On March 18, Crystal Williams our Women Joining Forces chair and I attended the BPW Foundation’s annual Celebrate Women’s History event to receive on behalf of BPW/NC the Grassroots Award. BPW Foundation holds this event to honor the achievements, dedication to duty, and patriotism of women veterans, military/veteran spouses, female caregivers of wounded warriors, and women who have lost a loved one serving our nation during their second annual Celebrate Women’s History - Make Women’s History event. The program took place at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, DC and featured Career Development Panel sessions and Networking/Award Reception participants and 250 guests.

The Career Development Panel sessions were tailored to women veterans, military/veteran spouses, wounded warrior caregivers and survivors of fallen service members. Panelists Christine Ayers (PriceWaterhouseCoopers), Ellen Gardner (Citi), Kia Silver Hodge (Northrop Grumman), and Beverly VanTull (Bon Secours) shared “Tools & Resources for the Civilian Workplace.” Jennifer Finder (BAE Systems), Wendy Warren (NBC4), and Crystal Williams (MetaLogix, Inc.) offered Social Media Strategies for Career Success.”

The event was moderated by NBC4 Washington News Anchor Erika Gonzalez, with remarks from NBC4 President and General Manager Jackie Bradford, MTCI President/CEO Dalena Kanouse, BPW Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Roslyn Ridgeway, Chase Managing Director, Military & Veterans Affairs, Maureen Casey, and Citi Managing Director and Regional Head of Markets, Suni Harford. White House Fellow Cara LaPointe, Commander, United States Navy, spoke on behalf of First Lady Michelle Obama. It truly was honor to receive this prestigious award!

Crystal and I had an amazing time and connected with many amazing women.
Chances are, that by the time you read this article, another important deadline will have passed. Friday, April 11th is the last day that a North Carolina citizen can register to vote in the May 6th primary election. This year, people will no longer be allowed to register to vote during the one-stop voting period. One stop early voting begins Thursday, April 24th and runs through Saturday, May 3rd at 1pm. Polls will then open on Tuesday, May 6th from 6:30am to 7:30pm. Changes that have been made in regard to voting are explained at this link to the NC State Board of Elections. http://www.ncsbe.gov/ncsbe/Voting/voter-guide/recent-election-law-changes

Exercise your right to vote and honor those women who struggled and worked so hard in the late 1800’s and up until 1920 for suffrage, so that we have a voice in choosing the elected officials who serve us at the city, county, state and national levels. Don’t give up that hard earned right. Find the information you need about your county Board of Elections here: http://www.ncsbe.gov/webapps/CBESearch/

Register and Vote!

A note of positive news, this year, Equal Pay Day as recognized on April 8th. That’s a full 7 days earlier than last year.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

June 20-21, 2014

Join us in Charlotte

for the 2014

BPW/NC State Convention

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel
Charlotte Executive Park
5700 Westpark Drive Charlotte, North Carolina 28217

The convention will be a jam-packed weekend with workshops, hospitality suites and special guest speakers.

Business and professional women from across the state will conduct business, network and attend workshops and forums to increase their knowledge and leadership abilities.
I recently joined the board of an organization where I was formerly employed. I'm not going to mention names, but the organization is known for its cookies, crafts, and camping! I found myself in this board meeting where we were being oriented as to what is expected of us. It struck me that I shouldn't be there. Maybe the problem is that having been an employee and knowing the “inside scoop” makes me too cynical to be objective on the board. I know that they didn’t listen to me when I was an employee, so what makes me think that they will listen to me as a volunteer? Mostly, I was kicking myself in the head because I said yes. I have to tell you I felt more out of my comfort zone in that one meeting than I have felt with anything in a very long time.

Why did I volunteer for that board or any board for that matter? I made a promise to another volunteer who helped me when I was working for the organization. It may seem silly but without this volunteer’s support I would have never been able to do my job. She trained me to do my job. When I got that job, I was handed a box of stuff and given her phone number to call and was told to start working. Talk about being thrown to the wolves. That is why I said yes to this board. My volunteer needed someone besides herself telling the people in charge that there needs to be a change.

