



## BPW/MA TAKES ACTION

The October meeting of the BPW/MA Board of Directors focused on political action and advocacy. For several years, BPW/MA has participated in coalitions with other organizations that share our legislative agenda. Guest speakers representing these collations presented progress reports and summarized plans for coming legislative term.

Jill Aston, from the Coalition for Women's Wage Equality, spoke of the difficulties of achieving success on Beacon Hill during difficult financial times. Revised strategy and renewed efforts will bee need to focus attention on the issue of pay inequities.

Care For Youth Coalition Coordinator, Sarah Steinfeld, discussed strategies for funding and enacting legislation to ensure that all school districts provide adequate health education to all children in the state. Grassroots efforts will be needed to ensure broad sponsorship for this legislation.

Representing the Coalition for Choice, BPW/MA member Kristin Whitfield, reported that the recent change in the "buffer zone" legislation has resulted in easier law enforcement and fewer confrontations at clinics. Next efforts will include updates to the MA Code, removing obsolete laws.

The Board unanimously agreed to continue our partnerships. Our work with these groups helps move us closer to achieving some of BPW's major legislative goals: access to health care and health education, including reproductive health care, and fair pay for working women.

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## WINTER BOARD MEETING February 28, 2009

Registration information inside.

Registration deadline February 23. For "early bird" discount, register by February 13.

## HOUSE VOTES TO CLOSE WAGE GAP

On January 9, as its first major legislative action of 2009 and in a huge show of support for working women, the U.S. House of Representatives passed both the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (HR 11) and the Paycheck Fairness Act (HR 12).

Passage of these bills in the first days of the 111th Congress is clear recognition that wage discrimination is still a very real problem in the United States. BPW/USA has supported the Paycheck Fairness Act since it was first introduced in 1997 and BPW/USA members have worked tirelessly for passage of both pieces of legislation. Twenty-six BPW state federations (including Massachusetts) signed onto a coalition letter in support of the bills.

Now it is time for the U.S Senate to follow the House's lead and quickly pass these crucial bills. Thank you to BPW/USA members who worked for support of these important pieces of legislation. Let's make sure our voices are heard again! Contact Senators Kennedy and Kerry and ask them to vote YES on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act.

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## NEWS ON THE INSIDE:

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We are in the dead of winter. The holidays are behind us and we are heading into the busiest part of our BPW year.

It's more difficult to reach your destination in winter. Short days and cold nights make it harder to keep focus and maintain the energy to keep moving ahead. During this winter, the challenge is even greater. The nation's economy is in turmoil; many fear losing their jobs. Organizations are losing long-time support, just when their services are most needed.

Multiply the challenges faced by your local organization by a couple thousand and you will have an estimate of the crisis that faces BPW/USA.

Working women need BPW more than ever in this difficult time. Since 1919, BPW has been there, advocating for better opportunities for women and providing support, guidance and encouragement to working women as they advanced their careers. BPW's role as mentor, advocate, and resource is just as critical now as it was 90 years ago.

Each of us has benefited from our membership in BPW. It's up to us to ensure that BPW remains strong and continues to be a resource for women facing the challenges of 2009 and for the next generations of working women to come.

Despite the cold and the dark, now is the time for each of us to redouble our efforts to support BPW. Some of you have already contributed toward the Vote of BPW Challenge Grant. More of you can. Encourage your friends and colleagues to become Friends of BPW. Contribute your skills and experience by taking a leadership role.

The most important way you can support BPW is to renew your membership in your local organization. Resolve to be a member who works for the growth of your local organization.

Let's not be discouraged. Winter will soon be over. When Spring arrives, our destination will be in sight.

## WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

**BPW/MA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Freedom Hall – Cotuit, MA  
February 28, 2009

The February meeting of the BPW/MA Board of Directors will focus on planning and preparation for our Annual Convention and the next BPW year. We're looking forward to seeing you.

Come early for breakfast. When business is finished, we'll have some fun and mingle during the BPW "Bingle".

