dates: Jan 30 and 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.

	2024 – 2025 BPW/Ohio Calendar of Events	
Date	Event/Deadline	Location/Notes
2024		
May 21	Post Conference EC Meeting	Virtual
May 23	Post Conference Board Meeting	Virtual
June 28	Local Officer Forms Due	Email to your Region President
June 28	Region Officer Forms Due	Email to State President, Vice President & Database Manager
July 13	Summer OBW Deadline	Email articles to Pres. & OBW Editor
July 29	Cocktails & Conversation	Open Zoom Discussion
August 21	Executive Committee Meeting	Virtual
August 24	State Board Meeting	Virtual
August 26	104th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment	Women's Right to Vote
September 14	Fall OBW Article Submission Deadline	Email articles to Pres. & OBW Editor
September 26	Cocktails & Conversation	Open Zoom Discussion
October 19	Ecumenical BPW/OH and BPW/PA	BPW/OH Host (Ohio Valley)
Week of October 20	National Business Women's Week	
October 21	Local Presidents Mid-Year Reports Due	Email to your Region President
October 28	EC, State Chairs, Region Pres Mid-Year Reports Due	Email to State President
November 1	Executive Committee Meeting	TBD
November 2	State Board Meeting	TBD
November 26	Cocktails & Conversation	Open Zoom Discussion
2025		
January 18	Winter OBW Article Submission Deadline	Email articles to Pres. & OBW Editor
January 30	Cocktails & Conversation	Open Zoom Discussion
February 1	Deadline for Nominations Forms	Email to State Nomination Chair
February 5	Executive Committee Meeting	Virtual
February 8	EC and Conference Committee	Conference Site
March 15	Spring OBW Article Submission Deadline	Email articles to Pres. & OBW Editor
March 24	YC and ID Candidates Information Due	Email to ID & YC Chairs
March 26	Cocktails & Conversation	Open Zoom Discussion
TBA	Equal Pay Day	
March 29	Local President Year End Reports Due	Email to your Region President
April 4	Executive Committee Meeting	TBD
April 5	Leadership Training, ID, YC, Legislative Platform Meeting	TBD
April 6	Distinguished Member Nominations Due	Email to State Distinguished Member Chair
April 6	EC, State Chairs, Region Pres. Year-End Reports Due	Email to State President
May 16	EC Meeting & Conference Committee Dinner	Nationwide Event Center—Powell, OH
May 17	BPW/OH State Conference	Nationwide Event Center—Powell, OH



BPW/Ohio

2024-2025 Board of Directors

T=Can Text (no groups please)

