

# The Tar Heel Woman

A publication of the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

VOLUME 89 NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 2013



**Generate, Elevate and Motivate.**

**Gem is a precious stone that stands for anything that is good.**

**Generate is to increase our membership.**

**Elevate is to acknowledge our members.**



## President's Message, Mimi Zelman

Dear BPW Sisters,

Hope everyone had a good a safe summer! For me time has flown by since I took office in Greensboro. The end of July, our state secretary Carol Ambrose, our YC winner Marissa Harley, and awards chair Mary Lou Babinski attended the WPEA/BPW convention in Pittsburg. The speakers were wonderful, had a great time on a river boat cruise, and a night time tour of Pittsburg by bus. I learned a lot this weekend and it was great connecting with other state presidents and sharing what is happening in each other's state. We all have similar issues and talked about ways to grow our memberships. We also had a late night showing of Ashley Maria's film on BPW and the women loved it!!

Our new website is now finished and a huge thank you to Lea-Ann Berst for all her hard work on this.

One topic I'd like to touch on is getting the word out to ratifying the ERA. On Monday September 16, I was invited to attend a small breakfast given by the North Carolina Defense Business Association. The guest speaker was Congressman Robert Pittenger of the 9<sup>th</sup> district. When he finished speaking it was then opened up for questions and answers. I asked him what he could do to help ratify the ERA in North Carolina. He rudely said to me that the ERA is dead and he is a business man. I then told him besides owning my own business, I was also president of BPW/NC and that the ERA is not dead and we are still working on getting it through. He then dismissed me and went on to someone else. I was boiling when I left, but after thinking about it, maybe this was a wakeup call for someone who may have his head in the sand, and make him aware of this important issue. I urge everyone to keep fighting this battle and let's all keep writing our congressman and senators and keep them aware of this important issue, not only for women, but for Americans.

We have lots of great projects in the works and we will have some announcements in our next issue.

Thanks to my board for all the work you do!!



2013 - 2014  
BPW/NC  
Leadership Team

BPW/NC Executive  
Committee

President:  
Mimi Zelman

President-Elect:  
Pat Sledge

Vice President:  
Marsha Riibner Cady

Treasurer:  
Gail Harper

Secretary:  
Carol Ambrose

Past  
State President  
Virginia Adamson

Parliamentarian:  
Michelle Evans



Pat Sledge, President Elect

I recently stumbled across a quote attributed to Albert Schweitzer. It read:

*"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light."*



Tonight, as I sat and listened to the sounds of the night around me, I noticed the lights I saw in the distance and remembered that quote. Was I seeing a lamp shrouded in haze or perhaps a distant star twinkling in the night; maybe a bonfire that had nearly reached its end?

If at any time over the last dozen or so years you watched the TV "reality show" Survivor, you've seen the efforts of the contestants as they try to start a fire with just the bare necessities; watched how they struggled to keep the flame lit; and as they were one by one eliminated from the game, saw the torch that they carried, which symbolized their life in the game, be extinguished.

From time to time, any of us may experience the feeling that our flame is starting to fade...it may be from fatigue or worry; it could be that someone made a careless remark that hurt our feelings or failed to recognize an accomplishment that had been made, but whatever the reason, that special spark of enthusiasm, that flame, can fade from view. To bring that fire back may take only a breath or puff of wind to rekindle the flame and restore the life that lingers just beneath the surface. A kind word or two; positive reinforcement or a sincere expression of gratitude could be all that it takes to relight that fire.

Dr Schweitzer had it right, we owe our deepest thanks to those who have taken the time, effort and concern to light our paths, to help us find our way and to bring back the flame that is our life and well being. My flame burns brighter today because of you.

# POWER OF CHANGE

Marsha Riibner Cady, BPW/NC Vice President



I recently had to buy a car. My husband and I were traveling and my 2000 van with 271,000 miles puttered its last. We were near a large car dealership, which sells gently used vehicles. We walk into the showroom and a nice young man walks to my husband, shakes his hand and starts talking cars.

So I am thinking, what am I, chopped liver? Nope I say to myself, I am not going to stand for this. I never know if I am assertive or aggressive when I use my most forceful big girl voice. What I said was, "Wait this car is for me. I need something small that will go in the direction I want it to go, when I want it to go there."



