



# The National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

## September 2020 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

#### International Days Observed by the United Nations

- 5 September International Day of Charity (A/RES/67/105)
  - 8 September International Literacy Day (UNESCO 14 C/Resolution 1.441)
  - 15 September International Day of Democracy (A/RES/62/7)
  - 18 September International Equal Pay Day (A/RES/74/142)
  - 21 September International Day of Peace (A/RES/36/67) (A/RES/55/282)
- (Source: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/#September>)



### In This Issue

Upcoming Events	1
<a href="#">About NFBPWC</a>	2
<a href="#">President's Message</a> - Megan Shellman	3
<a href="#">Immediate Past President's Message</a> - Sandy Thompson	4
<a href="#">Membership News</a> - Larisa Miller	5
<a href="#">Momentum Club</a>   Virtual Club   NFBPWC Benefits	6
<a href="#">Obituary</a> - Doris Allegra Ditmars	7
<a href="#">Advocacy Report</a> - Daneene Rusnak	9
<a href="#">Secretary Letter</a> - Barbara Bozeman	10
<a href="#">Young BPW</a> - Ashley Maria	11
<a href="#">Celebrating BPW International 90th Anniversary</a>	12
<a href="#">Environment Report</a> - Hyon Rah	13
<a href="#">Green News</a> - Laurie Dameron	14
<a href="#">United Nations Report</a> - Susan O'Malley	16
<a href="#">Military Affiliated Women Report</a> - Barbara Bozeman	17
<a href="#">Lifelong Leadership &amp; Learning</a> - Kathy Kelly	18
State Federation & Club News	19
NFBPWC <a href="#">Arizona</a>	19
NFBPWC <a href="#">California</a> Federation	19
NFBPWC <a href="#">Colorado</a> Federation	20
NFBPWC <a href="#">Florida</a> Affiliate	21
NFBPWC <a href="#">La Grange Chicago</a>	21
NFBPWC <a href="#">Michigan</a>	21
NFBPWC <a href="#">New York City</a>	22
NFBPWC <a href="#">North Carolina</a>	22
NFBPWC NC <a href="#">Chatham County</a>	23
<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a> Affiliate Chapter	25
<a href="#">PA Advocacy Report</a> - Lilly Gioia	26
NFBPWC <a href="#">El Paso Texas West</a>	30
NFBPWC <a href="#">Houston</a>	30
NFBPWC <a href="#">Paso Del Norte</a>	31
NFBPWC <a href="#">Virtual Club</a>	31
NFBPWC <a href="#">Advocacy Platform</a>	33
<a href="#">Flyer - Benefits of Connecting with NFBPWC</a>	34

**Submission Deadline for the October eNewsletter is Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm Mountain Time**

## About NFBPWC

**Develops the business, professional and leadership potential of women.**

### Our Mission

*The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's clubs (NFBPWC) develops the business, professional and leadership potential of women on all levels through education, advocacy, networking, mentoring, skill building and economic empowerment programs and projects.*

### Focus Issue

*Elimination of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Abuse Against Working Women*

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (NFBPWC) of the United States of America is an affiliate of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, which spans across five regions and over 110 countries of the world. In 2017 we celebrated 98 years of empowering women through our mission which is to develop the business, professional and leadership potential of women on all levels through education, advocacy, mentoring, networking, skill building and economic empowerment programs and projects.

### Contacting your NFBPWC Executive Committee (2020-2022):

Megan Shellman-Rickard, President  
Larisa Miller, VP Membership  
Daneene Monroe Rusnak, VP Advocacy  
Barbara Bozeman, Secretary  
Deborah Fischer, Treasurer  
Ashley Maria, Young BPW  
Sandy Thompson, Immediate Past President

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treasurer@nfbpwc.org  
youngbpw@nfbpwc.org  
immpastpresident@nfbpwc.org

### Standing Committees:

Advocacy, Daneene Monroe Rusnak, NFBPWC Virtual  
Bylaw and Resolutions, Katherine Winans, California  
Environment, Hyon Rah, New York City  
Finance, Gloria Flores, El Paso West

#### Health, POSITION OPEN

International Liaison, Bessie Hironimus, California  
Lifelong, Leadership & Learning, Kathy Kelly, Colorado  
Membership, Larisa Miller, Florida  
Mentoring, Dr. Trish Knight, NFBPWC Virtual  
Military Affiliated Women, Barbara Bozeman, North Carolina

#### Public Relations, POSITION OPEN

Small Business, Manjul Batra, California

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militarywomen@nfbpwc.org  
PRchair@nfbpwc.org  
smallbusiness@nfbpwc.org

### Special Committees/Taskforces:

Newsletter, Michele Guarino, NFBPWC Virtual  
Nominations, Michelle Husby, California  
**Rapid Response - POSITION OPEN**  
Digital Training, Marsha Riibner-Cady, North Carolina  
Website, Lea-Ann W. Berst, North Carolina

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## President's Message



By: Megan Shellman-Rickard  
President, NFBPWC (2020-2022)

As we begin this next term, let us reflect on our mission statement. The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs develops the professional, business, and leadership potential of women at all levels. The NFBPWC has a legacy to be honored and a foundation of heritage from which we can cultivate a bright future for members from all generations. Let us light a path for our future that promotes solidarity, diversity, inclusion, innovation, and experience.

Congratulations to the newly elected Executive Committee and the Board of Directors who are serving our organization. Heartfelt appreciation to the previous EC, Board, and especially the Immediate Past President, Sandra Thompson.

As we meet to strategize bringing our legacy forward, I am inspired by the dedication, passion, and sense of service that our leaders and members demonstrate for the NFBPWC. The commitment to creating an equitable and welcoming space for a diverse membership across generations only serves to enhance our relevancy in the business and professional world. We will thrive if we work towards cultivating leaders from all walks of life and at every phase of their careers.

The new board is continuing the effort to create a more vibrant space for virtual interactions that span across the nation and globe. As we progress, each member has an opportunity to provide input and to find their unique path in this organization. We are a brilliant community that is full of passion and tenacity. We each have a chance to develop our potential in a safe and welcoming space. I challenge our members to find a way to bring ideas, projects, and their own light forward as we begin a new term. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors welcome your participation - let us find a way to share your passion in collaboration with the NFBPWC. Email [ec@nfbpwc.org](mailto:ec@nfbpwc.org) for more information and let's work together to make this organization everything it can be!

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The NFBPWC offers a wish of congratulations to the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) on their 90th Birthday, celebrated on August 26, 2020! BPW International continues its inspiring work to achieve its mission: to empower women; develop business, professional, and leadership potential; provide education, advocacy, networking, mentoring, skill-building, and economic empowerment programs and projects.

The NFBPWC is proud to have had five women lead BPW International. Our own Dr. Lena Madelin Phillips had the dream to expand BPW as an international women's organization. She served as BPW International President from 1930 to 1947. Sally Butler served after her, from 1947 to 1950. The 3rd BPW International President from the USA was Helen Irwin, who served from 1962 to 1965. Then Maxine Hayes served from 1980-1983. The most recent BPW International President was Elizabeth Benham, also a past NFBPWC president, served from 2008-2011. Their dedication and service to BPW International and the National organization serves as an inspirational part of our ongoing heritage.

We send special congratulations to the current BPW International Executive Committee and Board of Directors. It has been inspiring to participate in 90-year celebration Zooms with members from all over the world! What an amazing group of women with such powerful connection!

Sending personal wishes of celebration, health, and progress around the globe.

Kind Regards,

Megan Shellman-Rickard  
NFBPWC President  
2020-2022

## Immediate Past President's Message



By: Sandy Thompson, Immediate Past President, NFBPWC

### Thank You

Thank you. I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to thank all of you for a wonderful two years serving as your President. I greatly appreciate all of the help and support that you gave me. My orchid is gorgeous, and I will enjoy it hopefully for a long time. Thanks again for your hard work to make our organization one that continues to help women in all stages of their life.



### Report on General Assembly

On August 15, 2020 we Zoookooooomed our way into our Sixth Biennial and General Assembly. We had 120 members and guest registered. This is the highest attendance that we have had. It was very exciting to see so many members attending to conduct the business of our Federation.

We were privileged to have International Officers attending our meeting, including President Dr. Amany Asfour, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Susan Jones, Executive Secretary Bessie Hironimus, Young BPW Neelima Bastnet, Regional Coordinator for Latin America Diana Barragan and our Regional Coordinator for North America and the Caribbean Dawne Williams. We also had two past International Presidents Yasmin Darwich and Elizabeth Benham. Past National Presidents in attendance were Bessie Hironimus, Dr. Trish Knight and Elizabeth Benham.

Our memorial service was conducted by Marjory Hopper from Hollywood BPW and we remembered 12 members.

Kathy Kelly presented an update on the Lifelong Leadership and Learning program that is almost complete. There are several modules that are available for use by our members.

Nevertheless, a film concerning the #MeToo movement was shown. It followed the story of 7 women who were sexually harassed in the workplace.

In the afternoon we conducted the business of the Federation. We held election of officers. Your new officers are:

- ❖ President Megan Shellman-Rickard,
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Larisa Miller,
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Daneen Monroe-Rusnak,
- ❖ Secretary Barbara Bozeman,
- ❖ Treasurer Deborah Fischer.
- ❖ Also elected was nominations chair, Michelle Husby.
- ❖ Also serving on the Executive Committee will be:
  - Young BPW Chair Ashley Maria, and
  - Immediate Past President Sandy Thompson.