L=Landline

Position	Name	Address	Phone		Email	Local-Region
President	Amelia Taggart	1714 Hamilton Place Steubenville, OH 43952	614-266-8121		ameliapro@yahoo.com	Ohio Valley -3
President-Elect	Lora Manon	803 S. Beech St. Bryan, OH 43506-2016	419-266-4212	T	lora.manon1@gmail.com	Lancaster-4
Vice President	Chandra Forshey Ontko	610 North St. Caldwell, OH 43724	740-630-7055	T	chandralontko@gmail.com	Guernsey/ Noble-3
Treasurer	Brenda Anders	557 Ross Rd. SE Lancaster, OH 43130	740-654-1902	L	bkanders0310@gmail.com	Lancaster - 4
Recording Secretary	Rene Butler	39 Emma St. Girard, OH 44420	915-276-3795		neeburks77@gmail.com	Youngstown-2
*Parliamentarian	Phyllis Riccadonna	918B Archer Hill Rd. Colliers, WV 26035	740-317-3868	T	phyllisR66@aol.com	OH Valley-3
*Corresponding Secretary	Karen McCready	PO Box 224 Hayesville, OH 44838-0224	419-368-6942	L	mccready@bright.net	Ashland-1
State Board						
Immediate Past State President	Stephanie Bridwell	7515 Old Hickory Lane Chandlersville, OH 43727	740-624-2787	T	Sbridwell@columbus.rr.com	Zanesville-3
Finance Chair	OPEN					
Individual Development Chair	OPEN					
Programming Chair	Lora Manon	803 S. Beech St. Bryan, OH 43506-2016	419-266-4212	T	lora.manon1@gmail.com	Lancaster-4
Legislation Chair	Patricia Talbot	624 Ridgewood Drive Coshocton, OH 43812	740-502-2861	T	pttalbot@gmail.com	Coshocton-3
Membership Chair	Dorothy Kovach	4808 Garden Acres Steubenville, OH 43953	740-275-1806		deekovach@att.net	Ohio Valley-3
Young Careerist Chair	Rachael Yoder	3303 Township Rd. 629 Loudonville, OH 44842-9588	740-412-7720		spanglerr.115@gmail.com	Ashland-1
Region 1 President	Karen McCready	PO Box 224 Hayesville, OH 44838-0224	419-368-6942	L	mccready@bright.net	Ashland-1
Region 2 President	Erlene Trsek	119 Greenbrier Lane Sandusky, OH 44870	440-665-0034	T	setrsek@buckeye-express.com	NASA Glenn -2
Region 3 President	Paulette Knazek	228 Adams St. Zanesville, OH 43701	440-339-6009	T	pknazekbpw@gmail.com	Zanesville-3
Region 4 President	Diana Gibbens	7790 Fairlawn Dr. Pickerington, OH 43147	614-325-0178	T	dkgibbens@hotmail.com	Lancaster-4
Region 5 President	Linda Wiegand	9017 Winthrop Dr. Montgomery, OH 45249	740-975-5581	T	bisbestrate@gmail.com	Cincinnati-5
*Bylaws Chair	Linda Wiegand	9017 Winthrop Dr. Montgomery, OH 45249	740-975-5581	T	bisbestrate@gmail.com	Cincinnati-5
*2024-2025 Conference Chair	Sara Lane	1600 Moreland Dr. Steubenville, OH 43952	330-285-2684		SaraLaneBPW@yahoo.com	Ohio Valley-3
*2024-2025 Conference Site Chair	OPEN					
*Database Manager	Brenda Anders	557 Ross Rd. SE Lancaster, OH 43130	740-654-1902	L	bkanders0310@gmail.com	Lancaster - 4
*Distinguished Member Chair	Linda Miller	1912 Lake Ave, Huron, OH 44839	419-357-0028	T	lbmiller2222@aol.com	Vermilion-1
*Legal Counsel	Gina DeGenova	1001 Country Manor Dr. North Lima, OH 44452	330-881-6637		gdegenova68@gmail.com	Youngstown-2
*Legislative Consultant	Kathy Telban	6470 Gates Mills Blvd. Mayfield Hts., OH 44124-4255	216-650-3153	T	ktelban@isolvit.org	Akron-2
*Non-Dues Income Chair	Diana Gibbens	7790 Fairlawn Dr. Pickerington, OH 43147	614-325-0178	T	dkgibbens@hotmail.com	Lancaster-4
*OBW Editor	Sherry Martin	4976 Royalton Rd. SW Lancaster, OH 43130	740-808-3749	T	sweetsherryd@yahoo.com	Lancaster-4
*Ohio Webmaster Ch.	Paulette Knazek	228 Adams St. Zanesville, OH 43701	440-339-6009	T	pknazekbpw@gmail.com	Zanesville-3
*Nominating Chair	Mary Ann Dutro	2365 Greenhills Circle Zanesville, OH 43701	740-819-7592		madutrobpw@gmail.com	Zanesville-3
*PAC Chair	Charlon Dewberry	1 Edith Court Bowling Green, OH 43402-4541	419-266-1291	T	chardew1@yahoo.com	Toledo-1
*Ecumenical Chair	Megan Presley	1920 McCauslen Manor Steubenville, OH 43952	740-637-6806	T	megan.presley19@gmail.com	Ohio Valley-3
*Ohio/BPW Retirement Foundation	Mary Ann Dutro	2365 Greenhills Circle Zanesville, OH 43701	740-819-7592		madutrobpw@gmail.com	Zanesville-3
*Social Media Chair	OPEN					

2024 Conference Recap

The S.T.A.R.S were out at the 104th Annual Conference!

The 104th Annual BPW/OHIO State Conference was successfully held in Strongsville over 2 ½ days in mid-May. 47 BPW members, 15 Past Presidents, 22 Guests, 4 Seminar presenters and 3 Speakers were present.