This scares the young man and asks me what I want to pay. I tell him, "NOTHING. I want you to give it to me for free because of my great looks and wonderful personality." So we head to the economy section of the lot. I pick out what I consider the best choice and we go to "see what kind of financing I can get." To my amazement, after being back in the workforce for almost 10 years, I can get a loan at 7% interest.

I am not happy, so my husband offers to co-sign for me. With his credit added in, we got a 3% loan. If I had put the car in his name, would we have gotten it at 1.9%?

This made me even angrier and made me think about ERA. What if we had an equal pay amendment added to our constitution?

What if I had been paid for the 10 years I stayed at home with my children? I hauled them everywhere they wanted to go, made sure the house was clean, put food on the table, volunteered for everything under the sun, and have a bad back to account for 8 years at summer camp.

Would my credit might be in better shape? It is truly something to think about. Meanwhile the big green conversion van became a donation for the Girl Scouts of Nations Capital (tax deduction).

You will find me driving my sweet little silver Nissan Versa and stopping less at the pumps!

## HAVE FUN AND LEARN ALONG THE WAY: WPEA IS A GREAT EVENT! Carol Ambrose, Secretary



So, what the heck is WPEA??? I didn't really get it until I went to Pittsburgh this spring with 3 other BPW women from North Carolina. WPEA has evolved from back in the day when BPW/Foundation was known as BPW/USA. Several years ago BPW/USA merged with their charitable arm BPW/Foundation. When BPW/USA disbanded the State Federations wanted to stay in touch, but could not use BPW/USA so, the events names was changed to WPEA.

WPEA is the acronym for Women's Professional Empowerment Alliance. It is an annual event that brings together those women, and all those who support our mission of Women Empowering Women. These groups are legacy partners with the BPW National Foundation. BPW/NC is a charter member of the National Federation and as such the BPW/NC supports a platform that advocates for professional, personal and political growth for working women.

You might wonder why you have an interest. Let me say you might want to investigate further. The weekend was a weekend of like-minded women from all over our country sharing ideas, learning from each other, sharing insights, and meeting other women who share our interests and insight. We learned how to share between the generations, drive innovations, and begin to leverage the untapped knowledge of our total organization.

It was a grand learning experience, sharing across state borders some of our common challenges, and sharing best practices with our peers on how to transform conflicts into growth points. To share common experiences and network with women from across the country was an empowering experience.



In the past BPW/NC has funded our President and the Young Careerist Finalist to attend this event. Our current state President, Mimi Zelman wanted to open it to other members on the state board of directors to be able to attend. Because of her want to be inclusive, I was able to attend. Thank you Mimi!

And was it fun you might ask! It was indeed. Saturday night we had a great river cruise with dinner in Pittsburgh, a bus tour of the area where we stayed, and a showing of the BPW/NC history documentary that will be released soon for your information and pleasure. I hope your experience with BPW Metropolitan and BPW/NC will help you grow and give you pleasure along your journey.

NC Awards Chair Mary Lou Babinski, President Mimi Zelman,  
Secretary Carol Ambrose, Young Careerist Marissa Harley.

BPW/NC  
Board of Directors  
Standing Committees

Finance:  
Susan Benton Wilson

Foundation BPW/NC:  
Varnell Kinnin

Board of Trustees:  
Mary Alice Wells

Governance:  
Virginia Adams

Membership:  
Linda Hardy

Legislative:  
Pat Sledge

Issues Management:  
Pat Sledge

Public Relations:  
Lea-Ann Berst

Tar Heel Woman:  
Rhonda Hunter

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Virginia Adamson



### SLRP Committee to Meet in October

The Strategic Long Range Planning Committee, lovingly called the SLRP (pronounced "Slurp"), will hold its first meeting of the year in October. All the local Club Presidents as well as the State President, State President-elect, State Vice President and State Immediate Past President are members of the SLRP Committee. We will announce the meeting via email to the members in an email the first week of October. The meeting will be held virtually using computers and telephone. Stay tuned!!

## AWARDS

Mary Lou Babinski



## You Can Do It

Fall time and meetings are in full swing. Have you given any thought to beginning this club year with an award?