There were four bylaw amendments. The updated bylaws are available on the website.

Beginning in 2022, our dues will be increased to \$25 for National dues. The International dues will remain at \$25 and the 75-cent conference fee will continue. So, the total will be \$50.75 for all three.

We also made some changes to the Standing Rules. These are also on the website.

The Advocacy Platform was also updated and is on the website.

Past National President and Past International President Elizabeth Benham conducted a beautiful flower installation of officers. This was followed by a lovely Candle Lighting Ceremony also conducted by Liz. It was a beautiful way to end our conference.

A huge thank you goes to Dr. Anne Hilty and Michelle Husby for facilitating our meeting. Everything went smoothly. Also, a big thank you to Hannah Hughes for serving as our Interpreter. It was a big job and she did it admirably. Marsha Riibner-Cady handled the registration and it was a monumental task to ensure that all those who were eligible were recognized so that they could vote. Thank you to these four ladies for making our day so successful.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Membership News



By: Larisa Miller  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Membership, NFBPWC (2020-2022)

Hello BPW sisters (and future BPW sisters):

As we step into a new era of BPW, driven by the transitions in our global society, we will be adjusting our course to allow BPW to attract new members, retain and engage existing members, form new chapters across the country, and become more united and engaged with our BPW International sisters.

As 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Membership, I will be using our BPW social media and LinkedIn to engage our members. Since we are business and professional women, LinkedIn, which is the most powerful business tool available to us for connectivity, networking and industry insight, will be integral to connecting with and expanding our membership base, so I invite you all to follow our NFBPWC page, and actively connect with your BPW sisters on this powerful platform.

Further, I would like to highlight new members, and have a member spotlight for existing members, so that we can introduce and get to know our fellow sisters. We can't learn from one another, network with each other, and form bonds of friendship if we don't get to know each other. Therefore, I appeal to the club presidents to inform me when new members join, and I would ask each member to take the time to email me at [VPmembership@nfbpwc.org](mailto:VPmembership@nfbpwc.org) with the following information:

- **Name**
- **Club Affiliation**
- **Career info (Company name, positions held, board memberships, affiliations, etc.)**
- **Birthdate (without year)**
- **Birthplace**
- **Hobbies**
- **Three interesting facts about you that others may not know.**
- **Personal**
- **Personal Motto, Favorite Quote or Words of Wisdom**

*(Please also send me a photo of yourself, either a professional headshot, or favorite snapshot)*

Our goal is to make your BPW membership beneficial, providing you with resources, networks, support, mentorship and access to opportunity, which we can only do if we know one another while growing our membership base. For this to happen, we need everyone to participate. By sharing some information, and being featured in our showcase of members, we can all get to know one another, interact and connect with sisters from around the world, and maximize the BPW experience for all of our sisters globally.

Onwards and upwards! Together, we are unstoppable.

## Momentum Club | Virtual Club | NFBPWC Benefits

### Momentum Club:

The National Federation Business and Professional Women's Momentum Club (NFBPW Momentum Club) is a members-only group that operates as a platform from which new BPW clubs/chapters, affiliates, and federations will launch. Current members of NFBPWC who wish to help open a **new club** or **want to connect and support membership growth** are welcome to attend. Individuals who would like to start a club in their area are welcome to attend and are invited to join the NFBPWC Momentum Club.

Learn more about the Momentum Club and help us grow and thrive by attending the next meeting. Topics for the Momentum Club meetings are designed to help the members start their own club and continue the growth of this vibrant organization. Find and register for the next meeting at: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/events>.

### NFBPWC Virtual:

We welcome all members and individuals to participate in this club and to learn more about growing our organization. If you do not have access to a local affiliation or federation, please consider starting a new club in your area or joining our NFBPWC Virtual. The Virtual club meets monthly and provides a variety of incredible topics with dynamic speakers. (Membership dues to NFBPWC Virtual start at \$60 annually - January to December - for members not associated with another NFBPWC organization.) Click here for more information: [NFBPWC Virtual](#). Check out this link for more news (below) about the [NFBPWC Virtual Club](#)

### Which NFBPWC Benefit is most valuable to you?

As our organization continues to grow, we are often asked what value there is to be a part of NFBPWC as a member. For less than \$5 per month of your annual membership fee that goes to NFBPWC, we provide you with many tangible and intangible benefits. From marketing opportunities and formal programs to friendships with women from all over the world, the advantages of being a member are immeasurable when you take advantage of what is offered.

Please email Larisa Miller, 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Membership, with any questions about the opportunities available to all members and share with us which membership opportunity holds the most value to you.

NFBPWC members can support their business and professions by utilizing the following benefits:

- **Regular Zoom meetings to support members and ability to use our Zoom platform.**
- Grow through NFBPWC's formal **Leadership and Learning Program**.
- Share your successes on the **NFBPWC Showcase**: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Our-Showcase>.

- **The Business Network**, <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Business-Network>, to market business and professional services in a public area of the website. Discover an international platform of intercultural understanding, languages and travel while establishing connections with women around the world.
- Partake in **business opportunities** for partnering and procurement, nationally and globally through BPW.
- **Member Spotlight** in the newsletter, e-alerts, website, and social media platforms (Email [vpmembership@nfbpwc.org](mailto:vpmembership@nfbpwc.org) to apply for this opportunity.)
- Formal **Mentoring Program** for mentees and mentors.

Are you passionate about women's issues? You can participate and explore benefits only available to members:

- Private **discussion forums** on issues relating to women hosted on the website.
- **Members' only information** related to NFBPWC and women's issues.
- **Private Membership Directory** supporting members and their organizations.
- Participate in the **United Nations System** worldwide through CSW and other programs annually.
- **Advocate for women's issues** on a national and international level and **cultivate worldwide friendships** in one of the original women's networking organizations!

## Obituary

### Doris Allegra Ditmars

September 28, 1919 – August 24, 2020

A member of Business & Professional Women - 80 years!

The California Federation mourns the loss of Doris Ditmars, who passed away on August 24, just one month before her 101st birthday and in the 80th year of her membership in BPW.

Doris joined BPW in Casper, Wyoming in 1940 after attending meetings with her aunt, Bess Opal Allen. She said that there she discovered women who believed, as she did, that women were getting "the short end of the stick" in their careers. Women in BPW were advocating changes that suited her ideas of a fair and equal work. Doris said that she endorsed those changes wholeheartedly and she strived to advance them ever since.

During her growing up years, she was subjected to discrimination that she did not understand. "Why couldn't a take auto mechanics, woodworking and engineering?" Doris asked. So, she says, she managed to "stomp her feet" and get into mechanical drafting and printing classes – which were supposed to be for boys!

For the same reason that she joined BPW, Doris continued her membership. She wanted to improve the chances for women in the working world.

During her 80 years as a BPW member, Doris belonged to clubs in Casper, Wyoming and Woodland, California. At the time of her death, she was a member of Downtown Sacramento BPW. She served as a District President, State Chair of Political Education and Promotion, Insurance Chair and Program Co-Chair.

During World War II, Doris served as a WAVE, working in communications. She was one of the first women sent to Japan by the Navy. In later years, she was the owner of a print shop.

The message below was sent to the California Federation by her daughter, Mel.



*"I regret to inform you and the BPW membership that Doris passed away in her sleep yesterday morning. Glad for her that she's at peace now, as we all know how cantankerous she was in life! She was ready to go and had a life well lived, with battles well fought on behalf of working women's rights. She'd want us all to have a shot of whiskey in her honor. She will be cremated, and her ashes scattered, per her wishes."*

Some interesting articles found in searching the internet on Ms. Doris Ditmars. It's amazing what you can find. It's also very interesting to read about BPW's history.

PAGE A-6 Auburn Journal AUBURN, CALIF. THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1971

**Foresthill Divide News**  
 By JOY SEATERS ROUTE 1 Ph. 367-2443

Last week at the Foresthill Ranch home of Elva Lewis and Anna Steffen, new BPWC officers were installed. Preceding the installation, members, their husbands and guests enjoyed a turkey dinner.

Miss Doris Ditmars of Sacramento, president-elect of Capital District, installed Frances Hubert as president, Alva Willey, first vice president; Nancy Redfield, second vice president; Emma Mae Hughes, recording secretary; Elva Lewis, coresponding secretary; and Nellie Grant, treasurer. These new officers will serve the 1971-72 meetings.

# The Orangevale News

Since 1956 25\* Telephone 351-0112 Wednesday, March 25, 1981

## Professional women gather; membership forum is highlight

The Folsom-Orangevale Business and Professional Women's Club, BPW, plans a membership forum, Thursday, March 26, 7 to 9 p.m. at Patsy's Soda Parlour, 711 Sutter St. in Folsom.

The forum is geared towards introducing new and prospective members to the organization, explaining the club's purpose and presenting highlights of the club's history.

The evening will begin with a social time followed by a welcome and introductions by Medora Allen. Louise Hess, president of Capital District, will offer history and background information; Tere Bodine, Capital District Legislation chairperson, will speak on legislation.

Donna Rae Hays, district president-elect, will discuss the Young Careerist program while Karen List, membership chairperson of the Capital District, will focus on discussion of the membership division. Doris Ditmars, district past president, will conclude the program.