Friday opened with a seminar; “Planning for the Expected & Unexpected” facilitated by Erica Skerl a Certified Elder Care Law Attorney. Lunch entertainment from Bette Lou Higgins, Director Eden Valley Enterprises was a Storytellers Concert. The second seminar of the day “Advancing the Mission of BPW as the Leading Advocate for Working Women” was facilitated by PSP Penny Pelikan Dehner and Ohio Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson. One of the useful bits of information they shared was how to contact politicians. BPW/OHIO business was conducted at the Board meeting. Dinner speaker Renee Jones President/CEO & Founder of Renee Jones Empowerment Center was unable to attend. The dinner centerpieces of baskets of hygiene products were delivered to Renee the following week. Keynote Speaker, Mary Wright-Ally, owner Café Ah-Romas spoke on “Genderwashing Reality”. A donation was made to Berea City School District Camp Mi-Bro-Be on behalf of Mary. The Candidates’ Forum was held and the 2024-2025 State Officers except for Vice President were elected. The evening was capped off with Trivia Game Night led by President Stephanie Bridwell and Finance Chair Mary Clark. We all learned something about the state of Ohio, BPW and other things we wondered “how did I not know that”. The comedic banter and light-hearted teasing between the teams brought laughter to all!

Saturday breakfast hosted a few vendors who presented a 30 second commercial and then we had time to shop. Members attended a seminar prior to lunch, “Strategies for Professional Success & Growth in Today’s Workplace” led by PSP Cyndi McCabe. During lunch, Bette Lou Higgins, Director Eden Valley Enterprises again joined us, this time to introduce GREAT Lakes Ladies and their special stories. The Second Business Session took place; Legislative Platform Report, PAC Report and we heard from Mary Clark on Reflections of PSP Kathy Kellums. Our featured speaker, Ohio House Representative Bride Rose Sweeney talked about her journey in the political arena. Hearing her suggest how to contact politicians and take questions from the members was educational and informative. A donation was made to a charity of her choice. Dinner was a jam-packed night! Both the Individual Development and Young Careerist speeches were presented. Phyllis Riccadonna, Ohio Valley BPW and Kathy Telban, Akron BPW were announced as the Joyce M Davis Distinguished Member recipients. Bonnie Crall, MAL BPW was announced as the first recipient of the Kathy Kellums Mentorship & Encouragement Award. Linda Miller introduced eight Legends with a brief history of their BPW tenure. The Vitamix Raffle winning ticket was drawn (Liz Herrell won). Incoming President Amelia Taggart, the 2024-2025 Executive Committee and Board of Directors were installed. After dinner everyone was invited to mingle at a celebration for Stephanie, Amelia and the newly elected officers.

Sunday began with breakfast where Membership and Program awards were given. Butterflies abounded at the Mariwyn Heath Memorial Service. The Closing Business Session was the time for Resolutions, Women’s Retirement Foundation awards, the 2025 Conference Presentation, and the passing of the President’s pin between Stephanie and Amelia. We closed the 2024 Conference with well wishes for a productive 2024-2025.

BPW/OHIO 2024 Conference Chair Charisse Kellums



BPW/Ohio voting members of 2024-2025 Executive Committee installed at Conference. L to R: President Amelia Taggart, President Elect Lora Manon, Secretary Rene Butler, Treasurer Brenda Anders . Vice President Chandra Ontko was elected at a later time.



Karen McCready (R), Corresponding Secretary and Phyllis Riccadonna (L), Parliamentarian, installed each other. They are non voting members of the 2024-25 EC.



Region Presidents L to R: Region 1-Karen McCready, Region 2 - Erlene Trsek, Region 3 - Paulette Knazek, Region 4 - Diana Gibbens, Region 5 - Linda Wiegand



State Conference 2024



Legends are members of 25 years or more who have made substantial contributions to BPW, especially at the local level. They were selected by their regions.

L to R: Region 1 Carol Sylee Holton, Toledo and Marjorie J. Patterson, Ashland; Region 2 Carol Ward, NASA Glenn and Donna Laughlin, Akron; Region 4 Carol LaGore, Chillicothe & Nancy Copenhaver, Logan; Region 5 Debbie Niekamp, Greenville & Gail Snyder, Greenville.

Not present: Region 3 Lorraine Linton, Ohio Valley and Carolyn Spencer, Zanesville



Ohio Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson, speaker, holding cookies donated by Campbells/Archway.