First go to the BPW-NC website. Log in as a member and open Awards. Then, begin by planning to achieve that award. Review all the requirements. Talk about the steps to take for that award. AND, go for it.

**You know you can do it!**



## MEMBERSHIP

Linda Hardy



## Why Join BPW?

What does our organization have to offer a prospective member and what are prospective members looking for in an organization?

When I joined in 1978, I was interested in working to get the Equal Rights Amendment passed and seeing true equality for women achieved. Although I think the idea of working towards total equality should be a continuing emphasis, I can also understand that in the current economic climate, most of our prospective members are more concerned with finding and keeping good paying jobs, balancing job and family, and advancing in their chosen careers.

Therefore, the ideas of networking, individual development, and mutual support should be our main selling points. Most of the local organizations that are showing growth are stressing these areas in their programming and other activities; however, we must not neglect the advocacy principles on which we were founded.

But what good does it do to have great programming, interesting workshops, and opportunities for networking if we don't ask people to attend? When was the last time you asked someone to attend a BPW meeting?

It has often been said that BPW is one of the best kept secrets around. It is time to let others in on our secret. This organization has a wonderful group of strong, knowledgeable women, but we need more members; and there are many women out there who need us. If every member would bring in one new member, our membership would double in a year. Numbers make a difference for many reasons. Numbers make our voices stronger when we speak, numbers count when we present our opinions, and numbers matter when we take a stand on current issues.

When you talk to a friend, why not ask her to come with you to the next BPW meeting? You could be doing her a real favor. We are currently in a contest for new members. As announced in the last issue of the *Tar Heel Woman*, the person responsible for bringing in the most new members during the 2013-2014 year will be given a full paid registration to the 2014 Convention in Charlotte. The second highest person will receive 75% off the convention registration and the third highest will receive 50% off convention registration. (In case of a tie, a drawing will be made to determine who receives each prize.) The contest runs until May 31, 2014.

Although new members are important, it is equally important to pay attention to renewing members. We need to continue to mentor them, to make them feel welcomed in the group, and to encourage them to grow. Currently, BPW/NC is making every effort to keep in contact with our members and asking for their opinions on what is wanted from the organization, what we can do to make memberships more important, and where we should be heading in the future. If you have any opinions or suggestions in making membership in BPW/NC more appealing, please contact me at [bpwncmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bpwncmembership@gmail.com).





**BPW/NC Foundation Chair  
Varnell Kinnin**



BPW/NC Foundation is off and running for the 2013-2014 year. But first, we have so much to thank Gail Harper and her team for. A special thanks to Gail for giving the winner of our fundraiser the choice of a week at "Peppertree Resort at Atlantic Beach or an IPAD. Thanks to Carolyn Williams for her generous donation of a weekend at her beach home. And last but not least, thanks to all who donated items to the silent auction. Without all of you buying, bidding and giving, we would not have reached our goal of \$5,000 for our Foundation fundraiser.

Now let's get started on a high note for Foundation. But first, here's a brief history lesson for those of you who weren't members prior to 2006. I am doing a repeat performance. Prior to 2006, Foundation and Federation were under one leader, the state president. National BPW decided to separate the two. So, most states followed National and separated their Federation and Foundation and have a leader for each.

As the first State Foundation Chair, (I served three terms), I am back to serve at President Zelman's request. The reason I served so long was because we wanted continuity. Most of the officers stayed on in order to make sure we were up and running and the bylaws were in order. I just wanted to let you know a little BPW history.

At the recent Foundation Board meeting, we elected our officers and approved our committee chairs. Our officers are:

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Chairwoman           | Varnell Kinnin   |
| Vice Chair           | Michelle Evans   |
| Secretary            | Linda Hardy      |
| Treasurer            | Faye Painter     |
| Parliamentarian      | Mary Alice Wells |
| Green and Goal Chair | Gail Harper      |
| Finance Chair        | Linda Hardy      |
| Bylaws Chair         | Carolyn Williams |



We are in the process of planning a fundraiser for state conference. Here's where you come in. Send Gail Harper your suggestion. We have a few things in mind but we would like to hear from you. OK?