Prospective members are invited to attend to seek more information on joining. For more information, call Medora Allen, 363-8184.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Advocacy Report



By: Daneene Monroe Rusnak  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of Advocacy,  
NFBPWC 2020-2022

Greetings Sisters!

Let me start by saying that I am honored and completely humbled to be serving as your 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Advocacy!

I am committed to helping our organization in our efforts to continue “Meeting the Moment of the Movement” and do so through our commitment to Advocate, Amplify and Act.

As a group, we have recently made robust and relevant updates to our Advocacy Platform. The insight and passion I have seen our membership express is truly inspiring.

As I expressed during the General Assembly, it is my hope to surround myself with members who can function as Advocacy Advisors. I am thrilled at the number of folks who have already expressed an interest and willingness to help. If you have an issue/area in which you have particular expertise (or passion!), or a question or suggestion about our plans moving forward, please don't hesitate to email me at [VPAdvocacy@nfbpwc.org](mailto:VPAdvocacy@nfbpwc.org).

I'll be reaching out to those who have already reached and will be looking to connect with others over the next several days. Please remember...you don't have to be an “expert,” just someone who has a strong interest and a willingness to learn and share that knowledge with others. I think it's safe to say we have a fair amount of folks who fit that description in this group!



In the meantime, know that we are continuing to follow the progress of the litigation attempting to have the ERA “deadline” removed (Thank you Nancy Werner!) and we will update you as soon as we receive any pertinent updates.

**\*\*\*\*\*And don't forget to register to vote (and check your registration status frequently!)....it is one of the most powerful ways to advocate and let your voice be heard!\*\*\*\*\***

With much gratitude!



## From the Desk of the Secretary



By: Barbara Bozeman  
Secretary, NFBPWC 2020-2022

What a whirlwind the past week has been! First our wonderfully successful Virtual Biennial General Assembly and then the daily conferences during BPW The Celebration. Just one BPW success story after another!

I look forward to the challenges and adventures that come with being part of the Executive Committee for NFBPWC and thank you to those who supported my candidacy.

Right now, everyone is focused on getting the new year off to a good start.

Top on my list is getting all your information on the website current – and helping **you** update your information on the website.

### What are we looking for?



#### Current Club/Organization Information:

New officers have been sworn in, committee members have changed – is that reflected in the profiles and information pages on the website? Please make sure those updated lists are forwarded to me, at [secretary@nfbpwc.org](mailto:secretary@nfbpwc.org)

#### Current Member Information:

Have you had a career change, are you looking to improve your web presence and maybe promote your business as well? Or are you looking for someone as a mentor, advisor or kindred career connection? I can help you with your profile updates if you need. Send me an email, and we can work together to make your web presence via NFBPWC all that it can be.

Finally, I would like to give a hearty **Thank You** to my predecessor, Marsha Riibner-Cady. On top of the records-keeping duties, Marsha has worked tirelessly behind the curtain to ensure your connectivity via the website, is everything it should be and more. As this newsletter goes to print, she has already completed one informative guide to navigating our national website through NFBPWC-NYC as their August 25 “She Talk” presentation.

Thank You! Thank You, Marsha Riibner-Cady!!



## NFBPWC Young BPW

By: Ashley Maria  
Young BPW Chair, NFBPWC

Young BPW is growing! And, you can help us by sending us your members! Members of BPW ages 18 - 35 are called "Young BPW" and have unique access to programs and events both in the United States and Internationally. So, please send us the information of your Young BPW members so they can be included in this communication. Email us here: [youngbpw@nfbpwc.org](mailto:youngbpw@nfbpwc.org).

Ashley Maria, your Young BPW Representative, is honored to accept a 2nd term in this role, now on the Executive Board, and is excited to take this initiative to the next level. Some of our goals this year include: building our Young BPW membership and activities, introducing these members to the larger membership both locally and internationally, as well as building on the Mentorship Program offered by NFBPWC. This program will launch soon, so please email [mentoring@nfbpwc.org](mailto:mentoring@nfbpwc.org) with your interest in being a mentor or mentee! We will soon have the applications live here: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Mentoring-Committee>.



### Join Young BPW!

Let's work together to build up Young BPW in the USA! Members of Young BPW (18 - 35 years old) have the opportunity today to create a new community of support.



If you qualify for Young BPW, please fill out our survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSYGSCCL>) and tell us what you'd like to get out of this new community of support. Thank you for jumping in to support Young BPW!

Keep in the loop of Young BPW activities and join in on them by either following us on:



@YoungBPWUSA



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/YoungBPWUSA>

## Celebrating BPW International's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (August 26)



Article submission gathered by Michele Guarino; with permission to use screenshots and comments from Barbara Bozeman from her Facebook account. Thanks 😊

In celebration of BPW International's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, NFBPWC held a 5-day celebration of online from August 21<sup>st</sup> through August 25<sup>th</sup>. Below is the lineup for each day and the YouTube recording of each. A BIG thank you to Dr. Anne Hilty for recording and posting to YouTube videos.

- 21 August: "BPW: A Celebration!" (hosted by BPW USA & Canada)
  - Day 1: YouTube Video link: <https://youtu.be/5aosmoJS3m8>
- 22 August: "Intergenerational Dialogue" (hosted by BPW Uganda & Malta)
  - Day 2: YouTube Video link: [https://youtu.be/byFfIEtS\\_3M](https://youtu.be/byFfIEtS_3M)
- 23 August: "Leadership in BPW" (hosted by BPW Estonia & Spain)
  - Day 3: YouTube Video link: <https://youtu.be/m208kV4g0DE>
- 24 August: "Sisterhood Sharing" (hosted by BPW Brazil & Mexico)
  - Day 4: YouTube Video link: <https://youtu.be/C9-DNiMkEZQ>
- 25 August: "The Future of BPW" (hosted by BPW Singapore & Hong Kong)
  - Day 5: YouTube Video link: <https://youtu.be/YQPb0YfoFB0>



Comments (with permission) from Barbara Bozeman from her Facebook posts. I love Barbara's screen shots with the coffee mugs.

*"Enjoying my first cup of coffee today with BPW sisters from around the world. The PARTIAL list includes St. Kitts, France, Austria, Estonia, Britain, Ireland, Canada, Austria, Nepal, Istanbul, Finland, Malta, and Uganda, BPW organizations from around the world are moderating a one-hour conversation each day for the next 5 days. The moderators for today are NFBPWC USA and BPW Canada. Thank you so much for organizing today's event!"*

*"Morning 3 of BPW THE CELEBRATION. Today's topic was "Leadership in BPW". Though BPW was part of the title- the conversation went far beyond one organization. And as every day before today, it was a GLOBAL conversation. My breakout group included women from Moscow, Germany, Nepal, UK, USA, Estonia, and Brazil. That was just one room. Our larger group also had women from Jamaica, St Kitts, Finland, Latvia, Spain, Ecuador and New Zealand and more. Thank you to our moderator/hosts today - BPW Estonia and BPW Spain."*

*"Day 4 of BPW THE CELEBRATION. Today's topic was sharing best practices. The needs, resolutions and accomplishments were as diverse as the countries represented. With more than 80 women on the program today, we shared experiences from Brazil, Mexico, Latvia, France, Canada, England, Estonia, Spain, Argentina, Malta, Finland, Nepal, Austria, and Singapore. This is a partial list of our participants. AND A BIG SHOUT GOES OUT to our members in the Caribbean, who despite getting a good thrashing by the storms, still were able to connect and share. Thank you Thank you to BPW Brazil and BPW Mexico for being our moderators today"*

## Environment and Sustainable Development Committee

By: Hyon Rah, BPW New York Member  
Chair, NFBPWC Environment and Sustainable Development Committee



### An Introduction and an Invitation to the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee

I am writing to encourage you to consider participation in the NFBPWC's Environment and Sustainable Development Committee and to introduce

myself as the new chair of the committee. Sustainable development has been a central part of my career, and I am excited to help promote environmental sustainability at NFBPWC, especially since it is one of the advocacy platforms for 2018-2020.

As I write this, we are in the middle of a pandemic which has presented numerous challenges to us all. The pandemic also brought to the fore the inextricable connection between environmental, economic, and social sustainability through a revealing picture of inequity in the U.S. Owing to the advice of health experts to wash our hands often to prevent the spread of the virus, there is growing attention to the inequity in access to clean water.

Today, over 2 million people in the U.S. do not have access to safe drinking water and sanitation<sup>1</sup>, and this number includes 1.4 million people that live in homes without indoor plumbing (running water, a sink, a shower or a bath, and a flushable toilet). That is not to say that the other 328 million U.S. residents that do have access to treated water and indoor plumbing can rest easy. The American Society of Civil Engineers gave the safety and quality of the U.S. drinking water system a "D" grade in its 2017 assessment.

This stark reality is often attributed to a combination of factors. Contamination at the sources of the water supplies is a significant one, as shown in communities

near coal mines or fracking sites in the Appalachian region due in part to relaxed wastewater management regulations. Cities such as Flint, Michigan are still paying for the lack of government investment in infrastructure with their health and lives. Forty percent of the nearly 180,000-person strong Navajo Nation does not have running water, which has been detrimental to their pandemic resilience. In many communities such as Baltimore, Maryland, water prices have increased dramatically, and many people simply cannot afford to pay their water bills and maintain their water access.

On top of all that, weather and climate-related disasters have placed even more strain on our water resources and systems and the critical infrastructure that supports them. The U.S. had already had 10 billion-dollar weather disasters by the first half of 2020, well before peak hurricane season<sup>2</sup>.