Distinguished Member Chair Linda Miller announced Kathy-Telban and Phyllis Riccadonna were the winners of the Joyce M Davis Distinguished Member Award. This is the first time that there was a tie for this coveted award.

L to R: Kathy Telban, Linda Miller, chair of committee, and Phyllis Riccadonna



Stephanie Bridwell Left with the 2023-24 EC Amelia Taggart, Pres. Elect, Charisse Kellums, VP, Rene Butler, Recording Secretary, Brenda Anders, Treasurer, Charlon Dewberry, Parliamentarian, Diana Gibbens, Corresponding Secretary.



Elizabeth Herrell , PSP was the winner of the Vitamix Blender.



Bonnie Crall (R), winner of the Kathy Kellums Mentorship and Encouragement Award is congratulated by Charisse Kellums, (L).



President Stephanie Bridwell stands with Conference Entertainer Betty Lou Higgins of Eden Valley Enterprises.



2024-2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

www.bpwohio.org/legislation

PREAMBLE: The Alice Paul Equal Rights Amendment shall stand first, foremost and above all other items which may appear on the Legislative Platform of this Federation until equal rights for women and men become guaranteed in the United States Constitution. **THE ALICE PAUL EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT:** Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

CIVIL RIGHTS: Actively work to pass legislation, which will ensure equal rights and remedies for women in all phases of their lives, including support of affirmative action programs; and eliminate all forms of harassment against individuals, and strengthen and improve voting registration, access and fair representation.

ECONOMIC EQUITY: Actively work to support equal educational opportunities; equal treatment for women in all areas of employment, including adequate retirement benefits, improved programs for women re-entering the workforce, and implementation of equal pay for work of comparable worth. Support legislation that promotes these goals.

DEPENDENT CARE: Actively work to strengthen and improve funding for enrichment programs, physical facilities and affordable quality dependent care of all ages regardless of limitations and abilities.

VICTIM RIGHTS: Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for all individuals who are victims of violent acts including domestic and/or sexual violence (including coercive control); human trafficking; promote violence prevention programs; support services and facilities for survivors of this violence and the funding thereof; and support legislation that provides compensatory and punitive damage awards to victims.

HEALTH: Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for full access to all health care services including mental health, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), reproductive choice, funding for research into and protection for women's health care and educational programs concerning women's health issues. Actively promote access to mental and physical health care services.

POLICY ITEMS: Actively work for the election of and appointment to policy-making positions those who support the BPW Legislative Platform. Adopted May 2024

Resolutions Affirmed and Adopted at the 2024 State Conference

RESOLUTION 1:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OHIO SENATE BILL 231 REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM TO REPORT WAGE DISCRIMINATION

Whereas, the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/OHIO) has supported pay equity for women for over 100 years and advocates for women's rights in the workplace and fights against discrimination in the workplace, and

Whereas, wage disparity continues to exist in our society wherein women are paid substantially less than their male counterparts for comparable work, and

Whereas, wage disparity not only adversely impacts a woman's current earning power but also adversely impacts her future retirement income and/or social security benefits, and

Whereas, the State of Ohio does not have a system for individuals to report discrimination in the payment of wages by their employer, and

Whereas, many employees are hesitant to discuss or report wage disparity for fear of reprisals from their employer, and

Whereas, Ohio Senate Bill 231 known as the Pay Equity Hot-line will enable anonymous reporting of discriminatory practices by employers by creating a Pay Equity Hot-line so that Ohio employees can report the issues they have experienced in their employment. A state run Hot-line will hold employers accountable without employees fearing that they will lose their jobs or face retaliation by their employers

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BPW/OHIO will work to actively support passage of Ohio Senate Bill 231, sponsored by State Senators Paula Hicks Hudson (D-Toledo) and Kent Smith (D-Euclid)

Further, Be It Resolved that the members for the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/OHIO) will educate themselves and others regarding this legislation;

It Is Further Resolved that the 2024-2025 BPW/Ohio Legislative Chair will monitor the status of this legislation as it moves through the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives and provide updates to the members of BPW/Ohio.

Further, Be It Also Resolved that the members of BPW/OHIO will demonstrate their support of Senate Bill 231 through letter writing, emails and telephone calls encouraging the passage of this important economic legislation by the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives.

