

Connections

Events Calendar

APRIL

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS
MONTH

APRIL 10, 2021

BPW IOWA SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING VIA ZOOM

APRIL 22, 2021

NATIONAL EARTH DAY

MAY

MAY 9, 2021

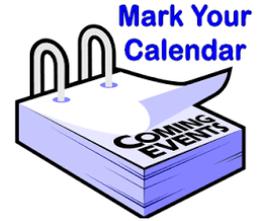
MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 15, 2021

BPW IOWA ANNUAL MEETING
VIA ZOOM

BPW Iowa Annual Meeting

May 15th, 2021



Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend our BPW Iowa Annual Meeting via Zoom on **Saturday morning, May 15, 2021**. The agenda is not fully established, but we will begin at **9 AM** and adjourn no later than 12:30 PM so you may plan other activities for the rest of your weekend.

We have important business to conduct at this meeting:

- Restated Articles of Incorporation are needed to comply with Iowa Code (Iowa Nonprofit Corporation Act). The new Articles of Incorporation and a complete revision of our Bylaws are to be adopted at this meeting.
- Adoption of the 2021-2022 Strategic Plan, Legislative Platform and Budget.
- Election of Officers for 2021-2022
- Iowa BPW Foundation Scholarship winners announced
- TRAILBLAZ-HER Award to be presented

Virtual meetings are not ideal, but it is a way to safely connect and conduct the business of BPW Iowa. Hopefully, we will all come together for a face-to-face meeting in the fall.

Watch your email for the Annual Meeting registration info and the meeting agenda. Emails will be sent from BPW Iowa's Constant Contact email service. (Please be sure BPW Iowa is on your email "safe sender list" to keep the messages from landing in your SPAM/Junk folders.)

We are at a critical point of survival for BPW Iowa! Our membership has steadily declined since the onset of the pandemic. We need each of you to fully participate in BPW and work together to set our organization back on track. Spread the word about BPW and share what membership has meant for you. Ask someone to join. We can do this!

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- BPW Iowa Annual Meeting
- Iowa BPW Foundation Scholarships
- Equal Pay Day
- Legislation Report – VAWA & ERA
- BPW Iowa Needs You
- Looking for Volunteers
- Support Women Owned Business
- From the desk of Dr Celina Peerman

Cathy Hines
BPW Iowa President



bpwiowapresident@gmail.com

Iowa BPW Foundation



The Iowa Business and Professional Women’s Foundation is accepting applications for educational scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year until April 12, 2021.

Applications are available at <https://www.bpw-iowa.org/bpw-iowa-foundation-scholarship>. The documents may be mailed or emailed to Charla Schmid, Iowa BPW foundation Educational Scholarship Program, 1890 215th Street, Red Oak, IA 5156-6013, charla_schmid@hotmail.com.

The Scholarship Committee will review all applications and will award three \$1,000 scholarships on Saturday, May 15, 2021.

The foundation committee is asking that all BPW Members please encourage the scholarship opportunity in your community. Do you have a community college you could contact? Is there a person you know who has decided to take the step and go back to school?

You are important to the success of the foundation and we need your help to spread the word! Thank you for your continued support.

Iowa BPW Foundation Scholarship Committee:
Charla Schmid, Chair
Sue Muri, Atlantic
DiAnne Lerud-Chubb, Burlington
Aurelia Klink, Cedar Falls

EQUAL PAY DAY

Did you hear BPW Iowa’s President Cathy Hines’ interview on WHO radio for International Women’s Day? Cathy did a great job and mentioned Equal Pay Day - the day that women catch up to most men’s earnings last year.

Women need to wear red on Equal Pay Day to represent being financially in a bookkeeper’s red column, or without funds in other words.

This year Equal Pay Day fell on March 24th, slightly earlier than usual. This means we gained a few cents on the men! Women now earn 82 cents for each \$1 that men earn, up from 79 cents, although minority women earn lesser amounts. NY Times newspaper reports the pay gap has shrunk just 8 cents in 25 years!