### SCHEDULE

8:00-9:30	Registration
8:30-9:00	"Heart Healthy Breakfast"
	Sponsored by Ria's Travel and Special Events
9:15-12:15	Business Session
12:30-1:30	Lunch and Program
1:30-2:30	Business Session
2:30-3:30	BPW "Bingle"

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Nominating committee report  
Review of proposed 2009-2010 budget  
Legislative agenda  
Standing Committee reports;  
Local and district award information  
Proposed Policy and Procedure changes  
Proposed Bylaws amendments  
Local/District Forum:  
Reaching Your Destination Progress Updates  
Preview of State Convention

### PROGRAM

Women and Money: Making Good Financial Decisions  
Amy Kates and Evelyn Young

### REGISTRATION

Registration deadline is February 23. Cost for "early bird" registration (by February 13) is only \$22. (Registration form enclosed.)

### ACCOMMODATIONS

There are several hotels in Falmouth (12 miles away) and Hyannis (10 miles away). Or reserve room with other BPW/MA members at the Cape Cod Holiday Estates. (Information enclosed.)

*The official Call to Meeting was distributed on January 14, 2009.*

## DISTRICT UPDATES

### CRANBERRY DISTRICT

Cranberry District Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 5, 2009 at the Hyannis Country Club. More information will be available at the Winter Board Meeting.

### EASTERN DISTRICT

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 4, 2009. The Northeast District's Annual Meeting is being held at Spero's on Route 114 in Peabody from 11:30AM to 3PM. A buffet luncheon will be served. Registration information will be available at Winter Board.

We look forward to seeing you on April 4th.

### WESTERN DISTRICT

The Western District Annual Meeting will be held at the Country Club of Pittsfield on March 28, 2009. Sandi Porter will be our state representative.

Registration fee will be \$37.50 and program will be announced before the state winter board meeting.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 28:	Board of Directors Meeting Cotuit, MA
March 28:	Western District Meeting Pittsfield, MA
March 31:	BPW/USA Policy & Action Washington, DC
April 4:	Eastern District Meeting Peabody, MA
April 5:	Cranberry District Meeting Hyannis, MA
April 26:	Equal Pay Day
May 16-17:	BPW/MA Convention Williamstown, MA

## Member of the Year

The *Member of the Year* program gives each local organization the opportunity to honor one of its members for her involvement in BPW. Local organization members select one of their own who has made great contributions to her local. The selected member is honored at the Annual District Meeting and also recognized at State Convention.

### Criteria:

A member of BPW for at least two years. A member who has

- Improved the programs offered by the local, **or**
- Implemented an outstanding project that has enhance the local; **or**
- Increased the visibility of the local organization, **or**
- Actively recruited new members to BPW; **or**
- Always been available to lend a hand and assist when needed.

### How:

The local organization President should request nominations from the members of the local. The honoree should be selected by a vote of the membership.

### When:

Local organizations are encouraged to select their Member of the Year between October and January. The selected member's name, and other required information, is forward to the State President-Elect by the published deadline.

Local Presidents should have received *Member of the Year application Form* sent to you in December. If you have not received your form please contact "**VJ**", *State President-Elect by email at [vjhartnett@taconic.net](mailto:vjhartnett@taconic.net)*. Local Presidents will submit the completed Member of the Year application form to the State President-Elect no later than March 1, 2009. The *State President-Elect* will prepare *Member of the Year award certificates* for all honorees. Certificates will be presented at the District Annual Meetings in April, 2009. All Members of the Year will be recognized at State Convention in May, 2009.

"VJ" Hartnett  
BPW/MA President-Elect

**BPW/USA PARTICIPATES IN PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION**

BPW/USA participated in an Obama Transition Team Briefing on the topics of women, work and family on December 18, 2008.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the incoming Administration can address these issues and to identify what legislative action should be taken. Approximately twenty organizations representing these constituencies and advocating in these areas were invited.

BPW/USA's Public Policy Director, Rachel Lyons, represented BPW/USA and BPW Foundation. Other organizations included WOW, NOW, Feminist Majority, 9 to 5, AAUW, Women Work, National Partnership, YWCA, and Families and Work.

Business and Professional Women/USA, founded in 1919, is a multi-generational, bipartisan membership organization. Established as the first organization to focus on issues of working women, BPW/USA is historically a leader in grassroots activism, policy influence and advocacy for millions of workingwomen.