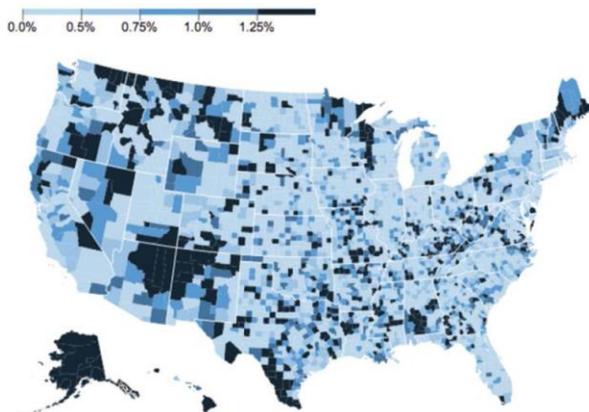
These things matter because they affect us all in the end, one way or another. But first, we need to be clear on the facts and how they connect.

To put the issues of water quality and access into your own context, I encourage you to check out the two resources below:

1. A map of the U.S. showing the percentage of housing units lacking plumbing by county - Where does your county stand?
2. A link to check the quality of drinking water in your (or someone else's) area by zip code: <https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/>

If you have any questions or are interested in joining the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee, you can reach me by email at: [hyon@rah.solutions](mailto:hyon@rah.solutions).

## Percentage of Housing Units Lacking Plumbing by County



Source: Ingraham, C. (2014, April 23). 1.6 Million Americans Don't Have Indoor Plumbing. Here's Where They Live. The Washington Post.

Hyon Rah, the Principal of RAH Solutions, is a sustainability and resilience strategist based in Washington, DC. For more information about her work, visit <https://rah.solutions/about/>

1

[http://uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/Closing%20the%20Water%20Access%20Gap%20in%20the%20United%20States\\_DIGITAL.pdf](http://uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/Closing%20the%20Water%20Access%20Gap%20in%20the%20United%20States_DIGITAL.pdf)

2

<https://www.noaa.gov/news/june-2020-was-relatively-hot-and-dry-overall-for-us>

## Green News – The Most Common Mistake in Recycling

By: Laurie Dameron, BPW Boulder Member  
Chair BPW Colorado Environment and Sustainable Development Committee

Last month, I shared that one of the more common mistakes folks make when recycling is not breaking down cardboard boxes before placing them in the recycle bin. When boxes are not broken down, they use up valuable space.

However, the most common—and problematic—mistake is collecting a variety of recyclables (such as paper, glass, cans, and plastics) into a plastic bag and



then throwing the entire plastic bag into the recycle bin!

I've visited the recycle center in Boulder, Colorado, several times; in the guided tours, (which are very educational and free), they point out how plastic bags get caught in the machinery, causing workers to have to shut down the equipment in order to remove the bags. This costs a lot of time and money, as well as being unsafe for workers who have to reach in to untangle the plastic bags from dangerous machinery.

So even if you initially collect your recyclables in a plastic bag, please empty that bag into your recyclable bin—and then, ideally, re-use that bag.

On another note, here is some great information for residents in the Denver Metro and Aurora area that my Business and Professional Women Denver colleague gave me. This was written in an email from Wompost (Aurora's composting service, <https://www.wompostcoop.com>):

"Have you heard that we opened a store on an upcycled bus? Our store is open Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm. It is at 9435 Montview Blvd, Aurora, CO 80010, right at the corner of Montview and Clinton."

Learn about what you can recycle and “upcycle” at this bus here: <https://www.seeds-of-potential.com>.



Here’s where we left off with Pope Francis:

#### **IV. DECLINE IN THE QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE BREAKDOWN OF SOCIETY**

*49. It needs to be said that, generally speaking, there is little in the way of clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded. Yet they are the majority of the planet’s population, billions of people. These days, they are mentioned in international political and economic discussions, but one often has the impression that their problems are brought up as an afterthought, a question which gets added almost out of duty or in a tangential way, if not treated merely as collateral damage. Indeed, when all is*

*said and done, they frequently remain at the bottom of the pile. This is due partly to the fact that many professionals, opinion makers, communications media and centres of power, being located in affluent urban areas, are far removed from the poor, with little direct contact with their problems. They live and reason from the comfortable position of a high level of development and a quality of life well beyond the reach of the majority of the world’s population. This lack of physical contact and encounter, encouraged at times by the disintegration of our cities, can lead to a numbing of conscience and to tendentious analyses which neglect parts of reality. At times this attitude exists side by side with a “green” rhetoric. Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*

Continue reading [HERE](#)

Read the entire encyclical: [POPE FRANCIS https://laudatosi.com/watch](https://laudatosi.com/watch)

I was so honored to perform my song, "What Can I Do?" for the Hillary Delegates at the Denver DNC in 2008. I think it would inspire folks to get out and vote and to steer this country, as Joe says, back towards the light!

<https://lauriedameron.bandcamp.com/track/what-can-i-do-to-help-this-planet-to-help-out-you>

### **YOU ARE A PART OF THE SOLUTION!!!**

To sign up for Laurie’s monthly music and “Green News,” write to [WindchimeL@aoL.com](mailto:WindchimeL@aoL.com) Or visit [www.LaurieDameron.com](http://www.LaurieDameron.com)  
Please visit and LIKE <https://www.facebook.com/WhatCanIDoSpaceshipEarth>  
Join a chapter of Business and Professional Women <https://www.nfbpwc.org>

## United Nations Report

By: Susan O'Malley, IFBPWC UN Representative

### COVID-19 and UN Women's "Building Back Better"

COVID-19 has exposed us to the reality that social protection issues such as universal healthcare including immigrants, affordable clean water and housing are lacking in many countries. How can a pandemic be brought under control if people don't have access to clean water to wash their hands or adequate housing to practice social distancing or healthcare to treat people with COVID-19. (In NYC there is free testing, but no affordable health care to treat people who have tested positive for COVID-19 if they have; they do not have health care.) To intensify the crisis many people in the US lost their health insurance when they lost their jobs due to the pandemic. In addition, internationally there has been a marked increase in violence against women and girls while families are sheltering in place.

At a UN meeting of the ECE (Europe, North America, Eastern Europe) Caucus in May, Lopa Banerjee, Chief of the Civil Society Section UN Women said, "If we had more equality, we would not be in such a mess." The response must be stimulus, Lopa said, not austerity (cutting social protection programs to fund luxury development or to benefit the wealthy). We need solidarity and "to use this moment to build back better."

During the July meetings at the High Level Political Forum "women are the key to change the world" has been the mantra. At an international session of women

mayors in July, Khara Jabol Carolus from Hawaii spoke of their "feminist COVID response team" and the need to decouple healthcare from work. (Indeed, countries with women leaders such as Germany, Iceland, Taiwan and Iceland have 6 times fewer COVID deaths.) Clara Mavago from Liberia explained that their experience of combating ebola taught them that building trust at the local level is essential in combating pandemics. On July 15 at a meeting of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development "In Search of a Decolonial Feminist Global New Deal" participants spoke of putting people at the center of the solution and making the financial system work for us and that the main goal cannot be profit.

To educate people about social protection I have been working with Eva Richter and a group of women to develop a social protection curriculum that includes migration, universal health care, housing and feminist cities, eradicating poverty,

widows and education for the Feminist & Women's Movement Action Plan Universities & Teach-Ins Curriculum Frameworks for Beijing + 25 which should be available soon.



## Military Affiliated Women Committee Report

By: Barbara Bozeman  
Military Affiliated Women Chair



All Military - Affiliated Women are invited to attend a roundtable conference

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

At 7pm EST

Via Zoom

Please contact Barbara Bozeman at:

[barbara.bozeman@ymail.com](mailto:barbara.bozeman@ymail.com)

to be added to the attendee list

**You are considered a Military-Affiliated Woman if:**

- You are a veteran or currently serve in the Armed Forces  
or

- You are a spouse of a servicemember

\*includes all branches of the US Armed Forces as well as Guard, Reserve and US Coast Guard - and foreign services as well

The objective of this meeting is to use our insights and experiences to develop a viable and realistic program that meets the unique needs of the military-affiliated woman. Please join us for this discussion and get the NFBPWC - Military Affiliated Women program off to the very best start.

Thank you so much!

## Lifelong Leadership & Learning (L3) Committee Report

By: Kathy Kelly  
 Committee Chair, Leadership & Learning Committee, NFBPWC

The Lifelong Leadership & Learning (L3) Committee is pleased to announce we are officially open for business! Our next Facilitator training is coming up. Contact Kathy Kelly for more information.

**Your NFBPWC Certified Facilitators**



Dr. Trish Knight (Vagabond)

Sandy Thompson So Cal

Linda Wilson So Cal

Kathy Kelly, Colorado

Daneene Monroe Rusnak Ohio

Beth Lilja-Gibson Minnesota

Marsha Riibner-Cady North Carolina

Barbara Bozeman North Carolina

Nancy Werner Pennsylvania

Please contact your closest Facilitator if you would like more information on any of these module presentations:

History and Benefits of BPW (extended: BPW:100 years in one hour)

- DISC Assessment
- Skills for the Workplace
- Creating Presentations
- Public Speaking
- Networking
- Business Etiquette
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Negotiations
- Leadership Skills
- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Interviewing Skills
- Setting Goals

Expertise wanted!



