

Connections

Events Calendar

AUGUST 26, 2020
WOMEN'S EQUITY DAY

AUGUST 29, 2020
9 AM – 11:30 AM
BPW IOWA VIRTUAL CONF
Via ZOOM

SEPTEMBER 7, 2020
LABOR DAY



WE HAVE LOST SO MUCH DURING THE PANDEMIC, BUT NOT BPW!

Human lives, our sense of safety, and many direct human interactions have disappeared, but our BPW sisterhood remains strong. We have a bond that, like the dragonfly, can and will endure.

Most interactions are virtual now. It seems Zoom is the tenuous glue holding us together. Zoom is no substitute for sharing the same room, the same space, but it will allow us to “come together” and renew our commitment to one another and the mission of BPW Iowa.

Join us **Saturday, August 29, 2020 — 9 AM to 11:30 AM** for our 1st **Virtual Annual Meeting via Zoom**. This meeting will be primarily a business session to adopt the strategic plan, legislative platform, bylaws changes, and to elect officers. Information relative to all these items was published in the last issue of Connections.

Many members are new to Zoom technology. It's really fairly easy to use, but I think it might be worthwhile to have a dry run or practice session prior to our important August 29th meeting. A practice session will allow you to make the connection to the Zoom platform and test your audio and video equipment. **Watch your email for an invitation to join a practice session.** We'll also take advantage of our short time together to engage in a popcorn round activity to “break the ice”.

In these challenging times, your BPW Iowa leadership team is here to help you adapt so that we can keep supporting one another and carry out our BPW Iowa mission. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have suggestions or questions.

Cathy Hines

BPW Iowa President

cathyh2032@msn.com

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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— Celina Peerman, Ph.D.

*“We are all equal in
the fact that we are
all different.”*

— C. Joybell C.

Impact of COVID-19 on BPW Iowa Membership Goals

BPW Iowa's Executive Committee started off the 2019 - 2020 organization year with a plan in place to promote BPW Iowa, retain and increase membership and boost member engagement. Then, the pandemic hit and de-railed plans.

I'm happy to report that a small group of women, led by Jacque McCoy, is still working through the process of chartering a new Muscatine BPW local organization. Rose Lorenz serves as the liaison to the Muscatine group. Rose reports that although the virus has disrupted their plans and changed the timeline, they are still working to complete the process this fall.

On the downside, our Waverly local organization has voted to disband. We are sorry to lose their chapter. I'm happy to say that at least a couple of the former Waverly members have decided to continue their association as At Large members.

The challenge is how do we promote our organization in the age of COVID-19? Especially when so many are concerned about their well-being, their families, the economy, and for some, losing their job or finding a new one.

There's a desire to connect now more than ever. We will need to rely heavily on social media and virtual experiences. At the heart of any organization is community, and what matters most is connecting like-minded individuals around a passion for developing and empowering women.

I encourage you to think of creative ways to bring new members into our organization. *Collectively we are better together!*

Cathy Hines
BPW Iowa President
cathyh2032@msn.com



BPW Membership

*Note from Registration
Chair, Jacque Wickey*

Greetings to all BPW sisters
across Iowa,

I sure would love to be seeing and
receiving your registrations in
person, but at least we have ways
to stay safe and connected as we
filter through this COVID 19.

This Zoom will definitely be new
to me. I am technologically
impaired. BUT thanks to some of
my best friends and BPW sisters,
who will help me figure this out,
we will be in touch later in
August.

I hope and pray all are well and
look forward to being in touch
with you for our meeting.

Jacque

Welcome New Members

Atlantic
Kayla Mauk
Kaymauk15@gmail.com

Waterloo
Claire Anniss
claireanniss@gmail.com

HARD WON – NOT DONE! AUGUST 26, 2020

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment giving women the constitutional right to vote, our theme is HARD WON – NOT DONE!

Even with this advancement, not all women were actually allowed to vote in 1920. Native American women couldn't vote until 1924, Chinese American in 1943, Asian American in 1952, and Black American women in 1965!

It is an exciting chapter of American history, filled with "badly behaving" women, who actually DID make history! As John Lewis, recently deceased civil rights leader, would say, "making good trouble!" We also celebrate men's support for women's rights and thousands of men who supported equal suffrage.

The first Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, NY, on July 19 – 20, 1848. It took 72 years of blood, sweat and tears, literally, to get WOMEN'S right to vote guaranteed in the US Constitution.

"Voting is the most basic right of a citizen. The most fundamental right and obligation is to participate in choosing the people who will make the laws of our country," — Ruth Bader Ginsburg, US Supreme Court.

