



October Meeting Focus Is Advocacy

The program and agenda for the October 4 meeting of the BPW/MA Board of Directors will focus on voter information and legislative action.



BPW/MA has been a member of a number of coalitions working for legislation changes in Massachusetts in the areas of pay equity, reproductive choice, and health education. Our meeting program will include a review of each coalition's mission and accomplishments to date. In this election year, it is appropriate for the BPW/MA Board of Trustees to review our legislative priorities and reaffirm our continued participation with these coalitions. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting to participate in the discussion of BPW/MA's future involvement with these groups.

It is an election year. The 2008 presidential contest has drawn more interest than any other in recent memory and this year's elections issues are some of the most compelling. We have invited representatives from both the Republican and Democratic presidential campaigns to speak on their candidates' behalf over morning coffee. Be sure to arrive early for a good seat.

In addition, there will be BPW business to discuss. Updates to our Policies and Procedures will be presented for approval. We anticipate active and extensive discussion of BPW/MA's action plan in response to the "Vote of BPW" resolution adopted by the members attending the BPW/USA convention meeting in Atlanta. Be sure to attend and make your voice heard.

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STATE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

BPW/MA's 87th Annual Convention was held at the DoubleTree Inn in Westboro, MA, May 17-18, 2008. Maria Coviello, BPW/MA PSP served as the National Representative to the Convention.

The weekend began with a brief meeting of the Board of Directors to take care of some necessary business and ended with a workshop/forum on Sunday focusing on membership and exploring ideas for more innovative and creative formats and venues for conducting our business meetings. Saturday night's installation dinner, hosted by Reading BPW, featured entertainment by the Women of Note. The officer installation ceremony reminded members that BPW can be the "Passport to Your Destination".

Convention business included the adoption of the 2008-2009 Legislative Platform, presentation of financial reports for both BPW/MA and MEAF, and adoption of recommendations from the Board of Directors. Members heard reports from BPW/MA President, Rosemary Roper, National Representative Maria Coviello, and President-Elect, Kathleen Pavelchek. New officers for 2008-2009 were elected.

A budget for 2008-2009 was adopted after extensive and thoughtful discussion. Amendments to include funding for National Legislation Platform Committee Representative and Young Careerist travel expense were adopted. The budget was amended to include to Bay State News advertising revenue.

For the first time in memory, there were no Bylaws amendments to approve.

Young Careerist candidate, Dawn Schrade, gave her speech, "Is America ready for a woman President?"

Local Organizations awards for Issues Management, Legislation, Foundation, and Public Relations were presented. Special recognition was given to our 50 year members.



**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:
What’s your destination?**

Each of us has a goal. Something we want to accomplish this week, this year, or as part of a 5-year plan. We work to achieve our goal using

the resources we have available. Remember that BPW can be a significant resource for you as you strive to reach your objective – be it professional, personal, or political.

BPW/USA works on our behalf in support of legislation and public policy that will enable all working women to achieve their goal of economic self-sufficiency. Our national organization provides tools that allow us to participate in grassroots action.

Opportunities to enhance professional skills can be found at BPW/USA National Conferences and through participation in the Individual Development and Young Careerist Programs. BPW/MA members can request MEAF grants to cover professional education costs. One of the best forums for improving your management and networking skills is active involvement in your local BPW organization.

What is my BPW destination for 2008-2009? I will be working with your Executive Committee to rekindle the enthusiasm and dedication of BPW members in Massachusetts. I know you believe in BPW’s vision and mission – you paid your membership dues! It’s time for us to be proud of being a BPW member, advocating for and promoting our mission every day.

I write this message just a few days before the opening of the National Conference in Atlanta. We are all aware of the many dramatic changes that will take effect at the close of this convention. Our national organization has begun a new era.

Now we must refocus our energy and attention on our members and local organizations here in Massachusetts. Our journey? Build on our long history and tradition to transform BPW/MA into a vital, active force that responds to the needs of working women in the twenty-first century.