We are looking for BPW members to help develop a series of modules dedicated to the unique challenges of running a small business – from start-up regulations to personal financial planning. The L3 Committee is also looking for a Vector Designer to bring our “Every BPW Member,” Savannah, to life. If you would like to join the L3 committee for just a few sessions on a specific topic, contact Kathy Kelly.

# State Federation & Clubs News

## NFBPWC Arizona

### Executive Committee 2020:

Therasas Dolan            President

For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Arizona>

## NFBPWC California Federation

### Executive Committee 2019-2020:

Rosemary Enzer	President
Lynn Brandstater	President-Elect
Sally McMahan	Vice President
Trudy Waldroop	Parliamentarian
Elaine Wakeham	Treasurer
Maryann Wesson	Secretary
Immediate Past President	Katherine Winans

For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/California> or <https://bpwcal.org/>



By: Rosemary Enzer, President, NFBPWC California

The Board of Directors and officers of CFBPW are continuing to plan our combined Annual Conference/Fall Board Meeting scheduled for October 9-10. The Annual Conference which was originally scheduled to be held in May, was postponed because of Covid-19. After surveying our members, it was the consensus that the safest option for the Federation is to hold virtual meetings via Zoom.

President Elect Lynn Brandstater will assume the office of president at the Conference and we will conduct the necessary business of the organization, including the adoption of the 2020-21 budget, Public Policy Statement, Focus Issue. Additionally, we will consider bylaws changes and hear updated reports from the chairs.

CFBPW will honor seven 50+year members at the meeting. However, some of the events planned to celebrate our 100th birthday, will be postponed until the Winter Board Meeting.

The Bay Capital District Conference and East Los Angeles Montebello BPW's September meetings will both feature presentations on the twelve ballot measures that Californians will vote on November 3. Presenters will be CFBPW president Rosemary Enzer at Bay Capital District and Sally McMahan, vice president of CFBPW at Los Angeles Montebello BPW. Both are members of the League of Women Voters.



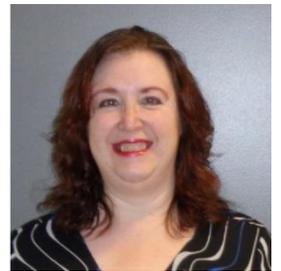
These initiatives include ending the ban on affirmative action, an issue that CFBPW has strongly supported. Linda Wilson has issued a CBPW press release explaining our position on affirmative and urging a yes vote on the ballot measure. California voters banned affirmative action in a 1996 proposition and is one of only nine states to do so.

[Pictured Left: Sally McMahon, California Federation BPW Vice President]

## NFBPWC Colorado Federation

### Executive Committee 2020-2021:

Kathryn Wallace	President
Evie Hudak	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President
Chanel Heermann	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Sara Bastani	Recording Secretary
Cynthia Wieme	Treasurer



For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.BPWColorado.org>



PICTURED ABOVE: KATHRYN WALLACE

BPW Colorado is selling masks with the BPW logo (see pictures). To order one, email our president Kathryn Wallace at [kathryncwallace@gmail.com](mailto:kathryncwallace@gmail.com). The cost will be approximately \$25, but it might be higher for shipping out of state or lower if multiple masks are ordered. Kathryn will let you know the exact cost and ask you to mail her a check.



PICTURED ABOVE: LAURIE DAMERON

## NFBPWC South Florida

### Executive Committee 2019-2021:

Susan Gingerich	President
Patty Harris	Vice President, Membership
Colleen Kelly	Vice President, Advocacy
Liz Benham	Treasurer
Lynne Hale	Secretary

For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Florida>

## NFBPWC La Grange-Chicago

### Executive Committee 2019-2020:

Kathleen Ray	President
Barbara Yong	Vice President
Barbara Miller	Secretary
Mary Lou Lowery	Treasurer

For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/LaGrange-Chicago>

## NFBPWC Michigan

### Executive Committee 2019-2020:

Shirley Zeller	President
Susan Oser	Vice President, Membership
Amy Courter	Vice President, Advocacy
Denise Garn	Secretary
Susan Murphy	Treasurer

## NFBPWC New York City

### Executive Committee:

Francesca Burack	President
Stephanie Samedi	VP Programs and Membership
Nermin Ahmad	Secretary
Sherry Roberts	Treasurer
Tiara Bonet	Young Professional
Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski	Chair PR/Communications
Alexandra Price	Webmistress
Michelle Kawka	Twinning

For more information about this club, go to: [www.NFBPWC-NYC.org](http://www.NFBPWC-NYC.org)

## NFBPWC North Carolina

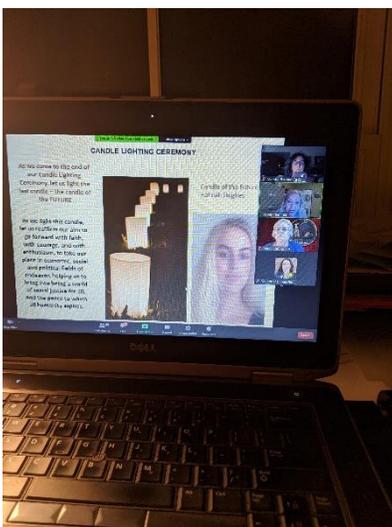
### Executive Committee 2018-2020:

Marsha Riibner-Cady	President
Barbara Bozeman	NBPWC-NC Momentum Club Liaison
Lea-Ann Berst	NFBPWC-NC Webpage Master and Facebook
Varnell Kinnin	SDG-NC Chair
Jo Naylor	Bylaws Chair



For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/NorthCarolina>

By: Marsha Riibner-Cady, President, NFBPWC North Carolina



A special thank you to Alice, Barbara, Jean, Jennifer, Lea-Ann, and Marsha for attending the NFBPWC Biennial Conference on August 15, 2020. Although we couldn't be together, we were able to elect a new executive committee, make bylaws changes, ratify an advocacy platform, and watch a movie. It was a very busy and productive day.

Congratulations to NFBPWC-NC member Barbara Bozeman, our new NFBPWC Secretary for 2020-2022! See induction picture of Barbara!

We would like to welcome our newest member, Hannah Hughes to NFBPWC-NC. Hannah joined us last week and participated in the Conference by being the Spanish interpreter. (Yes, that's correct, we had a virtual conference and an interpreter available for those who needed one!) She is a student at NC State. Hannah will be taking part in the young BPW club as well as the NFBPWC-Virtual Club. The photo is of Hannah lighting the Young BPW candle during the ceremony at our conference.

We want to thank the international committee who organized "A BPW Celebration" August 21-25. 8am is early to be up and participate in the discussions but not as early as California's 5am! It's been a great experience hearing about all the BPW successes worldwide. Thank you to Barbara, Jean, and Marsha, and Mary Lou for attending.

From Lea-Ann Berst...

"Hello friends of Pioneers in Skirts! Ashley and I are excited to share with you that we're launching the first of many virtual field trip programs on Wednesday August 26!

Called "**Find Your Inner Pioneer**," this field trip movie watching program is an interactive learning program designed for students. This Women's Equality Day event - and others that will follow, are in collaboration with BIG&Digital Cinema Learning Challenge programs.

Read our press release here: <https://www.pioneersinskirts.com/2020/08/22/documentary-pioneers-in-skirts-allies-with-museums-for-womens-equality-day/>

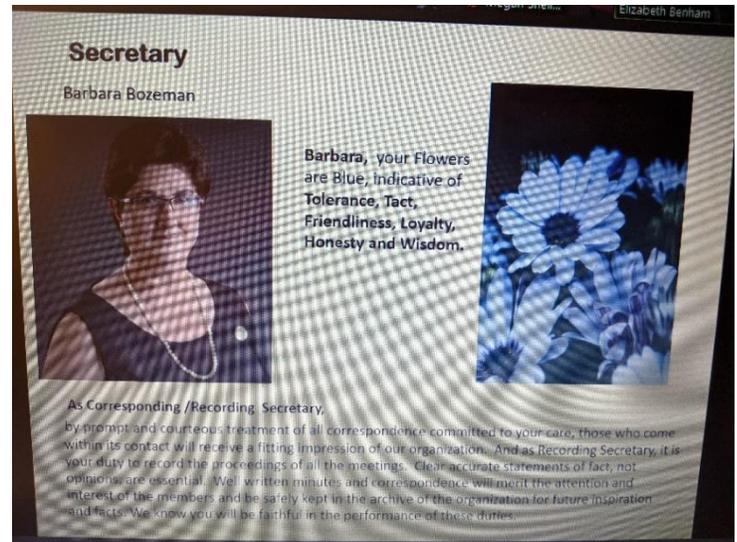
If you should have affiliations with any museum (with our without a movie screen attached) please forward this information to them! And, if you should know of any parents looking for ways to speak with their kids about stereotyping and the realities of others - please send them our way too! They will want to know about this opportunity on the 26<sup>th</sup> and beyond.

And - write about this, please! We need all the good press we can get in order to make this the success it needs to be.

We're excited to be able to help parents looking for quality learning for their kids, and museums needing innovative ways to stay relevant and sustainable during the pandemic - all while maintaining **our core mission of reaching young minds with our message!**"

Our next meeting will be on September 17, 2020 at 8pm Eastern. Contact Marsha at [romarsci@gmail.com](mailto:romarsci@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending.

