

**The Florida Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.
Presidential Wrap Up for 2009**

July 2009

Business Professional Women/USA merged with Business Professional Women's Foundation effective July 1, 2009.

July 31 – August 1 Members Sue Banks, Jo Ann Orr, and Venita Garvin Valdez traveled to St. Louis Missouri to celebrate the 90th year anniversary of Business and Professional Women USA. Close to 200 BPW members were in attendance with a representation of 28 state federations.

August 2009

BPW/FL Members, Dr. Sheila Barry-Oliver and Venita Garvin Valdez traveled to Washington, DC for a two day board retreat with the BPW Foundation. Dr. Barry-Oliver a former chair of BPW Foundation was elected to serve again as a National Board of Trustee, appointed to chair the Research and Education Committee and appointed as a committee member of the governance committee. Garvin Valdez elected to the BPW Foundation Board of Trustees July 1 was voted to serve as Secretary of BPW Foundation, appointed Chair of the Development Committee, and appointed as a committee member of the governance committee.



September 2009

The Moving BPW Florida Forward Task Force met in September to review progress to date since the task force was assembled in March 2009. The areas of focus for the task force have been membership, finance and governance. It was agreed that continuous examination in these areas was required as BPW Florida moves forward now that BPW/USA and BPW Foundation has merged. One of the primary concerns is keeping the BPW Florida membership at large informed on changes and improvements as they occur. It was agreed that the use of a variety of communication methods will have to be utilized. Also examination took place of the results of the bylaws survey that was conducted and identification of areas of the bylaws that will require attention in the coming year. The areas of focus included BPW Florida web site, communication of technology information to local organizations using the BPW Florida web site, membership processing, and review and updating the content of various signature programs bringing them under the Leadership Institute umbrella in order to keep the content of the programs current. Thanks to Bobbie Jean Williams, Chair of the Moving BPW Florida Forward Task Force and BPW member of Tampa Bay for her leadership in chairing this committee and host of BPW members throughout the state that are serving on this committee!

A special called meeting was held September 19, 2009 of the BPW Florida membership to vote on if BPW/Florida would sign the licensing agreement with BPW Foundation. BPW/FL voted favorably to sign the licensing agreement with BPW Foundation. BPW Florida President, Venita Garvin Valdez signed the licensing agreement during the special called meeting.



October 2009

Sixty BPW Florida members and guests climbed the mountain of Mt. Dora, Florida. BPW/Florida Fall Conference 2009 was held in Mount Dora, Florida hosted by North Lake, South Lake and Orlando BPW local organizations. Thanks to Conference Chairs, Shirley Grantham and Nancy Hurlbert and host of committee members for a job well done on the conference. Special items addressed during Fall Conference, approval of budget amendment for the state budget 2009-2010 and bylaw revisions.

The Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida presented BPW Florida a proclamation recognizing the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The proclamation was presented to BPW Florida President Venita Garvin Valdez from Nancy Hurlbert, Past State President of BPW Florida and Fall Conference 2009 Co-Conference Chair during opening ceremony at Fall Conference 2009.

A committee of BPW Florida members assembled to begin to redesign the BPW signature programs of Individual Development, Young Careerist, and Women in Transition.

November 2009

Ground breaking ceremony conducted on November 20 for the new scholarship house being built on St. Pete College in St. Petersburg, Florida. Congratulations to the BPW Florida Education Foundation Board of Directors for continuously raising funding to meet the housing needs of women as women pursue their educational endeavors! You can view the video of the ceremony at www.bpwfl.org under the Education Foundation section.

At the conclusion of the month of November, BPW Florida has 478 members. BPW Florida Membership Chair, Reda Williams has experienced receiving 17 contacts from persons interested in BPW Florida via the BPW web site since July 2009 and two additional contacts via word of mouth. Reda continues to put time and resources in her efforts in getting a BPW local organization in place in Jacksonville, Florida. Reda has been working with the local Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and Jacksonville Business Women's Center in her efforts to launch BPW Jacksonville. Reda attended a Women's Business Owner Summit in Jacksonville where she was positioned to market BPW Florida to over 150 women business owners in attendance. Reda is now working with Dr. Webb at the University of North Florida (UNF) on possible membership and meeting opportunities at UNF.