Proposed by:

BPW/Ohio 2023-2024 Legislative Committee
Patricia Talbot, Chair

RESOLUTION 2:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OHIO SENATE BILL 232 REGARDING THE CREATION OF A PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND DESIGNATE BUSINESSES AS FAIR PAYCHECK WORKPLACES

Whereas, the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/OHIO) has supported pay equity for women for over 100 years and advocate for women's rights in the workplace, and

Whereas, wage disparity continues to exist in our society wherein women are paid substantially less than their male counterparts for comparable work, and

Whereas, in 2022, women earned an average of 82% of what men earned, and this wage disparity continued in 2023-2024, and

Whereas, wage disparity not only adversely impacts a woman's current earning power but also adversely impacts her future retirement income and/or social security benefits, and

Whereas, the State of Ohio does not have a system to encourage current and future employees to know whether or not an employer values their contributions in the workplace and compensates them appropriately, and

Whereas, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce recently reported that on average there is 62 workers to fill every 100 job openings indicating that we are in a tight labor market, therefore many employees have their choice of employers and are looking for employers who will compensate them appropriately, and

Whereas, in December 2022, the Harvard Business Review cited pay equity as a top to do for employers in an increasingly competitive labor market. Being able to identify employers who are paying competitive wages will help to close the wage gap and move us towards pay equity for all, and

Whereas, Ohio Senate Bill 232 known as the Fair Paycheck Workplace Act will create a program to evaluate and designate businesses as Fair Paycheck Workplaces recognizing their commitment and effort to pay their male and female workers equally.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BPW/OHIO will work to actively support passage of Ohio Senate Bill 232, sponsored by State Senators Paula Hicks Hudson (D-Toledo) and Kent Smith (D-Euclid)

Further, Be It Resolved that the members for the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/OHIO) will educate themselves and others regarding this legislation;

It Is Further Resolved that the 2024-2025 BPW/Ohio Legislative Chair will monitor the status of this legislation as it moves through the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives and provide updates to the members of BPW/Ohio.

Further, Be It Also Resolved that the members of BPW/OHIO will demonstrate their support of Senate Bill 232 through letter writing, emails and telephone calls encouraging the passage of this important economic legislation by the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives.

Proposed by:

BPW/Ohio 2023-2024 Legislative Committee
Patricia Talbot, Chair

COURTESY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/OHIO) convened for its 104th annual state conference, and in so doing has been afforded great hospitality and courtesy by Region 2, the region officers and the local organizations therein; and

WHEREAS, the City of Strongsville, Ohio, and its business community, in particular the Best Western Plus hotel at Strongsville, has extended a warm welcome and efficient service to the BPW/OHIO members and guests in attendance at this state conference; and

WHEREAS, Conference Chair Charisse Kellums and her conference committee stars have devoted their time, talent, and energy to making this a successful and enjoyable conference; and to adding sparkle and shine to this event; and

WHEREAS, BPW/OHIO 2023-2024 President Stephanie Bridwell ably and efficiently presided over the 104th annual state conference and helped all in attendance to "shine bright" and find our many reasons to remember that "everyone deserves to twinkle"; and

WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 Board of Directors has been installed, ready to work and to show the members of BPW/OHIO how to be powerful, present women, drawing on our past and looking to our future, as President Amelia Taggart begins her year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2023-2024 BPW/OHIO Board of Directors and the conference body express their sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to the success of this conference and the fond memories and friendships that will endure as a result of our attendance at this all-star event.

State rules dictate that primary Conference Resolutions must be printed in the OBW.

To view these documents larger, go to the BPW/Ohio website at www.bpwohio.org.



BPW OHIO MEMBERS SHOULD MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD IN 2024

Submitted by: Charlon K. Dewberry, PSP | BPW/Ohio PAC Chair 2024-2025

This coming November, Ohio voters will determine who will represent them in the Ohio House of Representatives for the next two (2) years. All ninety-nine (99) House seats will be on the ballot. Additionally, there will be seventeen (17) seats in the Ohio State Senate up for election on November 5th, 2024.

BPW Ohio has a long history of supporting those candidates that support our Legislative Platform. We support those candidates with our votes, by working on their campaigns, by distributing literature about their positions and by personally donating to their campaigns.