Please stay safe, well, and home.



## NFBPWC North Carolina – Chatham County Chapter

### Executive Committee 2020:

Jean MacDonald	President
Faith Nager	Treasurer

Lori Barker owns Spa Rituals in Pittsboro, NC an amazing relaxing spa offering facials, pedicures, manicures and so much more. You will feel very special, relaxed and renewed. She services one client at a time so you feel safe in this difficult time.



One of her specialties is facials. Facials keep your skin young and looking ageless. The treatment repairs the layers of your skin to keep it glowing.

This year she has added a new Thermo Clear using Radiofrequency to remove skin tags, milia, and so much more. Lorie has also added a cold to hot sauna this year. Great for pain relief, weight loss, and detoxing skin. The charge is \$10 for 15 mins, 20 mins \$15 and is the deal for the month of August.

She also sells some wonderful skin care and beauty products. She provides other services, such as manicures and pedicures. Lorie also has a fun boutique featuring many things made by local crafters.

"I love what I do. It's my passion. Let's put our best Face forward" says, Lorie Barker.

Come check out Spa Rituals and Boutique 23 Hwy 87 Pittsboro NC 27312. Book online [www.loriebarker.com](http://www.loriebarker.com), or text or call: 919-356-5875

### An Exciting Announcement

Chatham County BPW will be doing a FUNdraiser for our scholarship fund and it promises to be a great evening.

Join us September 23rd at 7:00 to 8:00 pm

SELL YOUR SIZZLE



### A White Elephant Auction with a Difference.

Find an item that you want to sell, then figure out a way to present it in a fun way with either a quick history of the item to show how special or 'valuable' it is or a clever presentation that makes everyone want to buy it. GET CREATIVE! (you will have 2 minutes to present)

The bidding will start and go up and up as the owner of the white elephant encourages higher bids! When the bidding ends the item is sold to the highest bidder and we move to our next 'seller' who will present their item.

Whoever ends up getting the most \$\$\$ for their item will win fame and recognition as the BPW Woman with Sizzle!

But wait...there's more. Whoever bids the highest amount in our event will win a special prize (TBD) for being a good sport and a generous donor.

All money from the auction goes to the BPW Scholarship Fund.

Looking for 10 items

To contribute, please contact: Jean MacDonald, [Jeanconnects@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanconnects@gmail.com) / 413-222-7250

or Jennifer Halloran [jhalloran@everybodyneedsanurse.com](mailto:jhalloran@everybodyneedsanurse.com) / 919-475-5354

So...how will you sell your sizzle?



Connolly Walker State Farm hosted a drive-thru food drive for CORA Food Pantry on Friday, July 10th. Connolly's team greeted folks in a safe & socially distanced manner. Connolly is proud to share that 12 full-sized grocery bags were donated to the food pantry.

Connolly Walker State Farm  
 11470 US 15 501 N, Suite 105  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
 Office: 919-265-0702  
 Email: [connolly@connollywalkerinsurance.com](mailto:connolly@connollywalkerinsurance.com)

## Pennsylvania Affiliate Chapter

### Executive Committee:

Nancy Werner	President
Cathy Collins	Vice-President
Marion Waelchli	Recording Secretary
Nancy Thomas	Treasurer
Laura Whetstone	Parliamentarian
Cathy Collins	Membership
Lilly Gioia	Advocacy/Public Policy



For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Pennsylvania>

By: Nancy Werner  
 President, NFBPWC Pennsylvania

We did it. Coming live to you via Zoom, the PA Affiliate Chapter of the NFBPWC. On July 30, we did another attempt to try it on our own. We are getting the hang of it. We went solo.

We did our reorganization meeting at this time. We have elected the following: Nancy Werner, President; Cathy Collins, Vice President; Nancy Thomas, Recording Secretary; and Denice Robinson, Treasurer. Appointed was Laura Whetstone as our Parliamentarian. Cathy Collins will head our membership while Lilly Gioia will provide us with our Legislative news. All this information was forwarded to the NFBPWC web site coordinator and has been posted under the State Federations.

We were thrilled to have 5 members attend the Biennial Conference on August 15 and 16, 2020. Cathy Collins, Emily Holgash, Dr. Ella McElwee, Denice Robinson and myself, Nancy Werner. Wow! 39% attendance is rather good from a small Affiliate like ours. President Nancy presented the latest news from the PA Affiliate and what we are planning for the coming months. (I also got to preside over the Advocacy Platform.)

We are waiting to hear from our member, Mary "MJ" Shaw, who serves on the CEDAW Commission in Pittsburgh about the CEDAW work coming to the surrounding Allegheny County. With the COVID-19, looking for a coordinator for the County has been slow going. Hoping that we hear some good news soon.

Lilly Gioia, our Legislation Chair, continues to write the latest on the legislation around PA and the USA. She has again produced another fabulous look at what is happening. It is like that soap opera, "Like the sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives." Always something happening and now with the U.S. Postal issues and the upcoming National Elections, we are in for some more investigative writings.

Our BPW/PA Legislation chair and Affiliate member, Ginny Bailey just released some great tidbits when writing to our Senators and Congressmen. (Now this was provided due to the U.S. Postal situation.) Let me share her quick tips:

- Tell them that you are a constituent;
- Remind them that Congress has a constitutional mandate to keep a functioning U.S. Postal Service;
- Urge them the demise of the U.S. Postal Service would spell disaster to the most marginalized communities;
- A reliable postal system is a hallmark of a healthy democracy, and ensures every American can vote in the 2020 election, a right GURANTEED by the Constitution;
- Express your strong displeasure that despite two COVID-19 relief bills having been passed, there still was no infusion of funds to save the U.S. Postal Service.
- Remind them that the \$25 billion that the H.E.R.O.E.S. Act (HR 6800) provides for the U.S. Postal Service is necessary, but not sufficient, It must only be a start;
- Tell them an infusion of funds to help weather the COVID-19 crisis is not enough. We need to repeal the 2006 law that the Postal Service in this financial straitjacket.

We are looking forward to the National Women's History Alliance to present their Equality Day Programs on August 26. We are patiently waiting to view the film about the Justice Bell of 1915 that traveled throughout the 67 Counties of Pennsylvania proclaiming "Votes for Women." Amanda Owen of Ardmore, PA is the woman behind the project book and who found the Justice Bell in the Valley Forge Memorial Chapel. Martha Wheelwright produced the film. It is a 2 p.m. showing and we cannot wait to view it!

Well, I guess we missed the answer to the mystery question as when to expect the XXX International Conference that was scheduled for August 21-25, 2020 in Orlando, FL. We enjoyed the "Celebration" Series with Dr. Anne Hilty. It was five days of International Sisterhood. My personal feeling is that the Zoom Biennial was the BEST and the International Zoom gatherings was SUPER BEST. If Zoom could be so useful during this pandemic, International BPW could sure try it.

Where did the time go? We are now in September and the weather will be changing. We plan to meet later in the month and continue our discussions on what can we do to continue our mission of "Women Helping Women." Always something to do.

## Pennsylvania Advocacy Report

By: Lilly Gioia, BPW Pennsylvania Legislation (Advocacy) Chair

### JUDGE ORDERS TRUMP CAMPAIGN TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF VOTER FRAUD IN PENNSYLVANIA:

On 8/13/20 federal Judge J. Nicholas Ranjan gave the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee one day to produce evidence of the voter fraud in postal voting they claim exists in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The judge's order in Donald J. Trump v. Boockvar, 20-cv-966, U.S. District Court Western District of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, essentially forces the Trump campaign to back up President Trump's unsubstantiated claims of massive mail voter fraud with information and documents that would show the steps Republicans took to study the possibility of fraud, especially related to drop boxes, ballot collection and mail-in ballots in primary elections. That evidence must be provided to the Democratic Party, the Sierra Club, and Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, participants in the lawsuit, according to Bloomberg Businessweek. "The Court finds that instances of voter fraud are relevant to the claims and

defenses in this case,” Judge Ranjan said, adding that “plaintiffs shall produce such evidence in their possession, and if they have none, state as much.” The Trump campaign “should not be permitted to raise such spectacular fraud related claims, particularly in this national climate,” lawyers representing the Democrats wrote. Legal scholars from both parties, and non-partisan experts, acknowledge that there is no widespread fraud in U.S. elections, according to a CNN report. This case is one of the boldest attempts by the Trump campaign in court to curtail mail-in voting in the 2020 election. Forbes.com reported that Democrats believe “Trump showed his hand in a Fox Business interview when he admitted he is holding up a stimulus deal,” in the belief that funding for mail-in voting will hurt his reelection prospects. The \$25 billion in funding requested by the Trump-appointed USPS Board of Directors, has become a bargaining chip in negotiations on a new stimulus package. “They need that money in order to have the Post Office work so it can take all these millions and millions of ballots. If they [Democrats] don’t make a deal, that means they don’t get the money. That means they can’t have universal mail-in voting. They just can’t have it,” President Trump said. Judge Ranjan, a Trump appointee who took his seat on the federal bench in August 2019, will hold a hearing on the evidence in late September. According to a Pew Research Center poll, 49% of U.S. registered voters expect to run into difficulties attempting to vote in the upcoming election.