In the past, we have had some great Foundation fundraisers. We've had purse and pocketbook sales, jewelry sales, progressive and silent auctions. Most of all we have had some fun times and hopefully we will continue to do the same in this BPW year. Gail and her board members did an outstanding job this past year and I am looking forward to keeping the momentum going.

Now this if from me, I need you. I need you to help me. How many of you have received letters in the mail asking for money and you have no clue where the money will go? I have and from organizations and people I've never heard of. All of you know of BPW Foundation. You know we give scholarships. You know we help women. You read about it in the Tar Heel Woman.

This is what I need from you. I need \$10 for Foundation Scholarship. I am not greedy. I only want \$10 from each member. I need it by December 31st. That's 92 days away from October 1st. Now I am going to sound like an "infomercial." For less than 11 cents a day, you can have \$10 by December 31st. I am sorry about sounding like a commercial, but it's true.

Seriously, if 300 members would donate \$10.00 to BPW/NC Foundation by December 31st, you will receive a certificate of appreciation. Because ladies, I really do appreciate you. And FYI, we would raise \$3000 for scholarship if 300 members send in \$10.

To make it interesting and fun, the first 10 people to send their \$10 to Faye Painter, will receive something "Sweet" at state conference. As for me, I am going to make this interesting by saying I am giving up two "\$5 Lunch Specials" at Hardees or two "Chicken Littles Meals" at Kentucky Fried Chicken. I would love to know what you give up to donate the \$10. Don't forget to send your \$10 to Faye Painter, BPW/NC Foundation Treasurer.

Well enough for now. Thanks for all you do and I look forward to working with you this year in BPW.

## 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

## BPW/NC Career Woman of the Year Elva Graham



Applications for the 2013 Career Woman of the Year are due to Elva Graham preferably via email at [elj359@gmail.com](mailto:elj359@gmail.com) by Friday, October 11, 2013. You can find application forms and additional information in the Member section of the website at [www.bpw-nc.org](http://www.bpw-nc.org).

Many local clubs select their Career Woman during their National Business Women Week® celebrations. Then those candidates are submitted to the BPW/NC CWOY Chair for consideration as the State Career Woman of the Year with announcement of the winner at the Annual Convention in June the following year.

Over the last two years we have celebrated our Career Woman of the Year at the Fall WEE Event as a renewal of the "Spotlight on Women" tradition of our past. This year there will be only one WEE Event and it will not be held in the Fall but in January. Therefore **BPW/NC will announce the State Career Woman of the Year during Ashley Maria's screening of "Business & Professional Women: A History, A Movement" at the Wells Fargo IMAX Theatre at Marbles in Raleigh on October 20, 2013.** See ad on next page.

**Club Presidents:** Dig out the application for your 2012 CWOY winner, check that the application is complete according to the information at [www.bpw-nc.org](http://www.bpw-nc.org) and send your club's candidate's application to:

BPW/NC CWOY Chair Elva Graham Email [elj359@gmail.com](mailto:elj359@gmail.com)

**Deadline: Friday, October 11, 2013**

Now, I know you are all asking "What do we do with our 2013-2014 CWOY winner applications?". They will need to be in my "hands" or inbox by December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 for judging. The winner for 2013-2014 will be announced at the January WEE Event, stay tuned for more information on this event.

I look forward to receiving many applications!



## Movie Premiere Sunday October 20, 2013

1:00pm Lunch at POGO's (next to the IMAX theatre at Marbles museum)

2:00pm IMAX theatre screening

2:45pm Panel

A film by Ashley Maria

[www.ashley-maria.com](http://www.ashley-maria.com)

A documentary about the first organization to focus on issues of working women.

## Business & Professional Women: A History, A Movement is premiering at IMAX in Raleigh, NC!

### Please Join Us!

LIMITED CAPACITY  
RSVP REQUIRED AT

<http://bit.ly/eviteBPWfilm>

POGO is giving away a **FREE brownie dessert** with every lunch purchase!

All you have to do is say: **"I love BPW!"**

ayl: "I love BPW!"  
All you have to do is

After the screening, join the conversation with our special guests as they discuss...