I am a member of many boards mostly covering “women’s issues” and the issues of children (Which is just an extension of “women’s issues,” right?). Well, I want to make a difference. I feel it’s my mission to have a positive affect on the people in my life. I have affected my children in such a way that I have made sure that they have something to tell the psychiatrist when they get older. As a parent I have always felt that is my responsibility, don’t you agree?

Ok, seriously, how do we make a change to make the world a better place? Our BPW platform of economic equality, supporting health issues and passing ERA is where we need to concentrate our efforts. Your BPW board works hard to make a difference in the lives of women. Please consider taking a spot on the board when you are asked. You can always take that great leap of faith and ask where you can help. I guarantee you that you won’t feel as out of place as I do with my former employer! Get involved. Many hands make light the work. We need you to give us your ideas and help us further our causes. I look forward to seeing you at a board meeting soon. If you feel out of place, sit by me; I’ll be your buddy.
One Membership Benefit Most Members Ignore

Being in contact with local clubs as Membership Chair, I sometimes hear members make comments about a lack of contact with the state organization. This is an area of concern for the members of the Federation Board of Directors. We have been making an effort to make sure this is not the case, especially for our new members. Email contact is made with new members as soon as they are entered in the BPW-NC database. Snail mail letters welcoming them to the organization are also sent to new members as a follow up on the first contact.

But there is another way for every member to feel a part of BPW/NC. We have a wonderful website at www.bpw-nc.org. Our webmaster has done a fantastic job of updating our website. She has added valuable information and links to other sites that makes it a beneficial tool for our members.

When was the last time you visited the BPW-NC Webpage? If you are like most of our members, the answer is, at most, once or twice a year to register for State Convention and/or to check on the deadline/requirements for awards. Why else would a member need to check out the website? Well, you might be surprised.

Of course there is information about BPW. Do you need help marketing BPW or ways to increase your membership? Need to find a form to send a Foundation donation or submit your candidacy for a state office? Would you like to apply for a BPW scholarship? Do you need suggestions for programs? Check out BPW/NC Club Resources in the password protected area.

Would you like to contact a BPW friend that you met at a state meeting? If you log in, you can find the member directory with contact information on every member. This might give you an opportunity to exchange ideas, explore business opportunities, and share common goals as well as connect with mentors/sponsors, colleagues and friends who can assist in advancing your career.

Did you know that there is a section on your personal profile page that gives you the opportunity to tell people what you do for a living? You could advertise your company simply by adding something about what you do. You can provide a general description of what you want others to know about your career, your business and your accomplishments. There is a place for your company’s logo and a link to your company’s website. You would be surprised how few members have gone to their profile page to add this information. This information can be accessed on both the public and the member only directories. It seems to me that this could be considered free advertising for you and your company.

Do you need a gift for a speaker or a prize that also puts BPW in the spotlight? You might check out BPW/NC Branded Items at www.cafepress.com/bpwnc. This is a new area where you can buy everything from key chains to clothing with the BPW/NC logo. As Legacy members of BPW Foundation, you can share your dedication to our mission with BPW branded gifts and tokens of appreciation. In addition, you are encouraged to proudly display the official membership pin, which depicts our national emblem. If you need membership pins or other BPW branded items, there is a link to the BPW Supply Store at www.bpwsupply.com.

If you are like most of our members, you are not even sure how to get onto the webpage. It is really simple. Go to the website home page (www.bpw-nc.org). Even without logging in, you can find a lot of interesting materials, but as a member, there is so much more. Click on the “Login” button in the upper right hand corner. The log-in screen will appear. Type in the e-mail address you gave as your contact when you joined (or the one where you get BPW e-mails). It asks for a password. If you don't have one, click on “Forgot Password” and follow the directions found there. A password will be sent to your e-mail address. Simply type in that password and you will be asked to choose your own personal password. After that, you are free to explore the “member only” area where you will find so much fascinating information.
MEMBERSHIP

Linda Hardy

There Is Still Time
Sponsor new members and win free or reduced registration to State Convention

Just a reminder, last June, President Mimi challenged BPW/NC members to introduce new members to BPW. As a reward, she has offered a free Convention registration to the person who sponsors the most new members, with reduced registrations for the second and third highest new member sponsors. The deadline for this contest is May 31, 2014. How many new members have you sponsored?