**BPW MEMBER NOMINATED FOR CABINET POST**

President-Elect Barak Obama has nominated Representative Hilda Solis, (D-CA), a member of BPW/USA, as the incoming Secretary of Labor. "BPW/USA welcomes the selection of a working woman to head an agency that has a vital role in protecting workers and their families," said BPW/USA CEO Deborah Frett. "Not only does Representative Solis have a firm grasp of issues that are vital to American workers, she also understands issues that are important to working women and their families."

Rep. Solis has a solid record in support of equal pay for women and work-family issues.

BPW/USA's mission is to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information. BPW/USA members are proud that one of their own will continue to work towards these goals as a member of the Cabinet.

**BPW/MA thanks our Bay State News sponsors**

**Elegant Cuisine is back in Western Massachusetts!**

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**For ideas of how we can make your event truly special contact Dawn LaRoche, culinary artist, at 413-528-5225 or visit our website [www.apogeecatering.com](http://www.apogeecatering.com)**

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## HOW'S IT GOING?

In July, BPW/USA President Diane Polangin issued several challenges to BPW members.

- ◆ To recruit 20 new members in any category.
- ◆ To sign up 20 new Friends of BPW/USA.
- ◆ To recruit 20 contributors to the PAC at the \$20 level and 2 contributors at the \$100 level.
- ◆ To ensure that every state holds an Equal Pay Day event.
- ◆ To increase your state's total contribution to BPW Foundation by 5% over the 5/31/08 total.
- ◆ To secure at least 5 donors to BPW Foundation at the Financier level and 15 at the Friend level.
- ◆ To send five news clippings about BPW, featuring either your State Federation or a Local Organization to the National President.
- ◆ To charter one new Local Organization by June 30, 2009.
- ◆ To ensure every state hosts a WJF activity.
- ◆ To hold at least one election related event this year during National Business Women's Week.
- ◆ To take the ID program to the women's shelters in your state or local area.

What challenges have you accepted? Let's share our success stories at the Winter Board Meeting.



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## COME TO MY TEA PARTY



The phrase tea party makes one think of elegant and elaborate affairs of the Victorian times. It also conjures up images of scones, muffins, Devonshire cream and dainty sandwiches served on fine silver or china. Tea parties can be as elegant and elaborate, or informal and simple, as you want.

We are having an **Afternoon Tea** at **State Convention** on **May 16, 2009** at the **Williams Inn; Williamstown, MA** from **4:00 – 7:00 PM** for our officer installation. Start planning now to be there. Perhaps you want to bring your favorite tea cup or wear a hat. Watch for more details in future communications.

*"VJ" Hartnett*  
BPW/MA President-Elect

## BPW/USA 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Missouri BPW has been making plans for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for BPW and they hope to make this event educational, exciting and fun. Keynote and workshop speakers will be announced soon.

The Celebration will take place at the Hilton St. Louis Airport hotel on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> of 2009. Room rate is \$75.00 for a single or double, and suites are available upon request at a rate of \$125.00 - \$175.00. For reservations call 314-426-5500 or see the Hilton St. Louis Airport website for online reservations and a virtual tour of the hotel.

Sponsorship will be crucial to the success of this event and BPW/MO is asking for support from BPW members across the country. BPW/MA members will find a sponsorship form inserted in this newsletter. Please note that February 15 is the deadline for these sponsorships!

If you are planning to attend this special event, please let your District Director know.

**POLICY & ACTION CONFERENCE**  
**Pre-Conference Webinar Series**

BPW/USA's Legislation Committee is hard at work preparing for the upcoming 2009 Policy and Action Day being held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. This year we are holding four webinars prior to our arrival in DC as a way to inform members of our legislative priorities.

Members are encouraged to log into the webinars to receive pertinent issue information including talking points for use when writing or meeting with your Congressional delegation.

Committee members are currently working on the content and design of each webinar. At this time we have yet to decide the order of presenting our topics so for that reason I can only provide you with the day and time not topic. Why is this so? We are still working on our drafts.