However, these are not the only ways in which we can support candidates for State Offices (e.g., Members of Ohio's House of Representatives, Members of the Ohio Senate, Ohio Governor, Ohio Attorney General, Ohio Secretary of State, Treasurer of the State of Ohio. We can also support candidates who are running for any of these offices through our BPW Ohio PAC.

The BPW Ohio PAC is a Political Action Committee, and our purpose is to provide members of BPW Ohio with a mechanism to legally endorse and contribute financial support to candidates who support our Legislative Agenda.

As a member of BPW Ohio you can recommend candidates for endorsement and/or financial assistance from our BPW Ohio PAC. To start this process, identify those Candidates running for a State Office in your area that you believe supports BPW Ohio's Legislative Agenda. Do some research to find out where they stand on the issues that are important to our members. Typically, you can find some of this information by reviewing their campaign literature or website. If they are an incumbent, you can check out their voting record on issues that align with our Platform.

Once you have identified someone whom you believe supports our Legislative Platform, share that information with your BPW Local or Region so that they can decide if this is a candidate that they want to have our BPW/Ohio PAC endorse. To be considered for an endorsement or donation, the candidate must be nominated by either the BPW Ohio local organization or Region organization in their area.

Once the Local Organization or Region decides that they want to seek an endorsement and/or donation from the BPW Ohio PAC, then the Local Organization or Regional President should reach out to the Candidate to find out if they are interested in pursuing an endorsement or donation from our PAC. If the answer is yes, then the President should send the Candidate the following BPW/Ohio PAC documents:

BPW OHIO PAC CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

COPY OF THE 2024-2025 BPW OHIO LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

BPW OHIO LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ENDORSEMENT FORM

The LO or Region President should request that those documents be returned to her along with a copy of the Candidate's Resume, Campaign Literature and if they are an incumbent a copy of their Voting Record. Presidents once you receive these items complete the BPW/Ohio PAC Nomination Form and send that form along with the documents received from the candidate to the BPW Ohio PAC Chair at the following address: Charlon K. Dewberry, BPW/Ohio PAC Chair, 1 Edith Court, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402, or you may email them to me at bpwpac@ohiobpw.org.

Once I receive these documents, copies will be distributed to the BPW Ohio PAC Committee who will review them and decide if BPW/Ohio will be endorsing and/or making a donation to that Candidate. If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to me via email: chardew1@yahoo.com, or bpwpac@ohiobpw.org or by calling 1-419-2661291.

All of the BPW Ohio PAC forms mentioned in this Article are on the BPW Ohio Website under the MORE Tab.

Members interested in making donations to our BPW OHIO PAC may do so at any time. The BPW Ohio PAC Section on the BPW Ohio Website also includes a PAC donation form. Please note that only individuals can make donations to our PAC. We cannot accept donations from BPW Ohio Local Organizations, or Businesses.

Let's make our Voices heard this November by taking action now to support those candidates who will support our Legislative Agenda.

2024 -2025 Membership Referral Program

Growing our membership and attracting the next set of BPW leaders is the goal of the 2024 -2025 Membership Referral Program. Any BPW member in good standing will be rewarded by recruiting 2 or more new members (up to 5 new members) to a local or member at large. \$20 will be paid to the member for each newly paid membership (up to \$100) by completing the referral form on or before April 15th. The program is on a first come, first served basis until funds are depleted.

Don't keep BPW a secret!



Membership has its Privileges!

1.)

New Member Name: _____ Local: _____

Referred By: _____ Local: _____

Confirmation by Database Manager: _____ Date: _____

2.)

New Member Name: _____ Local: _____

Referred By: _____ Local: _____

Confirmation by Database Manager: _____ Date: _____

3.)

New Member Name: _____ Local: _____

Referred By: _____ Local: _____

Confirmation by Database Manager: _____ Date: _____

4.)

New Member Name: _____ Local: _____

Referred By: _____ Local: _____

Confirmation by Database Manager: _____ Date: _____

5.)