If you have any questions about this contest, please contact Linda Hardy, Membership Chair, at BPWMembership@gmail.com.

Interim Action of the North Carolina Business and Professional Women’s Foundation, Inc. Board
(Submitted by Linda Hardy, BPW/NC Foundation Secretary)

Winter Foundation Board Meeting
Carrboro, NC
February 22, 2014

Linda Hardy moved and it was duly seconded, that we dispense with the reading of the Standing Rules of Order. The motion passed.  

Motion 1

Linda Hardy moved, and it was duly seconded, that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Fall Board Meeting as they were posted to the website and sent to the members by e-mail. The motion passed.

Motion 2

Michelle Evans moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Foundation make a grant up to $5000.00 to the Federation for the Saturday keynote address and luncheon. The motion failed.

Motion 3

Carolyn Williams moved that the BPW/NC Foundation award at least ten $1,000 scholarships in 2014 with funds to be taken from the appropriate line items. The motion passed.

Motion 4
Interim Action of the North Carolina Business and Professional Women's Foundation, Inc. Board
(Submitted by Linda Hardy, BPW/NC Foundation Secretary)

Fall Board Meeting
Carrboro, NC
September 28, 2013

Linda Hardy moved and it was duly seconded, that we dispense with the reading of the Standing Rules of Order. The motion passed.

Motion 1

Linda Hardy moved, and it was duly seconded, that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Pre Conference Board Meeting as they were posted to the website. The motion passed.

Motion 2

The nomination of Michelle Evans to serve as a member of the board was accepted.

Motion 3

Mary Wells moved and it was duly seconded that Linda Hardy be elected to serve as secretary. The motion passed.

Motion 3

Mimi Zelman moved, and it was duly seconded that Michelle Evans be elected to serve as Vice Chair. The motion passed.

Motion 4

Linda Hardy moved, and it was duly seconded that Faye Painter be elected to serve as Treasurer for 2013-14. The motion passed.

Motion 5

The motion was made and duly seconded to approve the following persons as committee chairs:
Linda Hardy- Finance Chair; Carolyn Williams, Bylaws; Gail Harper, Green and Gold and approve the appointment of Mary Alice Wells as Parliamentarian

Motion 6

The motion was made and duly seconded to appoint Marsha Riibner-Cady as Scholarship Chair
The motion passed.

Motion 7

Special Committee Chairs
Awards:
Mary Lou Babinski
Hospitality Co-Chairs
Faye Painter
Julie Tomkovick
WEE:
Mary Shelton Drum
Judy Smith
Career Woman of the Year:
Elva Graham
Nominating:
Elva Graham
State Conference:
Andrea Buschur
Young Careerist:
Elva Graham
Back in 1981 I returned to NC and the issue of ERA was on the front burner. I was so proud and so thrilled that my home state was rallying behind the movement for women's equality. I was happy to join on a march in Raleigh in support of the ERA and I had high expectations of the promises that it held for women and families. At that time I was in my thirties. I walked with my boyfriend and with my mother, who was in her 60's then. It was June 6, 1982. At the time, I remember that I hoped for ERA to be passed in my mother's lifetime as it was so important to her. Unfortunately, that was not to happen; now I just hope that it will pass in my lifetime!

Fast forward to February 8, 2014, 32 years later and I found myself in Raleigh again walking for women and our issues. I thought about the walks I have taken over the years, in Raleigh, in Washington, and in Charlotte. I thought about the reasons that I do this. It is for my mother, for my sisters, for my nieces... and for the women young and old who cannot be there. On the bus to Raleigh I met a woman named Rachel and we walked together that cold day. She was about my age and this was her first time to walk for women. We talked that day and I told her my story of walking with my mother so many years ago. My remark to her was that I should give it up and let the younger women take up the fight for women's equality. She looked at me and quietly said “you can't, it's in your blood.”