BPW/MA -- The Passport to Your Destination.

New Officers for New BPW Year

The results of the election for 2008-2009 State Officers were a ballot box surprise. When nominations closed, there were no candidates for the positions of Recording Secretary or Treasurer. But when Elections Chair Ellen O’Brien read the results, a full slate of officers was elected, thanks to write-in votes.

The BPW/MA Officers for 2008-2009 are

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Kathleen Pavelchek |
| President-Elect | VJ Hartnett |
| Vice-President | Elizabeth Manns |
| Recording Secretary | Deborah Bouras |
| Treasurer | Caroline Coscia |

President Kathleen Pavelchek commented “I am so pleased that Debbie and Caroline have accepted officer positions for the coming year. We now have capable and experienced members in these important positions and we can focus on BPW’s agenda and goals, rather than filling vacancies.”

Also, Sandi Porter was elected as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

BYLAWS UPDATE

Firstly, thank you all for your participation in the review of our state bylaws that has resulted in many changes that should position us well as a 21st century organization. We are currently awaiting approval of our changes by the national bylaws chair. Pending her approval, they should be available for distribution at the Fall Board meeting.

We are continuing our work on the Policies and Procedures that provide the step by step processes for putting these bylaws into action. Some changes have already been approved and more will be reviewed over the current year. Since Policies and Procedures only need to be approved by the Board of Directors, the plan is to present some at each meeting this year. If there is a particular area that you would like reviewed, please notify me as soon as possible so we can start the process.

The goal in making any changes is to provide guidelines that will work well for today’s workingwomen while providing an organized administration of BPW/MA.

—Patricia Stowell, Bylaws Chair

BPW Musical Chairs

The write-in election for Recording Secretary and Treasurer initiated several rounds of musical chairs – resignations and reappointments of individuals who had previously agreed to take other leadership roles on the 2008-2009 Board of Directors.

Caroline Cosica had been elected to be the Eastern District Director and Deborah Bouras was appointed as Executive Secretary for 2008-2009. Since no individual can hold two positions on the Executive Committee, both resigned these positions to accept the state officer slots.

The Eastern District Council has elected Bethany Pratt (Downtown Boston) to assume the position of Eastern District Director (This change also required other reassignments of district officer roles.)

As of press deadline, the position of Executive Secretary is vacant. Some committee appointments are pending as well. Additional changes in Board of Director appointments are anticipated before the Board meeting on October 4. (See page 8 for current BPW/MA appointments.)

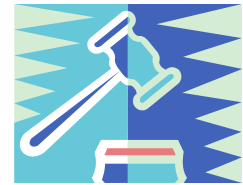
Eastern District News

The 2008 Annual District Meeting was a breakfast gathering where the coffee flowed, omelets were eaten, friendships renewed and new friendships made. The gathering was not all fun as the members did elect officers and voted to continue the relationship with Merrimack College's Women's basketball team.

The 2008/2009 officers are: Bethany Pratt, Director; Caroline Coscia, Assistant Director, Janet Chisholm, Treasurer and Debbie Bouras, Secretary.

The focus for the upcoming year is continuing to support and work with the women's basketball team at Merrimack College, including holding a Reality Store and conducting workshops. In addition, voter registration drives are being planned.

CALL TO MEETING Board of Directors



Date:
October 4, 2008

Location:
Brooksby Village; Peabody, MA

Purpose of Meeting:
To consider recommendations from the Executive Committee. To receive interim reports from the Executive Committee and State Standing and Special Committee Chairs. To review the federation's status and devise measures for its growth and prosperity.

Registration:
Saturday, 8:30 am to 9:30 am

Business Sessions:
Saturday, 9:00 am to 12:15 pm
Saturday, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Attendees:
All BPW/MA members are encouraged to attend and participate in meeting discussions.

