



WHAT'S HAPPENING? North America/Caribbean News

Spring 2011

It is hard to believe that International Congress and the end of my term will be here very soon. It has been a great honour for me to have held the office of Regional Coordinator for the past three years. My sincere thanks go to all of you who have welcomed me so warmly to your events and have given me so many special memories to share with our region during the past three years.

Since the last newsletter, I have been to New York for the executive board meetings, the Leadership Summit, the Commission on the Status of Women side events and then it was on to Jamaica for a very busy and well organized four day visit.

A special thank you is sent to St. Andrew, Jamaica who invited me to visit for their candle lighting ceremony in March. The visit was a chance for me to get to know the members of St. Andrew and Kingston clubs as well as many important people in their country. I have attached some pictures of this memorable time.

Many from our region, sixty at last count, will attend congress in Helsinki, Finland and are registered for the events. The events are detailed on the BPW International web site. You must register for the workshops as well. There is not charge for this but attendance numbers are needed. If you have questions or concerns about any of this, please contact me directly for assistance.

It has been an eventful three years for me. I hope to see many of you in Helsinki and I wish all of you the very best for the coming term.

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Regional Coordinator
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News from Canada



From the desk of Doris Hall, Sub-Regional Coordinator for the US, Canada and Bermuda.

The theme for BPW Canada over this biennium is *Yours, Mine, Ours to Create... Le vôtre, le mien, le nôtre à créer*. To support this theme, we are focusing on three areas:

- Membership growth and retention
- Streamline communication and to
- Establish a database of resolutions to assist with advocacy.

We are viewing membership from the members' perspective, looking at the experience of the BPW Member and prospective members and exploring how to can best support our clubs in growing and sustaining membership. To do this, we will be using social media and focused communication through the World Wide Web to build awareness about BPW and streamline communication. We have an efficient and current website which is the foundation for a sound communication and social media strategy. We are constantly working to enhance our BPW Canada Website and to support club websites across the country. We have set up BPW Canada accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Social media is the method of communication in the 21st century and we are working to keep pace with the trends.

We now have all our resolutions since inception in 1930 in a database which is easily accessible to all members and easy to search. The database is an excellent tool for looking up previous resolutions and for advocacy with the government.

This year, BPW Canada, working with the BPW International Equal Pay Committee, established Canada's *Equal Pay Date* for 2011 as March 18th. This is the date when women's pay reaches that of men. According to statistics, women work 420 days each year in order to make the same wage that a man earns in 365. That's 55 additional days worked per year. We have asked clubs to hold events during the month of March to increase awareness about equal pay. As well, we have a workshop, *You Are Worth It*, a self-learning workshop, which is available to all members and the public. It is a great tool for getting new members. The workshop features compensation pitfalls and tips on negotiating salary.

I hope to see many of you in Helsinki in June.

Doris Hall, President

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EPW-USA

Greetings from the USA! The time for our Congress in Helsinki is almost here. We are looking forward to seeing our friends from within the Region as well as all the members from around the world. There are many important and interesting issues for us to work during Congress, such as the proposed Constitution and the other documents being proposed. The agenda is full of interesting sessions, workshops, free lunch tours, etc. There are also decisions to make in the elections of candidates so please review these with your delegates prior to congress.

We hope to see some of you at the Dine-Around that will be hostessed by USA. We know there are many choices for that evening and appreciate the members and guests that will join us at the Restaurant Porssi Talo on Sunday, June 19th.

Best regards,
Bessie R. Hironimus
President, EPW-USA

Installation of the officers of BPW California at their State Convention



Left to right President Sandy Thompson, President Elect Linda Wilson, Vice President Marjory Hopper, Secretary Pat Long and Treasurer Lila Hines.

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Haiti

A BPW Canada member, Gerlinde Sarkar, who visited Haiti was invited to the home of Odette Roy Fumbrun



BPW Port au Prince executive members with Gerlinde Sarkar and friends.

Left to right Marie Andree Etienne, VP, Aline Savoie, Odette Roy Fumbrun, Marie Carmel Lafontant, President, Carol Beauharnais, Roma Newcombe, Nativita Jean-Louis, Secretary and Gerlinde Sarkar

Although they are an enthusiastic and active group, the club is not able to have their regular meetings because it is not safe to be out in the evening after dark. Communication is done by e-mail to arrange special meetings as necessary. This candle lighting ceremony was one such event which was attended by Gerlinde and her two friends Roma and Aline.

Members are very appreciative of the funds raised by BPW International. They are now working to set up a clinic and dispensary in Port au Prince.

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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES – OAS



BPW International members can now receive accreditation to attend meetings of the Organization of American States.

Kathleen Ray, EPW LaGrange/Chicago who is our North America Regional Representative to the OAS participated in a “Virtual Forum” held March 7 – 25, 2011.

The theme was “Women’s Leadership for a Citizens’ democracy”. Kathy reported that it was a valuable experience to hear comments by the various members over the eighteen days leading up to a panel discussion in April. The summit will provide a framework for the General Assembly to be held in Bolivia in June 2011 which Kathy is making plans to attend representing BPW International.

This relates to the International theme of equal participation by both women and men in decision making roles.

Thanks to Kathleen for all her interest and efforts on our behalf. For more information visit <http://svc.summit-americas.org>

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BERMUDA



International President Liz Benham joins Patty-Ann Flood and newly installed members of BPW Bermuda as they celebrate 35 years of BPW in style.

BPW Bermuda inducts 15 new members to the club as they celebrate their 35th Anniversary. These were the headlines in an article in Bermuda's Royal Gazette describing the gala banquet held in the ballroom of the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club. Mistress of ceremonies was Judith Morgan-Swan, second vice president of the club.



The International Candle lighting ceremony was celebrated. Pictured is youngest member, Tiffany Fairies lighting the candle for the future. §§§§§§§

JAMAICA



Our Courtesy Call to “Kings House”, the official residence of the Governor General of Jamaica, Sir Patrick Allen and tea with Lady Patricia Allen. Left to right Monica McNeil, Phyllis Reynolds, Herma Meade, Lady Patricia Allen, Lilieth Nelson and Jill Worobec



Meeting the girls at the Elsie Bemand School.

The Elsie Bemand School for girls is a long term incredible project which has won a BPW International "Power to Make a Difference" award. This will be presented to a representative from BPW St. Andrew at the International Congress in Helsinki in June.

It was very touching for me to meet the teen-aged girls and have them show me their home. Even more touching was to see the care and support given freely by our BPW members. BPW St. Andrew operates the home in partnership with the Methodist church in Jamaica. The girls are wards of the state and placed there by the Child Development Agency. Congratulations BPW St. Andrew!

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Standing Committee and Task Force Members

Thank you to each BPW member in our region who served this term on a standing committee or a task force. Your participation really made a difference

Special thanks to Sub-Regional Coordinators Doris Hall for all her support during the term and to Linda Lake for bringing news from some of the Caribbean countries.

Coming Events

International Congress - June 17-21st, 2011 Helsinki, Finland - REGISTER NOW ON THE WEB SITE



JOIN US!

"BPW International develops the professional, business and leadership potential of women on all levels through our advocacy, mentoring, networking, skill building and economic empowerment programs and projects around the world.

www.bpw-international.org

www.bpw-business.org

We make our members visible!

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