

BEACON POINTS

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: To achieve equity for all women in the work place through advocacy, education and information



August, 2016 Volume 17 #2

BPW related websites:

www.greensburgbpw.com

www.bpwpad3.org

www.bpwpa.org

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In the Beacon:

This year our interviewees for “In the Beacon” will respond to questions based on our theme for this year, “An ERA with a Stellar Future.”

Our first interviewee is our current BPW/PA President Susan Valdika.

Susan, your theme for this year is "an ERA with a Stellar Future". How did you come up with this theme and what significance does it hold for you?

Thank you for asking Cathy...that's a great question! I have always been interested in the E.R.A. ever since I was a freshman in college. I wrote my very first research paper on the E.R.A. That was back in 1979. I have also always been interested in history and its lessons. To me, this seemed like the perfect opportunity to unite the two topics. ERA is an historical word for a time in history...the E.R.A. is something that will make history once it is ratified, so ERA has two meanings...there is a very rich, history associated with the E.R.A. movement that we can learn from as we move forward and up with the BPW star...E.R.A ratification!

How do you envision our Districts and Locals putting your theme into action?

I look forward to members' imaginative ideas using the E.R.A. theme! This is an educational advocacy theme so it is my hope that our Locals and Districts use the opportunity to learn more about the E.R.A. and what they can do in their communities to get people to become aware of the need for an E.R.A. to our Constitution.

This Month's Meeting:

We will not be formally meeting this month.



Our August 10th meeting will be our annual Fun Party. This year we will be attending the play at St. Vincent Theater titled “The Odd Couple” President Shirley Wolinsky will be in charge of reservations for the play. The cost will be \$20 and you may make your checks payable to Greensburg BPW. Please arrive at the Theater at 7:30.

As of now, due to a scheduling conflict, our meetings will be held as follows: September and October - The Boulevard and November – Kings Restaurant. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

We will use a standing reservation, so if you are not attending please notify Susan Reimer.

If you are not on the standing reservation list, you will need to let Shirley know that you will be attending the meeting that month. Please, feel free to invite a friend, acquaintance or co-worker to a meeting.

You have also chosen Alzheimer's as a State Project. Why have you selected this as a project?

I can offer a few reasons for my choice of Alzheimer's. First, and most importantly, Alzheimer's is a disease that strikes more women than men. As an organization of women, this is especially important to us. Two-thirds (2/3) of Americans with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, are women. There are an estimated 280,000 individuals with Alzheimer's disease in Pennsylvania. Sixty-five (65%) of caregivers, of those diagnosed, are women. In addition, research is needed to study this disease in more depth and I am hopeful that our BPW/PA can help by raising awareness and funds for the Alzheimer's Association to continue the research that will help find a cure for this deadly disease.

You have now been our state president for a month. What goals would you like to accomplish this year?

I would like to: see our membership grow by 10% this year; facilitate communication between and among all levels of BPW (state, district, local); facilitate the implementation of the work completed by the Membership Marketing Taskforce; help raise awareness and donations for the Alzheimer's Association and help raise awareness and advocacy for the E.R.A. and the need for this amendment to our Constitution. The state theme and the Special Project will be great incentives to get new members involved and for everyone to have fun with programming initiatives and fundraising. Finally, I am looking forward to two productive board meetings, an educational and fun convention for our members and visiting as many of the Districts, Locals and members as I can in 2016-2017.

Susan, thank you for taking the time out of your schedule to answer these questions. I am sure that our members will now have a better **understanding of your theme and what your vision is for this coming year.**

Note: Susan will conduct her first official meetings beginning Friday August 26 with her EC meeting and concluding with the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, August 27, 2016. I wonder if it is just coincidental that this weekend was chosen, as it just happens to be the anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

Recap from July's meeting:



(From left: Anita, Pat M., Shirley, Romaine, Karen, Julie, Pat W., Marilyn (standing) and Carol are just some of our members attending the annual July Picnic.)

Before our meeting began, Marilyn Tallant conducted the installation of officers and presented each one with a flower indicating a quality appropriate to that particular office. Installed in this order were: Marilyn Tallant as Parliamentarian with Karen Schmiech standing in for her. She received a purple flower representing tolerance; Cathy Caccia as Treasurer receiving a blue flower representing loyalty; Susan Reimer (standing in for her in her absence was Romaine Truxell) as Corresponding Secretary receiving a yellow flower representing vision; Patricia Wasnesky as Recording Secretary receiving a green flower representing understanding; Pat McKim as Vice President receiving a red flower representing courage and Shirley Wolinsky as President receiving a white flower representing wisdom and leadership.

Shirley called the meeting to order after the installation ceremony. One of the topics for discussion was the up-coming August Fun Party. If you still need as reservation please contact Shirley and Marilyn for tickets.

Shirley also led a discussion on possible programs for the year that included: Legislative issues and voting and a program on Alzheimer's. It is hoped that in September or October we will have someone from the League of Women Voters present a program on voting. We also discussed having someone from the Alzheimer's

Association come and talk to us about this dreadful and feared disease.

We also discussed preparing for the program on Alzheimer's by doing a "book club" and reading the book "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova. Still Alice is a novel about a 50 year old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's. The Book can be purchased through Amazon.com as a hardback, paper back or as an E-reader.

This novel was turned into a movie with the same title in 2014 and was released as a DVD in May of 2015.