Voting Body:
BPW/MA members who serve in the following positions are members of the voting body: State Officers, District Directors, State Standing Committee Chairs, Local Organization Presidents, Past State Presidents, MEAF Director, Bay State News Editor, Registration Chair, Executive Secretary, Meeting Support Chair. In the absence of a District Director, another District Officer may vote. In the absence of a LO President, a designated representative of the LO may vote. In the absence of a Standing Committee Chair, another member of the committee may vote.

Meeting Chair:
Elizabeth Manns
BPW/MA Vice President

(See pages 10 and 11 for registration information.)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT



A professional conference should offer multiple opportunities to expand professional connections, gain new information and skills, and share ideas and opinions. BPW/USA's National Conference in Atlanta featured all this and more.

The BPW/MA delegation of ten members, representing each of our districts, participated in every aspect of the event. Dawn Schrade, Northern Berkshire member, represented us well as our Young Careerist candidate.

Convention session speakers included Atlanta mayor, Shirley Franklin and Lilly Ledbetter, plaintiff in the Ledbetter vs. Goodrich Supreme Court case. Convention attendees heard from representatives of both presidential campaigns, who answered questions from members. Workshops addressed three learning tracks: Work/Life Balance, Leadership, and Advocacy, in addition to training sessions for incoming state and area leaders. Special BPW Foundation and BPW/PAC events provided even more information about our sister organizations.

Business sessions, committee meetings, and town hall forums open to all members provided details about our Legislative Platform, BPW/PAC activity, and BPW/USA's financial status. The convention body adopted a non-public policy resolution to reaffirm every member's commitment and belief in the mission and future of BPW. The Legends Awards event honored the Young Careerist and Individual Development finalists from each federation and recognized state federation and local organization achievement in Membership, Advocacy, Public Relations, and support for the BPW Foundation.

Members from Area 1 gathered for a networking breakfast on Saturday and began discussions of how Area 1 federations can cooperate to build membership and visibility.

2008-2009 State Presidents and Area Representatives were recognized during the Installation Tea.

—Kathleen Pavelchek, President

VOTE FOR BPW Resolution

Adopted by members attending National Convention in Atlanta

Resolved,

That BPW/USA members are called upon to embrace the BPW/USA of the future by pledging to renew their membership and use the Value Proposition to promote e-membership in addition to all other categories of membership;

Resolved,

That BPW/USA members recognize it is of vital importance that members promote Friends of BPW e-subscriptions to expand our reach;

Resolved,

That BPW/USA members demonstrate their commitment with their financial support*; and

Resolved,

That BPW/USA members communicate the urgent need for all BPW/USA members take action now to ensure the work of our mission continues.

*amended during BPW/USA convention debate to include \$100,000 fundraising/matching gift challenge.

National Election Results

2008-2009 National Officers

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Diane Polanquin |
| Vice-President | Susan Parsons Reed |
| Recording Secretary | Sandi M. Haase |
| Treasurer | Tina L. Garner |

Area 1 Representatives

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 3 year term | Carolyn Frazier |
| 2 year term | Shelley Maloney |
| 1 year term | Laura K. Bauver |

If you can receive this newsletter by email, please contact Penny56r@aol.com

Western District News

The 2008 Annual District Meeting was held in Williamstown with members in attendance from all four locals. Officers for the coming year were elected and the Public Safety Director from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts spoke about safety techniques that all women can use – being observant – cautious of our surroundings – even those that are familiar.

Two Young Careerist candidates participated in the competition. Katie Lamb represented Berkshire BPW and Dawn Schrade represented Northern Berkshire BPW. Although Katie was selected to participate at the state level, she was unable to attend. Dawn stepped in to present at the state convention and participated in the national competition in Atlanta July 22-26.

In addition to the Young Careerist, four members from Western District participated in the National Conference: Laura Bauver, Elizabeth Manns, Rosemary Roper and Patricia Stowell. The delegation from Massachusetts enjoyed getting to know Dawn during the conference. She represented Massachusetts well and is excited about continuing her involvement with BPW.