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**YOUNG CAREERIST  Elva Graham**

We are looking forward to having great participants this year in the Young Careerist Program at State Conference! We hope that your club has been successful in selecting a Young Careerist candidate. As your YC candidate prepares for competition, we wanted to give a brief overview of what the YC competition day will entail. We plan to begin candidate interviews at 9:45am on Friday, then follow with speeches during the lunch meeting and conclude with the group interview section. After completion of the interviews your candidate will be free to enjoy the remainder of conference. We will announce the YC winner later in the conference schedule. We will send out an email to the candidate confirming the schedule and a few more details as we get closer to the conference dates. Since some candidates might be traveling a long distance, it might be a good idea for your candidate to arrive Thursday evening so they will be fresh for the competition on Friday morning. You do not have to pay for your YC candidate’s registration, but when possible, it is encouraged if clubs can help offset the expenses a candidate incurs.

As your club gets ready to submit your Young Careerist’s information, please be sure to include the following forms and information:
- The biographical information sheet.
- Young Careerist Agreement Form
- A copy of their 4 minute speech (1 of the 5 topics listed on the BPW-NC website)
- A 5x7 photo of the candidate.

If you need copies of the Young Careerist packet they are under the member-only section of the BPW-NC website. The deadline to submit these items for your club’s Young Careerist candidate to participate at State Conference is May 16th 2014. Please send packets to Elva Graham, 217 West John Street, Mount Olive NC 28365 or elj359@gmail.com. If you have any questions please feel free to contact YC Chair Elva Graham at 910.990.6412 or elj359@gmail.com.
Candidate for President Elect
Marsha Riibner-Cady was born in Washington, DC on Inauguration Day. Every 4 years she gets a big party with her gift being the President of the US. Not long after she was born she moved to a little town in southwest Missouri. She grew up and went to school in Nixa, MO where she met and spent much of her high school years in band with former BPW-NC president Joanna Moses-Elliott. Marsha went on to complete the licensing requirements to become a Medical Technologist with an emphasis in hospital blood banking. She then began her Med Tech career in the blood bank at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland and continued her education in Banking at the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. It didn’t take Marsha long to realize that working in the lab was not “her thing” so she became a laboratory sales representative for Jouan, Inc., covering the 6 New England states. Marsha, husband Lyle and their two sons Mitchell and Roland moved to the Outer Banks of NC in 2004. It is there that Marsha began working with the Girl Scouts as a membership specialist in 2006 covering four counties in rural eastern NC. In 2012 she was the first recipient of the state of North Carolina Governor’s medalion award for Director of Volunteers for her work with the Girl Scouts. Marsha became the Director of the After-School Enrichment Program for Dare County Schools that same year where she supervises programs in 5 elementary schools, serving 400 students. In 2013 Marsha completed her certificate in Early Childhood Education. Marsha is in her second year as the President of the Virginia Dare Business and Professional Women’s Club where she has been a member for 5 years. She helped with the Women’s Expo and was a corresponding secretary for the club prior to her presidency. Marsha volunteered as the chair of the scholarship committee for the Roanoke Island Women’s Club. She is a member of the board of directors for the following Dare County organizations: Friends of Youth, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Healthy Carolinians Taskforce, and NC 211. Marsha is being appointed to the board of the Girl Scout Council of the Colonial Coast. Marsha states that “I believe in all of the BPW platforms.” When you talk to Marsha she will tell you that she was discriminated against in school for being different from everyone else. She saw firsthand how women’s health issues are governed by “people who know better” when she worked in the laboratory of the second largest Planned Parenthood clinic in the US while she lived in Baltimore in 1984. Like most women in the workforce Marsha is paid less than men who had the same education and experience as she did. Marsha says that she wears her purse pin “upside down” to make the statement that women are paid approximately 83 cents on the dollar compared to their male counterparts. Being involved in the BPW/NC as the vice president for the past year has opened Marsha’s eyes to several things that make BPW/NC worthwhile. The women involved on the state BPW board are so much more than “just officers.” They have become family to Marsha. Marsha will tell you that this group of intelligent, successful women is making connections and helps others achieve greatness in their careers and in their lives. There is a true sisterhood in the ladies that run this organization (and the one gentleman). There is a caring that she has not seen in any other organization in which she has been involved. Marsha promises to support the organization and help move it forward to pass ERA. Marsha states that she is excited to be considered for the office of President-elect and look forward to helping move BPW/NC issues to the forefront of the public’s eye. BPW really is the best kept secret, it’s time that the secret is shared.