Our June meeting was a picnic and if you are wondering about all the great food you missed here is a picture.



What you don't see in this picture is all delicious desserts, including Marilyn's famous blue berry stuff. We just couldn't put everything on one table.

Ladies, you asked for them so here are some of the recipes from our picnic splendor.

Chicken, Cranberry and Pecan Salad

Cathy Caccia-Purchased from Sam's Club

Anti-Pasta Salad-Romaine Truxel

From DeLallo's Italian Market (*they wouldn't share the receipe*)

Chicken Fingers-Pat McKim, Anita Gunkle and

Lisa Lenz-Walmart. Smart let them do the hard part.

Grape Salad-President Shirley Wolinsky

4 lbs dry seedless grapes
8 oz of cream cheese
8 oz of sour cream
2/3 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup white sugar
1/4 cup brown sugar
2 tsp of vanilla

Beat cream cheese, sour cream, white sugar and vanilla until blended. Add the grapes, 1/2 pecans, and 1/2 of the brown sugar. Refrigerate. Top with remaining brown sugar and pecans.

Corn Salad-Dawn Berkebile, Past Dist. Director

2 cans of corn
1 red onion chopped
1 green pepper chopped
2 cups grated cheddar cheese
1 cup mayonnaise

Stir together and just before serving add one bag chili cheese Fritos crunched up

Crock Pot Buffalo Chicken Dip-Pat Wasnesky

Using 1.5 qt. crock pot (or you can just use small pan on the stove over low heat)
One 10oz. can chunk chicken drained
3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
8 oz cream cheese
1/2 cup Ranch dressing
3/4 cup Red Hot Sauce(original recipe)
(*That would be very spicy. I only used only a few drops - you can add as much as you like.*)

Add all the ingredients to the crock pot. Turn on crock pot and stir every 10 minutes until cream cheese is melted and chicken is heated through. Serve with crackers or chips.

Other food items supplied were:

Orange Cake by Karen Schmeich, Fruit salads by Carol Adams and Julie Cawoski and Marilyn's blue berry stuff.

A New Page in Women's History:

In July, Hilary R. Clinton, became the first woman to be nominated for the office of President of the United States by a major political party.

However, Secretary Clinton is not the first woman candidate for President. There were actually five other women candidates for President.

These women were as follows:

Victoria Woodhull, *Equal Rights Party*, 1872, no official votes recorded. She ran 50 years before she had the right to vote. Her platform was: Universal Suffrage, Civil Rights, Political Reform and Social Welfare.

Gracie Allen, *the Surprise Party*, 1940, unknown if any votes were cast. Her platform was "Redwood trimmed with Nutty Pine." Since this was the Gracie of the George Burns and Gracie Allen fame it may not have been a serious candidacy.

Shirley Chisholm, the Democratic Party, 1972, received 152 delegates in the primary but did not win the party's nomination. Her Platform was Equal Rights and Economic Justice. Shirley Chisholm made history in 1968 when she was elected to Congress as the first African-American woman to do so.

Linda Jenness, the Socialist Workers Party, 1972, 83,380 votes in the general election. Her platform was Woman's Liberation and No More War in Vietnam. Jenness actually shared the nomination with another female candidate, Evelyn Reed, who ran in her place in states where Jenness did not qualify for the ballot due to her age.

Jill Stein, the Green Party, 2012, 469,015 votes in the general election. Her platform was Green Jobs and Environmental Protections. Stein, a physician specializing in Environmental Health, has had the most successful candidacy to date. Stein is also a presidential candidate in the 2016 elections.

So, actually, this year is very historical, in that we have two woman candidates for the office of President of the United States.

(The above information was obtained from an article from Time dated April 12, 2015 written by Erin Blakemore and found on line)

St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry:

Due to August being our Play Date, we will dispense with the collection for the Food Pantry this month. We will begin our collections again in August with Non-perishable food items.

Please bring your donation to the next meeting and Shirley Wolinsky, will ensure that they get to the food pantry at Our Lady of Grace Church.



August Birthdays:

Shirley Wolinsky 8/30



Happy Birthday to all

Dates to remember:



August 10, 2016-Fun Party, St Vincent Play,"the Odd Couple"

August 26-Women's Equality Day

August 26-27-BPWPA Summer BOD, the Penn

Stater Conference Center, 215 Innovation
 Blvd, State College
 September 14,-Greensburg BPW meeting
 October 1,- deadline for the Key
 October 6,-PA Conference for Women,
 Philadelphia PA
 October 12,-Greensburg BPW meeting
 October 16, - Ecumenical Event, St Clairsville
 OH
 October 17-22,- NBWW
 November – National Alzheimer's Disease
 Awareness Month
 November 1,- Deadline for PABPW Scholarship
 applications for Spring Semester
 November 8, -Election Day
 November 9,-Greensburg BPW meeting
**November 15,-Deadline LO Budgets to District
 Chair**
 December 14,-Greensburg BPW meeting
2017
 January 11,-Greensburg BPW meeting
**January 15,-Deadline for BPWPA candidate
 info to State Nominations Chair**
**January 15,-Deadline for District Finance
 Chair to have budgets to State Finance Chair**
**January 15,-Deadline for proposed BPWPA
 By-Laws Amendments to State By-Laws Chair**

August 26, Women's Equality Day-
 celebrates the 19th Amendment to the
 Constitution which gave us the right to
 vote.