The 2008/2009 Western District officers are Patricia Stowell, Director; Dorothy Ransford, Assistant Director, Paulette Remillard, Treasurer, and Maureen Phillips, Secretary.

The focus for the upcoming year will be on membership recruitment and retention and providing programming of value to the local members.

National Conference – More to Come

There is a wealth of information to report from National Conference – much more than will fit in this issue of the Bay State News. Look for a special National Conference Report issue soon.

The good news is that the Atlanta conference was a terrific meeting. The bad news is that BPW/USA incurred a significant loss on the event. The registration count was only 70% of the expected attendance, triggering hotel penalty charges and some loss of sponsorships.

Our national Board of Directors will be making difficult decisions relating to this financial setback. Additional information will be available at the October 4 meeting of the Board of Directors. Now, more than ever, members must renew their commitment to and support for BPW to ensure the work of our mission continues.

BPW/MA Members Participate in National Conference

Several members of our delegate played key roles during the Atlanta conference:

Kathleen Pavelchek represented BPW/MA at the pre-convention meeting of the Board of Directors. This was the last meeting where state presidents served as Board members. Liz Manns attended as observer. PSP Maria Coviello completed her duties as BPW/USA Nomination Chair at the Board meeting.

Dawn Schrade participated in all Young Careerist events as the BPW/MA representative.

PSP Caroline Coscia represented BPW/MA at the Legislative Platform Committee meeting. She asked one of the questions during the presidential candidates' forum. Caroline was a member of the 2007-2008 BPW/USA Legislation Committee.

Laura Bauver and Patricia Stowell, members of the BPW/USA Foundation Committee, assisted during the convention BPW Foundation fundraising rally.

Laura Bauver served as timekeeper during the convention business session.

WORKING WOMAN PINS



The Working Woman pin, with the red purse for pay equity, is back!

We have a limited supply of these attractive and popular pins (and the red purse earrings to match). These are great speaker gifts. Or give one to a friend for her birthday!

Purchase pins for \$15 or earrings for \$5 at the October Board of Directors meeting.

BPW/MA MILESTONES

Steps towards our destination

- 2008-2009 District and State Officers installed at Convention on May 17. State Treasurer and Recording Secretary elected by write-in ballots.
- 2007-2008 Mary Kay fundraiser nets \$1,125.
- Members participate in Women, Wages, and Policy conference at UMass-Boston on June 9. BPW/MA recognized in the BPW/USA Legislative Hotline for sponsoring the conference.
- Past State President Laura Bauver elected as Area 1 Representative for a one year term.
- Ten members attend the BPW/USA National Convention in Atlanta.
- Caroline Coscia appointed as member of the 2008-2009 BPW/USA Legislation Committee.
- BPW/MA signs letter in support of Paycheck Fairness Act. Act passed by House of Representatives on July 31.
- BPW/MA membership as of June 1, 2008: 211
BPW/MA membership as of August 1, 2008: 210



2007-2008 BPW/MA FUNDRAISER RESULTS

On behalf of BPW/MA I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting our state fundraiser. I was very pleased to be able to cut a check to BPW/MA right after convention for \$1125.

Each local and each member had a chance to be a winner too.

The local that sold the most sets and won the \$50 gift certificate was Hampshire County.

Their certificate can be used towards the products of their choice. Those products could then be used as a raffle to benefit the local.

The member winner is the member who purchased or sold the most sets. We had a tie for that prize. The \$50 gift certificate will be split between **Rosemary A Roper of Greater Springfield and Deborah Bouras of Downtown Boston.** Again these certificates can be used towards the products of their choice.

Once again I want to thank all those who supported our fundraising efforts this past year.