*How does today's working woman maintain the forward momentum achieved over the past 100 years?*

*We at BPW have a goal to motivate and educate; promoting the welfare of all women in the workplace. This film is inspiring – and a must see for women of all ages to experience!* **Mimi Zelman, BPW/NC President**



## Public Relations/Communications Lea-Ann Berst



You can email me at [marketingchair@bpwraleigh.org](mailto:marketingchair@bpwraleigh.org).

The BPW brand is one of our greatest assets. How our brand is perceived and the messaging we communicate is critical to sustaining awareness for our organization. It is crucial we communicate value to current and prospective members. This is why your State leadership team has decided to use the tagline of: Building Powerful Women. All Clubs are asked to use this new tagline when developing their own communication tools.



# Business and Professional Women/NC

### Messaging that all local Clubs should be adhering to:

- Business and Professional Women of North Carolina is an all-volunteer organization that focuses on building powerful women - professionally, politically and personally.
- Local clubs are where BPW members advance their journey as business and professional leaders.
- Business and Professional Women of North Carolina (BPW/NC) is a network of North Carolina women who are committed to empowering women to fully achieve their potential through networking opportunities, advocacy, and developmental programming.
- BPW/NC and its local Clubs feature diverse and insightful programs that target the specific interests and needs of women in business and professional careers.

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**BPW/NC has created many ways for Club presidents and their leadership teams to better communicate as they lead their local clubs. We are constantly evaluating and updating materials and information, below please find a sampling of what we have available to you:**

The quarterly **Tar Heel Woman Magazine** is available to any member with e-mail, and online here: [www.bpw-nc.org/Tar\\_Heel\\_Woman\\_Magazine](http://www.bpw-nc.org/Tar_Heel_Woman_Magazine). The newsletter is published as a PDF as well as an online flipping book. The publication covers State Federation and Foundation news, about upcoming events, member news, Board announcements, and much more.

The [BPW/NC Member Center](#) is available to all members. New leadership teams will find it especially helpful since it features sample publications, information on awards programs, and other useful materials including information about our BPW Signature events: **Individual Development Program, State Career Woman Program, Young Careerist Program, Women Joining Forces Program, Reality Store Program.**

New to this [BPW/NC Member Center](#): a **Media Advisory Tips** document. The goal of an advisory is to give enough information so that a reporter would like to attend the event or can write a story. Read the document for an example of how to write the media advisory and how to send it to reporters.

On our website we have a **Public Member Directory**: [www.bpw-nc.org/NC\\_Business\\_and\\_Professional\\_Members](http://www.bpw-nc.org/NC_Business_and_Professional_Members). Here our members have the opportunity to promote what you do, and provide a link to the website where you work or volunteer.

We also have a **Private Member Directory** that all members have access to and contains much more detailed information.

**To update content online:** BPW/NC members must login with their BPW/NC account. All you need is your email address and if you forgot your password, that's okay! Simply click 'forgot password' and follow the instructions!!

For Clubs who do not have their own website, BPW/NC has created a dedicated Club landing page with calendar capability. See example: [www.bpw-nc.org/Local\\_Club\\_Name\\_Here](http://www.bpw-nc.org/Local_Club_Name_Here). We will be updating the content once a month for Clubs who need this landing page. If your Club would like a dedicated landing page, please provide (to Lea-Ann): Event information with links for registration (like an Evite link), low resolution JPEGs of images you want on the page and in the calendar posting, PDFs of documents you want uploaded to the page, and updated verbiage for the landing page if needed. Having a **dedicated landing page** is ideal for:

- Promoting Club announcement
- Showcasing upcoming events - we will set up a dedicated calendar just for your Club. You can email links to your event - post them to online calendars - etc.
- Keeping membership up-to-date
- Search engine optimization. This page will show up in Google searches; meaning folks in your area who are searching for Women's groups will find you!

**Online Calendar:** on our BPW/NC website we have the ability to list Club events from all over the state! Please send Lea-Ann your Club meetings and events that you think folks in the state would be interested in. Send along area events that can help working women grow in their careers with their businesses! [please try to send links to your website or Word docs for an easy copy/paste into our calendar]

The **Inside BPW blog** is available online on the BPW/NC website. Here you can read news and information to empower and inform. It is a wonderful resource for curating content for your Facebook pages and tweets! **We invite all members of BPW/NC to write blog postings!** We know we need to keep the blog fresh and this is a wonderful way to help BPW/NC provide membership value. It's a huge benefit for small business owners and corporations trying to get their expertise showcased! Contact Lea-Ann for more.