Candidate for Secretary
Elva Lynn Graham was born and raised in Faison, NC; a small town in Duplin County. Before her first birthday Elva’s father, the school bus mechanic, was ran over by a school bus that he was working on crushing his leg and causing him to be bed-ridden while healing and waiting for a prosthetic leg. It was during this time that he became violent and both verbally and physically abusive toward she and her mother. He was addicted to prescription pain killers which only made the violence worse. Elva remembers her mother staying up all night, being afraid to go to sleep because that’s when the violence would escalate. At the young age of 4 Elva woke to her mother barely being able to scream. She rose from the bed only to find her father choking her mother. Elva went to wake her older sister who didn’t seem to care about the violence. It was then that at the young age of 4 Elva preceded to intervene on the violence wailing and hitting him until he turned his attention away from her mother so that she could escape. Elva and her mother left her father that night, and went to stay at her mom’s office “uptown” until day light when they went to stay with a friend. Elva’s older sister stayed behind because she had been “promised the world” by their father. Elva’s older sister went with their father. As it turns out the “world” that she was promised was just an illusion. She ended up pregnant at 15, married at 16, divorced at 18. In the years that followed those events Elva was subject to parental kidnapping by her Father. A few years later Elva’s mother went on to marry the man that Elva would call “Daddy”. He was a caring man with no kids. He took Elva in as his own, giving her unconditional love and support and showing her what it meant to be a true husband and father.
Elva went on to finish high school and then to the local community college. While doing this she started her own business, Green Thumb Florist and Gifts, at the ripe young age of 15 and did her first big wedding at the age of 16. By 20 she had officially opened Green Thumb Florist and Gifts in a historic home in Faison. Elva has also begun freelancing at several shops in eastern North Carolina. Elva is active in several community organizations including the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and Business Link of Wayne County. Elva has been a member of the North Carolina Business and Professional Women’s Club (BPW) since May 2004. Elva became a member of BPW after being selected as the local Young Careerist representative in 2004. Since being a member of BPW she has held numerous positions on the local and state levels. Elva believes in the missions and work of BPW. She currently lives in Mt. Olive, NC with her husband Brad and daughter Katie. If you asked Elva what she does in her spare time she would, at first, laugh, then proceed to tell you about spending time with her family and friends, her competition clogging team, Atlantic Coast Cloggers, and traveling. She is also an accomplished cook and a wonderful mother.

State Nominations Chair
Liz Gray was born in Concord, North Carolina. If you would have asked her when she was 15 years old if she thought that she would be happily living in Concord as an adult, she would have told you that you were absolutely insane. In present time, she lives in Concord with her children and she works tirelessly in contributing to her community that she cherishes deeply. Her parents moved her to Florida when she was four years old. It changed her life... she knew that she was meant to live by the water. Liz was accepted to the Foundation Academy of Arts when she was in the 6th grade. Film and photography were her first loves and it was this creative outlet that made her realize that she was meant to do great things. The same year, her mother overdosed on drugs and her world crumbled. All she ever knew was family and happiness. Her father left and moved back to his birthplace in Concord and Liz went with him. She didn't care much for Carolina living at the time. Liz returned to Florida after just a year where she stayed until she completed high school. Her mother got her life together, remarried and showed Liz a life that she never thought she would have. She traveled the world with her church, giving moral support to women and children in underprivileged countries. That is when Liz fell in love with Costa Rica.

She attempted a summer college session in Concord after high school and it wasn't for her. Liz says that she thinks outside of the box, doesn't sit on the sidelines, she likes to make things happen and get them done. Liz returned to Florida after the summer and took a job waiting tables. She had visited Costa Rica before and always knew that one day, she would live there. Liz met a girl while working who had land there and wanted to move. Since she wasn't doing anything of importance with her life at the time, Liz saved up, packed up, and boarded a plane six months after graduating from high school.