Next, is passing the ERA! The Equal Rights Amendment would guarantee equal legal rights, regardless of sex, ending distinction between men and women in matters of divorce, property, employment, etc.

Yes, the vote was HARD WON, but we are NOT DONE yet!

Cindy Paulsen
Women's Issues



IOWA BPW PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES



Hi Everyone,

The proposed Bylaws changes were published in the July special edition newsletter. I hope you take the time to review them so that you are prepared to vote on these important changes.

I am looking forward to our new virtual Zoom Meeting. We all will be learning something new and interesting.

See you August 29th, 2020.

Janet Freytag
Bylaws Chair

BPW Iowa Website Resources

There are a number of seldom used resources available for members at www.bpw-iowa.org. Go to the Membership tab and click on 'Members Only'. Login using your email address and password.

You'll find a member's directory, local officer's contact info, Federation Manual, document library, etc.

Questions? Contact Cathy Hines at cathyh2032@msn.com.



The fall BPW Iowa personal and professional **Webinar** is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6 at 5:40 PM**. Details coming soon!

Vice President Nominations Needed!!



Unfortunately, the Vice President position is still vacant for the 2020 - 2021 term, initially we had two members lined up to run for Vice President but with the COVID-19 pandemic hitting this year, their situations have changed. One candidate lost her job due to the pandemic so her focus now is to find a new job and the other candidate had a conflict with the time of our delayed annual conference. With that being said, we are still looking to fill the Vice President position for 2020 - 2021.

We will get through this pandemic, we may need to adjust how we do things but, BPW Iowa will survive. Please consider yourself for Vice President, share your ideas and help lead BPW Iowa's membership. Make a positive impact for all women! We need your insight, your perspective, and your skill set. We need you and your fresh ideas.

Sometimes we say "no" because we feel we are not qualified or we are too busy. I know lives are busy, please say yes, volunteer and give back, at the same time you will grow personally and professionally.

Will you be a part of BPW-IA leadership team? Volunteer yourself or nominate another member (with their consent) to work with the executive team as the Vice President for the 2020 -2021 term.

Please contact Lynette Fitzgerald, Nominations Chair, 319-415-6779 or fitzgeraldlynette62@gmail.com.

We must choose to act, if we do nothing then nothing changes, things at rest tend to remain at rest...the only cure for inactivity is action.

Lynette

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do it with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style." — Maya Angelou

IOWA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Hall of Fame inductees:

Betty Jean Dillavou Durden (posthumous): A founder of the ICSW, lifetime member of the AAUW, World War II WAVES veteran, author, mother, mentor & educator.

V. Ann Fry Jorgensen, Garrison: Agricultural trailblazer and pioneer; leader in business, government & education. An entrepreneur, author and public speaker, Jorgensen served two U.S. presidential appointments.

Helen Naomi Miller, Fort Dodge/Des Moines: A former Iowa State Representative for the Fort Dodge area. Miller has leadership experience as an attorney, legislator, volunteer, arts educator and nonprofit organizations' executive director.

Mary Elizabeth Young Bear, Tama: Born with the Meskwaki name of Bo na bi go, her contributions as an artist, educator, cultural historian, political activist, humanitarian, community leader & mentor, serve to inspire & empower those around her, especially young women and girls.

MAIL IN FRAUD: FICTION OR FACT?

After visiting with Mahaska County Auditor Sue Brown, I feel very confident about few problems with Iowa mail in voting. Sue couldn't speak for other states but assured me that Iowa has various means to check and cross check all requests for mail in ballots, to verify registration lists, and the availability to track your absentee ballot.

Did you know 5 other states do all voting by mail? Oregon, Wash, Colorado, Utah and Hawaii have only mail in voting!

Some Iowa voters are uncomfortable with filing a request on a postcard, leaving info open on backside for anyone to read. However, only postal employees and auditor office employees will be handling your request. Sue Brown mentioned that some requests were folded over and taped securely, some were sealed in an envelope, and some remained open; voters are permitted to do request form returns in any of these ways. Absentee requests will be mailed to all Iowans registered to vote, after special permission was granted by an election board in this COVID 19 year.

Request forms will include last 4 digits of social security or all of driver's license number, birthdate, address, signature. Besides checking all this info for fraud, the auditor's office will also check on Dept of Health list of deceased Iowans, which is updated every month, and check on the I Voter list, a statewide system of all voter's names, used since 2006! If a duplicate request comes, the auditor will staple it to the original request so no one can fill it again. Voters can track an absentee ballot at www.sos.iowa.gov.

After our meeting, I felt confident in using absentee voting, and encourage anyone who is interested in trying this method.

"The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy."