We have a **Facebook page** open to the public. If you aren't following us yet, you should! Followers can view links to relevant articles and information, hear about upcoming BPW events, see pictures taken during our events, receive tips for your career, and network with professionals in this like-minded community. Check it out at: [www.facebook.com/BPWNorthCarolina](http://www.facebook.com/BPWNorthCarolina).

# cLuB CeLEbRaTioNs



## Sanford BPW Sponsors Workshop

Sanford BPW is sponsoring a workshop entitled "Not the weaker sex" which will be held as part of The Women's Exchange on October 10, 2013, 8am-1 pm at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center, 1801 Nash Street, Sanford, NC. The Keynote Speaker is Sharon Decker, NC Secretary of Commerce. If you register by September 30 for an early bird discount of \$39.95. The price includes session, panel and luncheon.

Register at [www.sanfordbpw.org](http://www.sanfordbpw.org). The first 50 who register will be given a free swag bag.



Please Join  
BPW/Concord-Cabarrus  
October 10th

at the Old Courthouse Theater for their fundraiser to benefit the Frances. B. Long Scholarship. The show is "Hello, Dolly", tickets are \$20.

Contact: Carolyn Williams  
[cbwbpw@carolina.rr.com](mailto:cbwbpw@carolina.rr.com)

## BPW/Raleigh

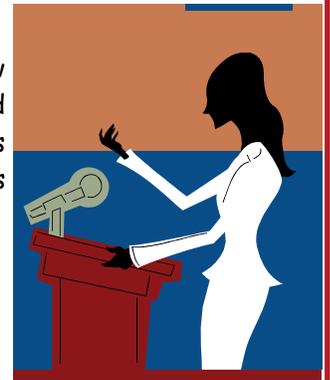
Is hosting an IDP event coming up on Oct. 5 that would be of high value to HR professionals and to the employees they are trying to help. It will also be of great personal value to individuals looking to climb the corporate ladder; having to relate with many kinds of people from many different positions. The workshop will be taught by a board certified leadership psychologist -- and with all registration fees going towards the BPW Educational Scholarship fund - it's an event we feel you'll appreciate!

This is a career and leadership program that focuses on better communications and how to get the outcomes you want at work. The team at BPW/Raleigh is extremely excited to have BPW member Dr. Hope Hills lead the workshop. She charges in the thousands for these workshops and individuals usually pay hundreds to attend. BPW/Raleigh is excited to be able to offer corporate discounts and low individual pricing.

Please check out our website for further information [www.bpwraleigh.org](http://www.bpwraleigh.org)

**BPW/NC members can register at the BPW discounted rate.**

Please email [president@bpwraleigh.org](mailto:president@bpwraleigh.org) to register!



## MEMBER SPOT LIGHT

BPW Lincolnnton welcomes new member Stacey Pilkington-Smith. Stacey is budding talent to be spotlighted for her creativity. Stacey recently combined her love of art with becoming an entrepreneur. She recently opened her new art gallery called Gallery 27. She described the gallery as a place where mid-career artists can sell and showcase their work and the community can gather for classes focused on various art mediums. Gallery 27's mission is to help local artists sustain art field careers, expand their markets and gain more collectors. Stacey said "It's a place for artists to grow." Stacey dabbles in mixed media, merging different techniques such as drawing, painting and paper and ink, her gallery hosts creations made from photography, ceramics, fiber, metal and more. Pilkington-Smith received an art degree from Gaston College in 2008 and shortly thereafter joined an art gallery. During that time she spotted a "For Rent" in Lincoln County and Gallery 27 came to fruition. Gallery 27 includes a gift shop, gallery, and four studios. Affordable classes that hit all the fields of art, including writing, guitar, improv acting, work with stained glass, soap making, painting and drawing as well as a monthly women-centered group called "Journal Junkies." Stacey wants to host performing arts in addition to visual and she has experience in both as she manages an improv group called "Chasing Parked Cars". She has directed plays and serves on the board of the Lincoln Theatre Guild. Making a living as an artist can be challenging, Pilkington-Smith says as it takes the interest and support of the community, two elements she hopes to capture inside the walls of her new studio.