#### U.S. POSTAL SERVICE SAYS PENNSYLVANIA MAIL-IN BALLOTS MAY NOT BE DELIVERED ON TIME:

The Philadelphia Inquirer on 8/13/20, reported on a Postal Service letter to Pennsylvania Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, warning of an “overwhelming” risk to voters resulting from mail-in ballots not being delivered in time because state election mail deadlines are “too tight.” To avoid disenfranchising voters, this prompted election officials to ask the state Supreme Court to extend the November deadlines. The July 29, 2020 letter from Thomas J. Marshall was made public in the Supreme Court filing asking for an order that would allow mail-in ballots to be counted as long as they are received up to three days after the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Election Day. If the Court agrees, that could increase the likelihood that presidential race results won’t be known for days after the election. A battleground state in 2016, Pennsylvania’s vote was decided by less than 1%. The Postal Service letter warned that in 2020 “certain deadlines for requesting and casting mail-in ballots are incongruous with the Postal Service’s delivery standards.” Prior to the 7/29/20 warning, the Department of State asserted the Postal Service had not indicated “the likelihood of widespread, continuing, multiple-day mail delivery delays presenting an overwhelming, statewide risk of disenfranchisement for significant numbers of voters utilizing mail-in ballots.”

Should the state Supreme Court find for the PA Department of State, ballots received by the Friday after Election Day, as long as there is no proof (such as a postmark) that they were mailed after that date, would be counted. Current state law requires that mail ballots be received by 8 p.m. on an election day. Fears of in-person voting during the pandemic led to a huge increase in June PA Primary voting. The present significant mail delays are attributed to the appointment of a new Postmaster General, a major Trump campaign donor, whose policies eliminated overtime, slashed office hours, ordered carriers to leave mail behind, and removed actual curb-side mailboxes and high-speed automated mail-sorting machines across the country. This, coupled with staffing shortages caused by previous budget cuts and coronavirus absences, interferes with delivery of over a billion Veterans Administration pharmacy prescriptions, the delivery of paychecks, Social Security benefits, bills, packages, ballots of military stationed overseas, and other items upon which millions of businesses depend. Polls continue to show very high favorability ratings for the U.S. Postal Service (established in the U.S. Constitution as a public service), and opposition to privatization of mail delivery to the very postal competitors in which the new Postmaster General is heavily invested.

#### VOTERS CAN TRUST IN THE SAFETY & SECURITY OF MAIL-IN VOTING:

According to the League of Women Voters, since 2000 more than 250 million votes have been cast via mailed ballots in all 50 states based on research by the National Vote At Home Institute. Why? #1/ Voting by mail is not new. Absentee voting dates back to the Civil War. Several states granted members of the military the opportunity to vote when they were “absent” from their home districts. In five states, Oregon, Washington,

Hawaii, Utah and Colorado – mail balloting is the primary method of voting according to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. #2/ Using someone else’s name makes it difficult to cast a ballot by mail. Every step of the vote-by-mail process includes security procedures to ensure the voter requesting the ballot is the voter receiving and voting the ballot. There is signature verification. Voters must sign an affidavit on the ballot envelope. When the ballot is returned to the election office, election officials examine and verify every signature, comparing it with voter registration records and other documents that contain the voter’s signature, according to the National Conference of State Legislators. #3/ Nationwide security procedures protect the delivery of mail-in ballots. Mailed ballots are typically delivered to and picked up from the Post Office by two election office staff and transported in a secure manner. These ballots are also processed by teams of trained election staff to ensure the integrity of the counting process. #4/ Vote-by-mail programs do not favor one party over another. Researches have conducted many studies to determine whether a partisan bias results from election reforms designed to make it easier to vote, of which vote-by-mail is one. The researchers say their findings essentially dispel concerns that mail-in voting would cause a major electoral shift toward one party. #5/ Voter impersonation and ballot falsification are exceedingly rare: based on meticulous review of elections that were investigated for voter fraud. The Brennan Center for Justice found miniscule incident rates of ineligible individuals casting ballots at the polls – no more than 0.0025%. Numerous reports have confirmed this finding that voter impersonation is exceedingly rare. Research also shows that rates of voter fraud are similar for mail ballots. These points were supplied by the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Kansas.

#### NEW TITLE IX TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT RULE TAKES EFFECT 8/14/20:

Forbes reported on the 8/12/20 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Carl J. Nichols that new Education Department regulations can go into effect on 8/14/20 while a lawsuit filed by 17 state attorneys general and the District of Columbia proceeds.

The American Council of Education (ACE) President Ted Mitchell in March urged Education Secretary DeVos to delay issuing Title IX changes until the COVID19 emergency passed. “Given the serious disruptions on campuses across the country, institutions simply do not have the capacity to implement these proposals at this time,” Mitchel maintained. ACE and 60 higher education associations had submitted a brief supporting the case brought by the state attorneys general. Of the recommendations they submitted to Secretary DeVos, virtually all were rejected. In New York a separate action filed by Attorney General Letitia James, also sought a preliminary injunction to block implementation of the new Title IX Rule. “Harassment should never be a prerequisite for obtaining an education,” General James said. Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring maintains that the DeVos rule undermines Title IX, and would undo years of progress in preventing and responding to sexual violence, harassment and discrimination on college campuses. “Secretary DeVos’s changes would narrow and weaken protections that ensure the safety of students and faculty, reduce reporting of sexual violence incidents, compromise the confidentiality of survivors, and make students feel less safe on campus,” Herring said. With school resources already stretched thin because of COVID19, the rule and its unreasonable timeframe for compliance threatens to inflict direct, immediate and irreparable harm to states and schools across the country by callously requiring schools to divert already-limited resources away from educating students during the challenges of a pandemic,” Herring emphasized. “I will not allow the Trump administration to let us backslide on that.” In a statement following Judge Nichols ruling Secretary Betsy DeVos said: “Today’s ruling is yet another victory for students and reaffirms that student rights under Title IX go hand in hand with basic American principles of fairness and due process. With yet another failed attempt to block our historic Title IX rule, we can now look forward to it taking effect...” on 8/14/20.

#### WOMEN’S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT – S.1645/H.R.2975:

Following the June 2020 Supreme Court ruling against Louisiana’s restrictive abortion access law, co-sponsors of the Women’s Health Protection Act issued a public statement reinforcing the urgency to expedite passage of a national statutory remedy. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D/CT) stated the Supreme Court’s “decision

makes clear that the Women’s Health Protection Act is more urgent and necessary than ever. By safeguarding abortion access against draconian measures being pushed through state legislatures, the Women’s Health Protection Act assures that the right to abortion, first recognized in *Roe v. Wade*, is a reality for people in every state.” S.1645 and House companion bill H.R.2975 is legislation to protect a woman’s ability to determine whether and where to bear a child or end a pregnancy and to protect the health care provider’s ability to provide reproductive health care services, including abortion. “In the last decade, alone, more than 450 laws that restrict access to abortion care have been passed – including forced ultrasounds and bans on telemedicine in abortion care,” Senator Tammy Baldwin (D/WI) stated. “The people impacted most by restrictions on abortion access are those with lower incomes and people who already face unjust barriers to accessing health care, especially Black and brown women and their families,” Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D/OH) stated. The Women’s Health Protection Act establishes a statutory right for health care providers to provide, and their patients to receive, abortion care free from medically unnecessary restrictions and bans, according to co-sponsors Rep. Judy Chu (D/CA) and Lois Frankel (D/FL). “Every person should have equal access to essential reproductive health care no matter their zip code, and the freedom to make their own decisions about their health, their family and their future,” Senator Blumenthal stressed.

#### S.1789 MILITARY JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT ACT:

Co-sponsored by Senators Mazie Hirono (D/HI) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D/NY), the Military Justice Improvement Act originally introduced on 6/14/19, is receiving new impetus following the murder of S.F.C. Vanessa Guillen at Fort Hood Texas, currently under investigation. This bill would amend Title 10 U.S. Code to reform procedures for determining the disposition of charges and the convening of courts-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Senator Hirono said the Military Justice Improvement Act “removes the sole decision-making authority over whether serious crimes are prosecuted from the military chain of command, and gives it to independent, trained military prosecutors. It would professionalize how the military prosecutes serious crimes like sexual assault in order to remove the systematic fear that survivors of military sexual assault describe in deciding whether to report the crimes committed against them.” Senator Gillibrand noted that the Department of Defense has tried incremental reforms, but they clearly haven’t worked. Sexual assault is still pervasive. “Our nation’s military leaders have spent decades promising ‘zero tolerance’ on sexual assault, but it’s painfully clear that they’ve failed at that mission. The Pentagon, by its own admission, is out of time – and should now be out of excuses,” Gillibrand said. “The brave men and women who serve our country should not fear retaliation from their peers and superior officers when they report sexual assault and harassment,” Senator Hirono stated. “...personal bias or conflicts of interest from their fellow service members should not prevent survivors from getting the justice they deserve.” Senators supporting S.1789 agree that having trained and professional military prosecutors could ensure that survivors of sexual assault are not victimized again when they report military crimes. Senator Chuck Grassley (R/IA) emphasized that this is the fourth Congress he has supported legislation to reform prosecution of military assaults. “It’s time for it to become law,” he said in 2019 when S.1789 was reintroduced into the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. “We owe it to the heroes who put their lives on the line in service to their country and ask for so little in return,” he said.