—“VJ” Hartnett, President-Elect

SPONSOR

BPW/MA Meeting Dates

Fall Board of Directors
October 4, 2008
Peabody, MA

Winter Board of Directors
February 28, 2009
Cranberry District

State Convention
May 16, 2009
Western District



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BPW/MA 2008-2009 Committee Appointments

Bylaws Committee

Reviews all proposed updates to bylaws and policies and procedures.

*Chair: Patricia Stowell
Members: VJ Hartnett, Deborah Bouras, Caroline Coscia, Amy Kates,
Bethany Pratt
Ex-Officio: Elizabeth Manns (Vice President), Carrie O'Hare (Parliamentarian)

Finance Committee

Prepares annual budget and has supervision over all expenses.

*Chair: <vacant>
Members: Joanne Smarrella, Paulette Remillard, Wendy Ustach
Ex-Officio: Caroline Coscia (Treasurer)

Foundation Committee

Promotes the Business and Professional Women's Foundation.

*Chair: Wendy Ustach
Members: Sally Hoyt, Jane St. Sauveur

Individual Development Committee

Coordinates and promotes the Individual Development Program.

*Chair: Dorothy Ransford
Members: Deborah Bouras, Rita Shields

Legislative/Issues Management Committee

Prepares Legislative Platform and promotes member involvement in the legislative process.

*Chair: Kristin Whitfield
Members: <vacant>, Deborah Blood

Membership Committee

Promote and expand membership. Provide support to orient and retain members.

*Chair: Marsha Stout
Members: Maria Coviello, <vacancy>
Ex-Officio: Linda Stevens, Caroline Coscia, Dorothy Ransford, (Assistant District Directors)

Public Relations Committee

Publicize BPW programs, programs, issues and objectives.

*Chair: Nancy Ovitsky
Members: <vacant>, <vacant>

Young Careerist Committee

Coordinate the Young Careerist Program.

*Chair: Bethany Pratt
Members: Dawn Schrade, (vacant)
Ex-Officio: Deborah Bouras (Recording Secretary)

Nominating Committee

Search committee for candidates for BPW office. (Members elected by the Districts.)

*Chair: Sandi Potter
Members: Sylvia Conner, Marcia Edmonds, Nancy Ovitsky, Maria Coviello,
Sally Hoyt

(Committee Appointments continued)

Meeting Support Committee

Facilitates the planning and conduct of state-wide BPW/MA meetings.

*Chair: <vacant>
Members: Lucienne Pelletier (Credentials)
Rita Shields (Candidate's Forum)
Becky Colas (Elections)
<vacant> (Historian)
<vacant> (Executive Secretary)
Dorothy Ransford (Interfaith Memorial Service)
Elizabeth Manns (Sites)
Penny Miller (Webmistress)

Massachusetts Educational Assistance Fund Committee

Administers the Massachusetts Educational Assistance Fund and approves grant requests.

*Chair: Patricia Stowell
Vice-Chair: Mary Mendoza
Members: <vacant>, Sylvia Proud, Lisa Still

*Registration Chair: Lucienne Pelletier

*Bay State News Editor: Kristen Wittig

*Executive Secretary: <vacant>

Parliamentarian: Carrie O'Hare

* Voting position on the Board of Directors. Other voting members of the Board of Directors are the Local Organization Presidents and Past State Presidents who maintain current BPW/MA membership.

Note: The President and the President-Elect are ex-officio members of all committees, except for the Nominating Committee.

Fall Board of Directors Meeting Directions to Brooksby Village

Brooksby Village
100 Brooksby Village Drive
Peabody, MA 01960
978-536-7810

From the Cape:

Take US 6N to I93N/US1N; Merge onto I95N to Exit 47A toward Peabody;
Turn right onto Brooksby Village Drive; Turn left at the Gazebo into Visitors Parking

From the Northeast:

Take MA114 E towards Middleton; Continue on MA 114E/Andover Street and turn right onto Brooksby Village Drive; Turn left at the Gazebo into Visitors Parking

From the West:

Take I90E to I95N; Continue on I95N to Exit 47A toward Peabody; Turn right onto Brooksby Village Drive; Turn left at the Gazebo into Visitors Parking

Area Hotels

Peabody:

Hampton Inn Boston Peabody, 59 Newbury Street,
978-535-2377
Holiday Inn, 1 Newbury Street,
978-525-4600
Homestead Suites, 200 Jubilee Drive,
978-536-5050
Springhill Suites, 43 Newbury Street,
978-535-5000
Marriott Peabody, 8 Centennial Drive #A,
978-977-9700

Danvers:

Comfort Inn, 50 Dayton Street,
978-777-1700
Knights Inn, 225 Newbury Street,
978-774-6500
Sheraton Ferncroft, 50 Ferncroft Road,
978-777-2500

Discover a Destination

As of press time, there are a number of vacancies on BPW/MA committees. (See details on Pages 8 and 9).

BPW/MA counts on the energy, interest, and talents of our members to reach our goals each year. In this election year, we have plans for grassroots advocacy and voter education. We want to get the word out about how BPW empowers women. We want to build a stronger network among working women in Massachusetts.

Here is your opportunity to reach a new destination. We need your help to get the job done in Membership, Legislation, and Public Relations. We need members to attend every state meeting and lend a hand to plan and conduct our programs. The Bylaws and Finance committees help us prepare for the future. I'd like to see more that the required three members on our committees, working together to accomplish our mission.

Please contact me if you would like to be part of the action.

—Kathleen Pavelchek, President

Advertise in the Bay State News

Market your business and support BPW/MA!

2008-2009 Advertising Rates

| | One Issue | Full Year |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Business Card | \$15 | \$ 30 |
| Half Page | \$30 | \$ 60 |
| Full Page | \$50 | \$ 100 |

To qualify for the Full Year rate, copy and payment must be received by September 5, 2008. Ads will appear in at least three issues. The same copy will be used for all issues.

Submit ad copy to bpwma-inbox@earthlink.net. For more information, contact Kathleen Pavelchek.

BPW/MASSACHUSETTS FALL BOARD REGISTRATION
Brooksby Village, Peabody, MA
Building: Town Hall, Room: Classroom
October 4, 2008
Registration Deadline: September 22, 2008

Please complete the following information. Include check made payable to BPW/MA and mail to: Lucienne Pelletier, 45 Riverside Street, Danvers, MA 01923-3721

In the event that you must cancel your registration, please contact Lucienne prior to September 26, 2008. We regret that we will be unable to issue refunds to anyone canceling after that date.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

BPW Local: _____

District: _____

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | <input type="checkbox"/> State Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First time Attending | <input type="checkbox"/> State Standing Committee Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local President | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Appointee w/ vote |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local President-elect | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Appointee w/o vote |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Past State President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest (see below) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest's name: | |

Registration:

Includes: Board of Director's Meeting, Morning Coffee/Tea, Luncheon, and meeting handouts.

- \$35.00 if postmarked by September 15, 2008
- add \$10.00 if postmarked September 16, 2008 – September 22, 2008
- add \$20.00 for on site payment – October 4, 2008

Total amount enclosed: \$_____

Luncheon: Fruit Cup with Sherbert, Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad, and Assorted Cookies. Beverages: Fruit Punch and Bottled Water.

Note any dietary restrictions here:

We must have your reservation by September 22, 2008 to accommodate these special needs.

All prices include tax and gratuities. No meals can be sold on site. Meals must be prepaid. In the event that you must register by telephone, please provide your full name, local, and day and evening telephone numbers to Lucienne. **If registration is made by phone, you are subject to the late registration charge of \$10.00.** Guests: Please include each guest's name and affiliation. Guests attending the meeting and luncheon must pay the complete registration fee. Directions and suggested hotels are included on a separate form. Accommodations must be made directly with the hotels.



Business and
Professional
Women/MA

102 Old Bolton Road
Stow, MA 01775