New Member Name: _____ Local: _____

Referred By: _____ Local: _____

Confirmation by Database Manager: _____ Date: _____

Email to Dee Kovach deekovach@att.net by April 15th 2025

BPW Local News



2024-25 Guernsey-Noble BPW Officers

L to R: Chartering President Cheryl Lowry-Miller, Treasurer Tammy Reed, Secretary Michelle Carpenter-Wilkinson, Vice President Cyndi King, President Chandra Ontko, Past President Sherry Wilkins



2024 Guernsey-Noble BPW Scholarship Winners

L to R: Scholarship Committee Cheryl Lowry Miller. Scholarship Committee Chair Rhonda Stemmer, Recipients Braelyn Thompson, Avery Vasko, Eliza Morrow, Scholarship Committee -Cindy King

Guernsey-Noble Professional Women held their Scholarship Presentation & Installation of Officers dinner meeting on Wednesday June 12, 2024 at Theo's. Cheryl Lowry-Miller Guernsey County BPW Charter Past President & Sherry Wilkins Past President were installation officers. The new officers: for 2024-25 are Secretary-Michelle Carpenter-Wilkinson,, Treasurer Tammy Reed, Vice President-Cindy King & President Chandra Ontko. GNBPW Scholarships were awarded to 3 recipients pictured above. Plans were started for the National Businesswomen's Week Luncheon. Bonny Mitchell NBWW Chair announced it is to be held at Theo's Upstairs Thursday October 19, 2023, and asked for program/speaker ideas. The goal of B.P.W. as a national organization is to be an advocate for legislation, education, health care, day care, and career opportunities to improve the lives of all women. Our local Guernsey-Noble B.P.W. chartered in 1989 and the chartering purpose was and continues to be Women helping Women. Guernsey-Noble B.P.W. Members have supported the Haven of Hope (domestic violence shelter), B.P.W. Scholarships, Operation Sweat suit for rape victims, breast cancer awareness month, Red Dress Affair (women's heart health) and more through their volunteerism and financial contributions. Membership is open to all women and men. Join the leading advocate organization; contact our local Vice President Cindy King #330-550-6783 cyndra923@gmail.com President Chandra Ontko #740-630-7055 chandramic@aol.com G.N.B.P.W. P.O. Box 1524, Cambridge OH 43725.

A long time member and friend to many BPW Ohio sisters, Penny Pelikan Dehner, is moving to Omaha, Nebraska, on August 1. Penny shared "It has been my honor to work alongside each of you working to make our voices heard and reach equality for all women". Region 4 thanks Penny for her hard work and dedication to our mission.



2024-25 Coshocton BPW Officers

L to R: Corresponding Secretary Wendy Bowman; Recording Secretary Aimee Neighbor; Treasurer and Installing Officer Pat Talbot; VP Denise Shample; and President Katie Hultz. Installation was held at Schumaker Farms on June 20th. State Legislation Chair Pat Talbot was the Installing Officer.



2024 Buckeye Girls State Delegate

American Legion Post 65 Auxiliary and Coshocton BPW each sponsored a delegate for Buckeye Girls State (BGS), Ashlyn Tumblin and her twin Taryn.

L to R: Coshocton BPW President Carey McMasters; NIKE Club Advisor Karin Moran; BGS Delegate Ashlyn Tumblin and State Legislation Chair Pat Talbot. Taryn T. was unable to attend.



2024 Working Woman Scholarship Winners

Coshocton BPW presented two \$1,000 Joan McNeely Working Woman Scholarships on May 16, 2024 at Roscoe Village to Renee Fleming and Mary Beth Crider-Slater.

L to R: Renee Fleming, Joan McNeely, Mary Beth Crider-Slater, and Scholarship Chair Sheila Mayse.



2024 Coshocton BPW NIKE Scholarship Winners

L to R: Coshocton BPW President Carey McMasters with \$1,000 NIKE Scholarship recipients Piper Anderson and Adara Birkhimer, River View High School Seniors. Presented at the June 20, 2024 Meeting at Schumaker Farms.



Members of the Ohio Valley BPW at their annual Wine and Shoe Extravaganza where BPW Member HON. Judge Michelle Miller was voted Woman of the Year. L to R: Amelia Taggart, Martina Watkins, OVBWP Secretary, Lori Rawson, Wine and Shoe Event Chair, Dee Kovach, Leanna Lulla, Angelia Tarquinio, Julie Decker, Megan Presley, OVBWP President, Amanda Coldebella, Front Mari Ann Ohba, OVBWP Tres. Annie Johnston, OVBWP Vice Pres.



Past State Presidents (PSP) at the 2024 State Conference