

Welcome to the NEW format for the *Tar Heel Woman*. BPW/NC President Virginia Adamson says, "Pitch In to Build the Future Together!"



Tar Heel Woman

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Building the Future Together

by Virginia Adamson, BPW/NC President

Welcome to a new way to receive the Tar Heel Woman!

Our website and membership system provides us with the ability to send newsletters via email. That is what was used to send the "Letter from the President" email a couple of weeks ago.

Many of you have mentioned that the *Tar Heel Woman* was very long and some were even having difficulty downloading the document. Immediate Past President Rhonda Hunter was sending out the President's Shoebox Newsletter in between the issues of the *Tar Heel Woman* to try to alleviate the length problem. That was a good start of this continued improvement in communications from the NC Federation to the members.

We are planning to have more frequent issues of the *Tar Heel Woman*. These issues will be shorter and provide you with information in a more timely manner. Please be sure to let us know what you think of the new format. We can only improve if we receive your feedback.

We are also investigating additional changes with the website. It is a powerful tool and we need to utilize it to the fullest to assist the clubs in growing and bringing in new members.

There are a few of us who do not use email or have access to the internet. I have asked the club presidents to arrange to provide printed copies of these emails to those members. This will give an additional benefit of more contact with some of our members who are no longer able to attend meetings.

We have other ideas in the works. I would like to receive your suggestions, too. Pitch in as we are building the future together!

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Looking Back, Looking Forward

by Carol Ambrose,
BPW/NC Secretary

Recently I was in Carrboro to attend the board meeting of BPW/NC at our headquarters building. I arrived prior to the session and I sat in the meeting area looking at our building. Two years ago marked the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the groundbreaking of our building and cosmetic improvements were made for that celebration. Our building



SLRP: The Tools We Will Use to Build the Future Together

by Caryl Sinfield, BPW/NC SLRP Chair

The inaugural meeting of the 2012-2013 Strategic Long-Range Planning (SLRP) Committee convened Saturday, July 21st, at BPW/NC Headquarters in Carrboro. The SLRP Committee is comprised of the BPW/NC President, President-elect, Vice President, Board of Trustees Chair, Foundation Chair, and the Club Presidents.

We were pleased to have had a few of our Club Presidents make the trip to Carrboro to participate in this first meeting, and look forward to all the Club Presidents participating in the virtual meetings that will be convened during the Federation year.

The first order of business was to review the background and history of the SLRP Committee; we are celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

We also reviewed the Federation Program which was unveiled at Annual Convention in June and directs our energies to improve outreach to NC women to ensure membership growth of both local Clubs and the Federation, promote program opportunities and resources for personal and professional growth for members across NC, advocate for working women of NC, and promote structural changes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federation.

Discussion then turned to a brainstorming evaluation of determining to whom BPW/NC is relevant, whether or not we are seen as a 21st century organization, and imagining what we will look like in the year 2018.

The general consensus is that we must take some serious steps to become an efficient business in order to serve our members and appeal to our next generation of leadership. It was agreed that we have many programs and resources to offer, but we must reinforce our membership to support our activities.

It was also pointed out that we are no longer a member of a National organization and that, because of that fact, we can and must take a much bigger effort to structure our organization for longevity.

In the coming months, I will share with you the continuing work of this committee as we identify specific goals and call upon the State Committees to assist with implementation of initiatives.

This is an exciting time for BPW/NC...can you feel it?

looks good!

Our headquarters is a wonderful example of architecture of the 1960's. Looking around the property and reflecting on the 1960's, I thought about women and our history over the years.

Back in the 60's working women were expected to wear hats & gloves to church and social occasions and heels & hose to work and of course, dresses. Pants were never found in the workplace except on the men.

Women were entering the work arena and the "want ads" had jobs listed by gender. As you might expect jobs for women paid less than jobs for men and sexual harassment and discrimination was rampant.

In 1960 oral contraception was approved and married women had to get their husband's permission to have access to the pill. It would be ten years before passage of the Public Health Services Act provided federal support and funding for family planning services.

Many of your BPW sisters remember the days of the back ally abortions and recall when birth control clinics were nonexistent.

Looking forward we see that women's rights are being rolled back in our

Hey 54%'er! Are You Writing Letters Yet?

by Pat Sledge, BPW/NC Legislative Chair

If you were at the State Convention in Hickory last month, you may have heard me talk about *NC Women Matter* and their work to let women who have voted in the past--but may not go to the polls to vote each time--know how important their vote really is.

Both the Federation and the Foundation agreed that this non-partisan group was worth joining. I've signed up to write a few letters to women in my area that NC Women Matter furnished me addresses for.

The tool kit I received gave me a sample letter and some talking points. They cover such topics as state budget cuts in programs for domestic violence and sexual assault against women; cuts in funding for Smart Start and early education programs; cuts to funds for education causing layoffs of teachers and assistants in NC's public schools, community colleges and universities; budget decisions at the state and local level which have a direct impact on working women and 3 out of 4 mothers with children under the age of 18 who are in the labor force.

43% of working mothers are the families' primary breadwinner. The current legislative majority continues to find ways to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood restricting life saving health care of women including cancer screening, STD testing and pregnancy prevention counseling.

I'm writing letters to these women to let them know what's at stake if we women, the 54% of the state's registered voters, don't get involved and make our voices heard.

In September, I will write again to encourage early voting, and then in October, I will encourage them to help get out the vote.

Will you join me?

You can participate by going to <http://ncwomenmatter.org/> Look for the link to sign up and receive your tool kit.

There's too much at stake to sit back and do nothing.

state as well as across the nation.

Clinics and doctors are being subjected to stringent laws that limit access to those who chose to have an abortion or need the services provided. Some are closing their doors. There is talk of eliminating birth control.

On the brighter side, the reintroduction of the Equal Rights Amendment is being studied, giving women protection under the Constitution of the USA. (Currently, the only right women have under the Constitution is the right to vote.)

Women's groups are speaking out over the erosion of our rights. As we hold a presidential election this year, the media is bombarding us with messages. Family issues should not be partisan issues, often they become so.

It is so important for women to become educated, get involved, and vote. We cannot allow the politicians to take us back into the 60's! The architecture may be fine, the social policies not so much!

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