After three months in the jungle, Liz packed up and took a job at a nearby tourist beach where she worked for a small lodge and learned everything about running a business. She married and stayed for nearly five years. Her marriage was consumed with domestic violence and it ultimately failed. One night, she took her children and fled back to the states. Her trials brought her back to her hometown, where she has blossomed and evolved to now do things that she couldn't have previously imagined were possible. Beyond her two beautiful children, her community and the women that serve it; are the most important things in her life. Her goals for her local area and even state level are to ensure women can obtain and keep powerful and meaningful positions in the workforce. Liz states that “Today, I see a bright future not only for me, but for all women in North Carolina.”
Interim Action

North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women

Federation Executive Committee Meeting - January 21, 2014

BPW/NC Immediate Past President, Virginia Adamson

• Approved that BPW/NC permit Lea-Ann Berst and Ashley Maria to film Dr. Hope Hills’ presentation at the WEE event on January 25, 2014 at BPW/NC Headquarters. This does not allow the likeness or voice of any BPW/NC member or guest to be used in connection with Dr. Hope Hills’ presentation without their expressed written permission.

North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Incorporated

Interim Action of the Executive Committee

Millennium Hotel, 2800 Campus Walk Avenue, Durham, NC

Friday, February 21, 2014 8:00 pm

BPW/NC Secretary, Carol Ambrose

Approved: That we waive the reading of the minutes of the September 27, 2013 and the January 21, 2014 Executive Committee meetings as they have been posted on Yahoo Groups.

Approved: That the Women Joining Forces Task Force be changed to a Special Committee.

Approved: That Michelle Evans, Raleigh- Chair Training & Development; Lea-Ann Berst, Raleigh- Chair Marketing; Crystal Williams, Metropolitan- Women Joining Forces Chair; Virginia Adamson, Triad- SLRP; and Gail Harper, Wayne Duplin- Foundation Chair appointments be approved for 2014-2015.

Approved: That the budget for the 2014 State Convention be approved as corrected.
North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs,  
Incorporated
Interim Action of the Executive Board of Directors Meeting  
Club Headquarters, Carrboro, NC, Saturday, February 22, 2014

BPW/NC Secretary, Carol Ambrose

Approved: That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 28, 2013 meeting as they were posted on Yahoo Groups.

Approved: That BPW/NC authorizes Cynergie Studio to sell branded BPW/NC products as approved by the BPW/NC Marketing Chair with a minimum of reviews performed annually.

Approved: That each club be given two DVDs of "the movie"* with the screening kit and screening agreement to begin using the movie as a membership and fundraising tool. "Business and Professional Women: A History, A Movement"*

Approved: That Carol Ambrose from the Western Region be appointed to the Nominating Committee for BPW/NC.

Approved: That the Career Woman of the Year Program rules stipulate that the BPW/NC CWOY recipient must be present at the designated event to win the State Level Award.

Approved: That the proposed email addresses be approved for use by the BPW/NC EC & Board of Directors at the beginning of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Approved: That 3 members from the Board of Directors be elected to serve as a nominating committee for the Board of Trustees positions to be filled for 2014-2015: Virginia Adamson, Triad- Central; Marsha Riibner Cady, Virginia Dare- East; Mary Shelton Drum, Lincolnton- West.
BPW Foundation’s Celebrate Women’s History Presents BPW/NC the Grassroots Award

Crystal Williams and Mimi Zelman, BPW/NC President accepts Grassroots Award on behalf of BPW/NC.

Congratulations Crystal on your work as Chair of Women Joining Forces for BPW/NC.

North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc.
PO Box 276
Carrboro, NC 27510-0276

Business & Professional Women
Building Powerful Women
Professionally, Politically, Personally.

BPW/NC "GEM"

North Carolina Federation:
Website:

Tar Heel Woman is a publication of the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc. It is published six times a year and distributed without charge to all BPW/NC members.

Submissions may be made by sending information to Rhonda Hunter, Editor
hunterbpw@yahoo.com

Reserved is the right to accept, edit, or reject any material submitted for publication.