Webinar #1 –  
 Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 7:30PM EST

Webinar #2 –  
 Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00PM EST

Webinar #3 – ERA Public Policy  
 Thursday, March 5th at 8:00PM EST

Webinar #4 –  
 Monday, March 9, 2009 at 9:00PM EST

Please consider logging into (both audio and visual) or just audio portion of the webinars. You can do this from the comfort of your home and even in your pjs. The value received will be immeasurable.

*Caroline Coscia,  
 BPW/USA Legislation Committee member*



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**SAVE THE DATE**

Do you want to be part of the change happening in Washington, DC? Do you want equal pay for equal work? Do you need time off to take care of a sick child or family member, but can't afford it? Do you want to have enough money when you retire?

**Then BPW/USA's Policy and Action Day 2009 is for you!** Join with hundreds of other BPW/USA members and working women advocates just like you to lobby and learn in the nation's capitol.

**When:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009  
 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Where:** AARP Brickfield Center  
 601 E Street NW,  
 Washington, DC

**Schedule:**  
 8:30AM - 12:30PM  
 Policy Update and Lobby Training at AARP  
 1:00PM - 5:00PM  
 Meet With Your Representatives and  
 Senators on Capital Hill  
 6:00PM  
 BPW/PAC Congressional Cocktail Reception  
 (optional, additional fee)

**Registration:**  
 \$250 Members/\$275 Non-Members/\$50 Students

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and transportation to Capitol Hill and the four pre-lobby day policy webinars described on the left.

Go to **www.bpw.org** for registration and hotel information.

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

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## THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE IN ACTION

State Electors Met December 15th

The first Monday after the second Wednesday in December is the day each state's electors must meet to vote for President and Vice President of the United States. Yes, on November 4th we all watched television and were informed who received the necessary 270 votes. According to our Constitution, the actual counting of electoral votes takes place on Monday, December 15th and not by television anchors on election day.

Massachusetts is one of a few states with a formal ceremony where each of our twelve electors (men in tuxedos and the four women in long gowns) publicly stands and announces his/her vote. I was very lucky to attend the ceremony and be one of a few persons to sit in the House of Representatives gallery. Actually I and a colleague took fifteen of our freshmen American Government Class students to the ceremony. We began the quest to attend immediately after November 4th and were able to secure seats. We were seated front and center in the gallery. I think I was more excited than the students!!!

The 3PM ceremony began with Secretary of State William Galvin calling the College to order. The twelve electors then marched into the House of Representatives followed by Governor Patrick. Governor Patrick provided brief remarks and then the College went about its business. Among the twelve electors they voted for a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Doorkeeper and Parliamentarian. I felt like I was at a BPW meeting with all the nominating and electing going on.

At 4PM the College got down to business. Each elector voted by paper ballot and also stood to announce their vote. All twelve voted for Barak Obama and Joe Biden. The whole House erupted in applause when the vote tally was announced. We had no faithless electors!!

What's next for our state's twelve votes? The vote tally was certified by Secretary of State Galvin and then transmitted to the President of the US Senate to be opened on January 6, 2009 in front of both houses of Congress. The electoral votes are then counted and the candidate with a majority, 270 votes out of 538, is declared President of the United States.

## BPW FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT STATUS

The BPW/USA Finance Committee encourages all members to support the Vote for BPW/USA's Future Resolution by fundraising or making a monetary contribution to the Challenge Grant. In honor of our 90th Anniversary in 2009, you can help support BPW/USA by making a contribution of \$20.09.

By meeting the Challenge Grant of \$100,000, BPW/USA will be in a much better position to approach and secure additional funding from other Foundations, organizations and corporations. Support BPW/USA, secure the future of our organization and honor the 90th Anniversary of the leading advocate for working women...BPW/USA!

As of December 31, 2008 more than \$53,000 had been raised towards this goal.

Contributions can be made online or by sending your check to BPW/USA, c/o Wachovia Bank, PO Box 75278, Baltimore, MD 21275. Make your contribution today.



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*(continued from column 1)*

What it meant to be at the ceremony? As a political scientist I was out of control. This was an opportunity of a lifetime to be there and to see our unique method of electing our president in action. To me the pomp and circumstance ceremony is one of the few rites our nation has and to be there to see it left me agog. I highly recommend the ceremony in December 2012.

Caroline Coscia,  
BPW/MA Past President



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