*"As artists, we're alone. We need to support each other, if I am sitting there by myself with pretty pictures, it's not going to work."* Stacey Pilkington-Smith

## MEMBER SPOT LIGHT



Greetings!

We are excited to announce we have a new member of Metropolitan BPW. Her name is Tori Torres.

I am a North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselor and Supervisor. I have a limited private practice in Huntersville, work part-time for Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and the University of Phoenix. My work provides me much enjoyment as I help college-age students and adults to find the life they love through personal, career and educational pursuits. Darryl, my husband, and I have two boys (Chris and Gabe) and a silver Labrador (Charlie). When we are not on the baseball fields with the boys, I enjoy dancing, travelling, cooking and walking. Each year, I walk 39.3 miles and raise money for the Avon Foundation through the annual Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Charlotte. Be sure to watch for me this October, I'll be the one in pink!

We Welcome Tori to MBPW!



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

## Leadership By Sasha Gray

Imagine you and 3 friends set out on a road trip...someplace warm and sunny. Suddenly, your car starts overheating and smoke is radiating from the hood. Before you know it, you're broken down on the side of the road. Cell phone service is not available, and the nearest town is 10 miles away. Your 3 passengers are looking at you for a plan. You have 2 options... sit there on the side of the road and hope another vehicle comes along sooner rather than later. Or, you can use your knowledge and the available resources to look under the hood and take control of the situation so that your girlfriends are not panicking. A leader would get under that hood to figure out a way to nurse the vehicle and make it to town.

Leaders are made, they are not born. No one person will wake up some day with perfect leadership talent. Even though we all may be born with certain leadership traits, it takes certain knowledge and skills that can only come from education and experience. A good leader never stops educating and studying themselves. They learn from their everyday life and continually work to improve. Some personality traits, which are inherited, may influence our actions or reactions to a situation. However, it is the confidence, intelligence, willpower & vision gained from years of mistakes and self-training that will make you an effective leader. All of which can only come from life, your personal experiences and what you learn from them.

When I look at those who have been leaders in my eyes, I see people who weren't afraid to voice their opinion regardless of what others may think. Fear never stopped them from trying even if the attempt wasn't successful at accomplishing the task at hand. They were confident in the person they are and were going to make it some way somehow with the determination that lied within... setting example to me that I could trust in what they were doing making me want to be that strong. This is successful leadership.

My aunt raised me, which I am sure was a challenge, and never complained. She took on the responsibility when my mom didn't... figured out a way to get me through school, taught me right from wrong and was pretty successful I think. Hillary Clinton who is a very well-known, accomplished woman and has been the only First Lady to serve in the President's cabinet didn't do it by sitting back and letting life happen.

Whether you are president of a country, mother, inventor, supervisor at your employment or simply just surrounded by friends, you must have confidence in what you are doing and convince those who surround you that you are worthy of being followed, for it is your followers which determine your popularity. They must trust you... if they lack confidence in what you are directing or advising them to do, they won't be very motivated to follow your instruction and your leadership attempt won't be very effective. If Aunt Merry hadn't been strong and confident as a mother, I might not have believed her or followed in her footsteps. And Mrs. Clinton wouldn't have been very successful in her accomplishments if she wasn't confident and knowledgeable.

At 28 years old I am still learning a lot about life and myself. And thanks to those that have been a sterling example of what a leader should do and how a leader should act, I know that I do not want to be a follower. I want to be the person who demonstrates confidence and intelligence in my daily life. Knowing my strengths and weaknesses, being willing to admit where I need improvement and working to correct my faults is the only way I will ever be able to reach my leadership goal, and I am optimistic that one day I can be that leader that I know is inside me. And if I am ever stranded on a road trip with my friends, I will figure out a way to make it home.

*Note from Mimi Zelman, BPW-NC President: I met this young lady at the WPEA/BPW conference. She is a young careerist winner and I loved her speech and wanted to share it.*