Dr. Sheila Barry-Oliver and Venita Garvin Valdez participated in a two day strategic planning session with BPW Foundation. Four areas of focus for BPW Foundation are Successful Workplaces, Green/Sustainability, Women Vets, and Young Careerist. To learn more about the four focus issues visit the BPW Foundation web site at www.bpwfoundation.org.

December 2009

BPW/FL President authorized to sign contractual agreement with GrantsPro grant consultant, John Morrill for ninety days. BPW/FL President will work with Morrill to begin to identify grant opportunities for BPW/FL that will support BPW/FL’s operations, signature programs, technology needs and infrastructure for capacity building.



Important information for navigating through BPW Florida in 2010

January 2010

January 15 Glass Ceiling Award Nominations are due to Carole J. Tolomeo, 3150 Holiday Springs Blvd., Building 8, # 111, Margate, Florida 33063.

January 15 BPW/FL Candidate for State Officers forms will be released to LO Presidents and via email blast to the entire membership. Those desiring to run for state office must complete the candidate data forms and return back to Cynthia Howard by March 15, 2010. All candidates running for state office must have the endorsement of their local organization and copy of the minutes which clearly states the local organizations endorsement of the candidate. Contact Cynthia Howard, Nominations Chair at cshoward1@verizon.net or snail mail candidate forms to: Cynthia Howard, P.O. Box 185, Tallevast, Florida 34270.

January 15 Any revisions and or recommendations you as a member might have for consideration for the BPW Florida State Bylaws or Handbook, please forward those recommendations in writing to Esther Bird, First Vice President at brightfuturecoaching@verizon.net.

February 2010

Go Red Day for healthy hearts!



Black History Month



February 6 Camp BPW Florida Follow up/Leadership Day at the Clarion Inn and Conference Center, Altamonte Springs, Florida from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Teen girls ages 12-16 are welcomed to attend free of charge. Contact Venita Garvin Valdez at venitagv@aol.com for registration information. There are slots for twenty girls to participate.

BPW Florida Lobby Days in Tallahassee scheduled for February 16 and 17, 2010. For more information, contact Nancy Hurlbert, BPW/FL Public Policy Chair at tnhurlbert@aol.com.

March 2010

Business and Professional Women's Foundation Policy & Action Day will be held on March 2, 2010 in Washington, DC. Online registration at www.bpwfoundation.org. At the time of this report, Past State Presidents, Nancy Hurlbert, Sue Banks, Carole Tolomeo and current BPW/FL President Venita Garvin Valdez have plans to attend.

Women's History Month

Hispanic Heritage Month



March 15 BPW/FL State Officer Candidate Data Forms due to Cynthia Howard, Nominations Chair.

April 2010

April 17 Spring Training Conference, formerly known as Issues Management, will be held at the Clarion Inn and Conference Center, Altamonte Springs, Florida for more information, visit www.bpwfl.org and click on events or contact President-Elect, Sue Banks at sabanks@earthlink.net.

April 19 Equal Pay Day



May 2010

BPW/FL State Award submissions due. Review awards criteria listing with due dates at www.bpwfl.org or contact Esther Bird, First Vice President with any questions at brightfuturecoaching@verizon.net.

The Weaving The Stands Award submissions due May 15, 2010. First report of progress due February 20, 2010 to Venita Garvin Valdez at venitagv@aol.com. Snail mail report, please send to PO Box 522744, Marathon Shores, FL 33052. Two \$250.00 monetary awards will be available to the local organizations that weave the entire platform of public policy issues of economic equity, health care, and domestic violence. A minimum of one ERA event or educational program on the Equal Rights Amendment must be conducted to complete the platform and satisfy all requirements for consideration of the Weaving the Strands Award.

State Conference 2010 is scheduled for May 21 – 23, 2010 at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport, West Palm Beach, Florida. The cost per hotel night is \$99.00 plus tax. The hotel is prepared to take your reservation at 1-800-HIL-TONS or direct line to hotel at 561-684-9400. For more information visit www.bpwfl.org and click on "Events." Conference Chair, Peggy Sutton can be contacted at choresgalore@worldnet.att.net or 561-748-3127. Full conference promotion to include information on workshops, activities and conference program will be released February 1, 2010.