— John Lewis, Feb 21, 1940 – July 17, 2020

Cindy Paulsen
Legislation



Women's Equality Trivia Contest

Women's Equality Day is on August 26th, a day to commemorate the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote. Let's celebrate this important day with a trivia contest.

1. *In what year did women get the right to vote?*
2. *Where did the term "suffrage" come from?*
3. *Who said, "failure is impossible"?*
4. *What are the 3 famous colors of the U.S. suffrage movement?*
5. *What was the first country that granted women the right to vote?*
6. *Who is the highest-ranking elected woman in U.S. history?*
7. *Who was the first woman seated on the U.S. Supreme Court?*
8. *What was the slogan on the newspaper that Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton started?*
9. *What was the name of the newspaper mentioned in question 8?*
10. *Who was the first woman elected to the United States Senate?*
11. *Who was the first woman to be U.S. Secretary of State?*
12. *Who was the first woman pictured on a US coin in circulation?*
13. *Which state was the first to make it legal for women to vote in the national election?*
14. *Who was the first woman to run for President?*

The first 3 members to **email the correct answers** to Cathy Hines at cathyh2032@msn.com will receive a **"Women Win the Vote"** poster.

Trivia answers and winners' names will be published in the September newsletter.

Good Luck!



THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP

Do you remember playing follow the leader as a child? The game where one “leader” would pick the actions and everyone else “in line” behind the leader would mimic the movement or sound?

I recently found myself reflecting on what I learned about leadership and how that came to be. Many of us likely remember people we watched and learned from. I laughed a little as I recalled playing the “Follow the Leader” game. Oh, it was so simple — think it up, make a decision, execute the action/movement, and everyone else would follow. While a fun activity at age 4, not quite the same as adults.

Leadership is not new and has been a critical part of the human experience. To do it well, weighs on us and pulls at us in all sorts of uncomfortable directions. When we want to make a positive impact and do it well for the benefit of others, it feels even heavier because we understand the importance of that responsibility.

What do you remember about being called to lead? Leading a group in school, leading a group at work, or leading a committee, project, process in your committee or home. We see people in all sorts of titled formal leadership roles today, yet we also know that many people serve as leaders without the recognition, title, or appointed responsibility.

Leadership is hard and it was hard before 2020. Yet with all of the discontent and outright anger in many places right now about effective and ineffective leadership, what a leader does or does not do, I want to use this moment to encourage all of us to reflect a bit.

Think back to a moment when someone had a positive and profound impact on the way you saw leadership in action. Or a time when a leader gave you a push, feedback, or the encouragement you needed to make it through a situation or time in your life.

Leadership still matters and we need each of you leading from where you are. We’ve talked in the past about the importance of serving and saying “yes” to leadership – BPW needs you, our communities need you, our workplaces need you. Looking ahead, this is even more important than ever.

Consider for a few minutes the future of leadership. What will it take in the coming months and years to guide us through? I’m drawn to a publication from the INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE (www.iftf.org) over 7 years ago, that called for us to lead effectively for the next 10 years and sited these critical skills for leaders. From author Bob Johansen, the following qualities were predicted for NOW, right now, in order to be ready now and lead us to what is next. What do you think?

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- **Practice Maker Instinct** – Find ways to grow things and connect with others in the making. Be prepared to make and remake teams and organizations.
- **Clarity** – Be persistent to see through messes and contradictions to a future that others cannot see yet. As leaders we need to be clear on where we are going yet flexible in how we get there.
- **Dilemma Flipping** – Frame dilemmas and find new ways to sort through the mess to sort through options.
- **Immersive Learning** – Immerse yourself in unfamiliar environments and learn from them in a first-person way.
- **Bio-empathy** – Learn to see things as nature does – through patterns we can understand, respect and gain new insight from them.
- **Constructive Depolarizing** – Seek to calm tense situations where differences dominate, and communication has broken down to bring people from divergent cultures toward positive engagement.
- **Quiet Transparency** – Be open and authentic about matters – without being overly self-promoting.
- **Rapid Prototyping** – Create quick early versions of ideas knowing that early failures are required for learning and ultimate success.
- **Smart Mob Organizing** – Engage with and nurture purposeful business or social change networks through the use of electronic media and in-person communication.
- **Commons Creating** – Seed, nurture, and grow shared assets that benefit all players and allow competition at a higher level.

Which one speaks the most to you? Can you see the affect each of these could have in the world right now?

Even if you are not sure what comes next, thank you for all you are doing to lead in this moment. Keep digging into the best parts of you to make a positive impact for others – stepping in maybe when others are hesitant. There are amazing opportunities right now. Thanks for continuing to take on the challenge!

To being humble, brave and tenacious!

Celina

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