#### S.3963/H.R.7227 WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT:

This Senate bill co-sponsored by Senator Kamala Harris (D/CA) and House companion bill co-sponsored by Representatives Jackie Speier (D/CA) and Jamie Raskin (D/MD), was introduced on 6/15/20 to protect certain whistleblowers seeking to ensure accountability and oversight of the Nation’s COVID19 pandemic response. In a letter to the House and Senate, 27 groups supported legislation to bolster protections for employees of businesses that received CARES Act funds [\$2.2 trillion] and recipients of funds from other future legislation, to address the ongoing pandemic. Co-signers of the letter supporting S.3963/H.R.7227 include the Government Accountability Project, the Project on Government Oversight, the National Taxpayers Union, the National Council for Occupational Safety & Health and the National Whistleblower Center. Inspectors General credited whistleblowers with minimizing fraud, waste and abuse in the 2009 government spending

surge. With over FIVE times more spending so far, now we need them more than ever, advocates stress. This bill combines the composite best practices in the U.S. Code to protect whistleblowers and help them make a difference. Unfortunately all too often employees who come forward to report wrongdoing experience retaliation. “No one is better positioned to observe and report on the misuse of these critical dollars than the women and men who work for entities that received COVID19 funds--from government contractors to frontline workers” who would be protected by this legislation, government watchdog groups say.

## NFBPWC El Paso Texas West

### Executive Committee:

Rocío González	President
Minerva Villareal	Vice President
Virginia Chacón	Treasurer
Laura Jurado	Secretary
Gloria Flores	Past President

El Paso West meets the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. at member’s homes and sometimes at La Madeleine Restaurant.

Whether you are in the area and would like to attend, just contact Laura Jurado (El Paso West secretary) for the address at [laurajuradoa@yahoo.com](mailto:laurajuradoa@yahoo.com) (don’t miss the ‘a’ after jurado). We’ll be delighted to see you!

## NFBPWC Houston

### Executive Committee:

Paola Ferrari	President
Simin Banister	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President of Membership
Desyre Morgan	Vice President At Large
Sheryl Tuttle	Treasurer
Maya Ford	Recording Secretary
Soheila (Sue) Nawamooz	Events Chair

For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Texas-Houston>

## NFBPWC Paso Del Norte

### Executive Committee:

Lourdes Reynes                      President

For more information about this club, go to: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Texas-Paso-del-Norte>

## NFBPWC Virtual Club

For more information, you can visit the website at: <https://www.nfbpwc.org/Virtual>

Or email: [ccbpw@aol.com](mailto:ccbpw@aol.com)

### Executive Committee:

Daneene Monroe Rusnak    President

Sue Oser                              Secretary

Leona Phillips                      Treasurer

By: Daneene Monroe Rusnak  
President, NFBPWC Virtual Chapter

Be sure to stop by the [Virtual Chapter page](#) on the NFBPWC website. We've added a few "bells and whistles," including a calendar and some of our "open to the public" webinars.

NFBPWC Virtual would like to welcome the following members who have joined our chapter this year!

- ❖ Tilioloa Adisa
- ❖ Brittany Dottolo
- ❖ Michele Guarino
- ❖ Crystal Guillory
- ❖ Hannah Hughes
- ❖ Monica Monroe
- ❖ Jacqueline Stauffer

We are thrilled to have you as a part of our club!!!

- Photos, poems, collages, and creative writings are welcome for submissions for future newsletters.
- State and Local Chapters - Have you reached a milestone or an accomplishment that you would like to share? Toot your own Horn!

Send your submissions to Michele Guarino at: [Michele@ASecondOffice.com](mailto:Michele@ASecondOffice.com)

Submission Deadline for the October eNewsletter is Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm Mountain Time

DISCLAIMER: We reserve the right to reject any submissions that are not in line with the mission statement of The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Previous Issues of our Newsletters can be found on our website at: [E-News Archives](#)

## Engage with NFBPWC on Social Media



<https://www.facebook.com/NatlFedBPWC/>



<https://plus.google.com/104658286477356273688>



<https://twitter.com/nfbpwc>



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC21\\_ciXLyvbu1dbBOsV9Tg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC21_ciXLyvbu1dbBOsV9Tg)



<https://www.instagram.com/nfbpwc/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-federation-of-business-and-professional-women%27s-clubs>

## National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club's (NFBPWC) Advocacy Platform 2020-2022

NFBPWC will employ several education, advocacy, monitoring and tracking strategies to meet the following priorities:

The Alice Paul Equal Rights Amendment shall stand first and foremost above all other items of the advocacy platform until Equal Rights have been guaranteed in the United States Constitution – i.e. “Equality of Rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

### Economic Equity and Justice

- Access to pay equity and retirement equity
- Access to education, training and promotional opportunities
- Access to equal opportunities in the workplace and corporate boards
- Access to women business enterprise procurement process
- Access to quality, affordable dependent care (child, elderly or disabled)
- Access to funding and capital for entrepreneurial activity
- Access to affordable and attainable housing

### Health Equity and Justice

- Access to affordable care
- Reproductive choice
- Paid sick leave
- Family and medical leave
- Equal research funding for women's and girl's health issues
- Health education funding for women's and girl's health issues
- Health education funding for women and girls
- Prevention of pregnancy and infant care discrimination in the workplace (reasonable accommodations for breast feeding/breast pumping and pregnancy related conditions)
- Ensure workplace safety
- Expansion of mental health coverage and services

### Human Rights – recognition that women's rights are human rights

- Passage of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
- Eradicate Domestic Violence and the Electronic and Physical stalking, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and discrimination
- Support universal background checks for all firearm purchases
- Reinstate the Violence Against Women Act
- Oppose human trafficking, sexual exploitation and slavery
- Equal education opportunity
- Support equal rights for LGBTQ+ persons
- Support equal treatment of and end discrimination against BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), minority, and marginalized women
- Support policies and practices that promote environmental sustainability
- Support the endeavors of and improve conditions for military-affiliated women
- Support equitable treatment of any women who are arrested, detained or incarcerated.



DEVELOPING THE BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL, AND  
LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL OF WOMEN SINCE 1919

## Benefits of Connecting with NFBPWC: 100 Years of Empowering Women

Since 1919, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women Clubs, Inc. have been working to empower women through our mission to develop the business, professional and leadership potential of all women through education, advocacy, mentoring, networking, skill building and economic empowerment programs and projects.

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (NFBPWC) is a 501(c)(3), member-driven and member-led organization dedicated to empowering women to reach their full potential in the workplace, with equal participation in power and decision making roles.

We are an affiliate of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, which spans across 5 regions and over 110 countries throughout the world. BPW International has consultative status at the United Nations with members serving on various United Nations committees globally.

NFBPWC takes action to achieve women's equality in social, economic, community and political terms. By developing policy, collaborating on projects and advocacy. NFBPWC strives to obtain equal rights, equal pay, equal representation, equal opportunities and safety for women.

### Our NFBPWC Heritage



Dr. Lena Madasin Phillips,  
A Founder of NFBPWC  
Founder of BPW International

*"Each woman, as a citizen, must bring to the national policy of her own country, the contribution of forward-looking and constructive thought followed by determined actions. Each woman must dedicate herself to protect and promote the interests of all other women in business and the professions."*

### Our ambition

*Equal participation of women and men in power  
and decision-making roles.*

- Take professional responsibility on all levels in the economy, politics and society.
- Think and act locally, nationally and internationally.
- Engage in networking and mentoring programs.
- Enjoy lifelong learning.
- Develop the professional, business and leadership potential of all women.
- Work cooperatively with the United Nations and other national and international organizations.

## Incredible benefits available to leaders, members, and affiliate organizations for less than \$4 per month per member!

### Affiliate Benefits

- Dedicated Board of Directors working to achieve the mission and goals of the organization while supporting a member-based organization.
- Connection to a network of hundreds of women nationally and over 30,000 women internationally in 110 countries.
- Opportunity to be part of an organization that has 100 years of legacy and strength supporting it.
- Leadership opportunities regionally, nationally, and globally.
- National support through a coordinated digital communication platform: social media, email, website, video conferencing, and monthly e-newsletter.
- Opportunity to help envision and create our mutual goals for the next century.
- Connection with other leaders nationally and globally.
- Dedicated Executive Committee with the goal of seeing the organization and its members succeed.
- Platforms and leaders that support membership growth and brainstorm for recruitment.
- Programming for members available digitally every month.
- Access to a national 501c3 parent organization and guidance in creating localized nonprofit status.
- Planned events for members that empower and inspire advocacy for women worldwide through education and information.
- Support and guidance for documents and procedures needed to run an effective, efficient, and thriving organization.

### Individual Benefits

- Formal Lifetime Leadership and Learning Program.
- Formal Mentoring Program.
- Business Network to market business and professional services.
- Business opportunities for partnering and procurement, nationally and globally.
- Member Spotlight in the newsletter, e-alerts, website, and social media platforms.
- Private Membership Directory supporting members and their organizations.
- Participate in the United Nations System worldwide through the Commission on the Status of Women and other programs annually.
- Advocate for women's issues on a national and international level.
- Cultivate worldwide friendships in one of the original women's networking organizations.
- Access to programming through digital platforms on a monthly basis.
- Invitation to attend the Biennial General Assembly for NFBPWC, the Triennial Congress for BPW International, Regional BPW International Conferences and the BPW International Leaders Summit.
- Access to a Young BPW Program that is supported both globally and nationally.
- Informative monthly newsletter that compiles our efforts across the globe and empowers members through education.

Membership dues are less than \$4 per month, per member for a total of \$45.75 each year (\$25 to BPW International).