Here is some serious food for thought. The average pay of CEOs of the top 350 firms in the USA was \$21.3 MILLION in 2019. How long does it take anyone making minimum wage to earn the same? The answer.... 40 hours a week.... 52 weeks a year.... 50 years of employment.... would require over 13 LIFETIMES, IF MINIMUM WAGE IS RAISED TO \$15 AN HOUR! *(info from DM Register 3/26/21)*

Cindy Paulsen
Women’s Issues

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

BPW Iowa’s virtual annual conference will be held via Zoom on Saturday, May 15, 2021. Details coming soon.

LEGISLATION REPORT



Connections

BPW IOWA NEEDS YOU!

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The US House of Representatives was busy during Women's History Month (March) and passed this important bill for women.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was originally authored by then Senator Biden in 1994 and signed into law by President Clinton, providing funding and protection to help women suffering from domestic violence, sexual assault, etc. However, the funds have long run out and the law needs to be reauthorized. Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (HR 1620) has passed the House with bipartisan support and waits for US Senate to vote. VAWA has changed the way we respond to violence against women, which 1 in 3 women will experience. The current HR1620 bill has expanded to include boyfriends, live in partners, and even dating partners, prohibiting them from owning guns if convicted of domestic violence, prompting NRA to oppose this bill.

ERA

The US House also voted to remove deadline for ratification of ERA, (HJ Res 17), scheduled to expire first in 1972, then extended to 1982. Now that the 38th state has ratified ERA, that state being Virginia in 2020, there is still question about becoming the 28th Constitutional Amendment!

Five states have rescinded their ratifications, since that 1982 deadline is long past. Also, legal procedures are in the way. The Dept of Justice said one way is to start over and reintroduce as a new piece of legislation, pass the House and Senate again, then voted by at least 38 states – again! Seems the Archivist of the United States is also dragging their feet and refusing to file records as the Constitution explicitly requires, thus prompting more lawsuits.

We are so close, and yet so far away!

Cindy Paulsen
Women's Issues

We are still seeking state officer candidates for the 2021 – 2022 organizational year. The term of office is 1 year. Candidates will be announced in the May newsletter. Elections will be held during our virtual Annual Meeting, May 15, 2021.

To volunteer yourself or nominate another member (with their consent), please contact Judy Herman, Nominations committee, at judyherman802@gmail.com or 319 234-5900.



Looking for volunteers...

to self-record a 30-60 second video as part of a membership campaign. Are you willing to record a statement about why you joined BPW or how you have benefited from BPW membership? We hope to feature a diverse group of BPW women in this Facebook promotion.

Contact Cathy Hines at cathyh2032@msn.com

From the desk of Dr Celina Peerman...

NOT ENOUGH: In this podcast episode Celina examines why modeling best practices and great leadership is not alone, enough. As leaders and professionals, we need to teach other, walk with others on their journey, give feedback and support their learning. Watching people do things is powerful, yet not enough to create the lasting legacy of excellence we want for each other.

A new WORKPLACE CHAMELEON podcast is available at: <https://www.workplacechameleon.com/episodes/episode-13-not-enough> Or wherever you listen to podcasts (iTunes, Pandora, Spotify or search your outlet for The Workplace Chameleon.) This episode is approximately 20 minutes in length. There is no charge to access these recorded podcasts.



SUPPORT WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS!

The pandemic's job losses hit women especially hard. In 2020, women lost nearly 6 million jobs (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Women are finding they are doing many jobs: their paid employment, housework, care and education of children, etc. They are struggling. Something must change.

For some women, entrepreneurship, e.g., setting up their own business, has become the best option. Women are making cupcakes & candles, doing consulting, selling products online, offering delivery services, etc.

What can BPW do to support existing Women Owned Businesses or new business startups? We can begin by buying whatever product we need (or want) from a woman-owned business and/or securing services from women-owned businesses.

The BPW Iowa Leadership team is also considering launching a mentoring program for women starting up their own business. Secretary, Lyn Tackett has volunteered to be a part of this effort. Are you interested in being a mentor for women in your community? If so, contact Lyn Tackett genesis.studio.spa@gmail.com or Cathy Hines cathyh2032@msn.com