

## **Benefits of BPW Membership**

### **POWER**

Over 30,000 members nationwide. Voices are a powerful influence on issues like pay equity, day care, and other economic and social problems needed to improve our work world. Our US and State representatives receive copies of the legislative issues we vote on each year and we have people who lobby for us in Washington DC. On state level, we also lobby for female issues. Our PAC (political action committee) has a strong voice on Capitol Hill. BPW/USA is also a strong voice on capitol hill and our new CEO has testified before many committees this past year on issues we support.

### **PRESTIGE**

For more than 80 years, BPW has been the preeminent “voice of working women”. Members include business owners, corporate executives, high-ranking government employees and dozens of elected officials. In 1990, 3 new women were elected as Governors and all 3 were BPW Members. As a result of our efforts on the national scene, women are being recognized within local governments as well. Today, more women serve in elective position than ever before in our history.

### **SKILLS**

BPW gives women the opportunity to shape and build their careers. The website is filled with useful information, seminars are offered though out the year and at state and national conventions. Workshops are also offered in connections with interim board on both a state and national level and the state also conducts an annual leadership training where local leaders are trained to fulfill their duties to which they have been elected.

Subscriptions to Business Women Magazine and the Illinois Bulletin are provided along with access to a resource library for women thorough out the country. BPW/USA offers access to personal services, credit card programs, group travel, auto lease, financing of personal homes by BPW Partner along with investment and financial planning. Furthermore, the BPW/USA website also provides resume writing service and a job center for members use. BPW has a strong year round mentoring opportunity because of our diverse membership and one common bond...a desire to succeed.

Parliamentary procedure, how to conduct a meeting, how to prepare an agenda, how to prepare a budget, how to prepare goals with short and long term action plans, how to take minutes, how to prepare a treasurers report along with handling receipts and disbursements, how to write public relations articles, how to write newsletter articles, how to write year end reports and self improvement skills are all taught at leadership and offered throughout the year via the web manuals. Self improvement is taught along with public speaking – the YC program and the experience speaking and reporting as an LO committee chair or officer, a district chair or officer, and a state chair or officer. Self confidence and time management are just 2 of the topics covered in IDC. All of these skills can be used for effective community involvement and in the work place.

The programs presented at the monthly LO meeting and district meeting provide information about topics of interest to working women – women’s health care, planning for retirement, self defense, nutrition, insurance, social security, child and elder care, etc.

## **CONTACTS**

The BPW network is extensive. Members come from a variety of fields so members each bring unique talents and knowledge and they exchange information and experiences. Many members find new and better jobs through their BPW contacts. BPW members make lifelong friends and these friends can be counted on as resources and for support when needed.

## **PRIDE**

America’s working women today are the same kind of women who worked to begin a new country 300 years ago; they pioneered the West, labored in factories during World War II, worked for the right to vote, worked to pass laws where abortions are legal, worked to obtain fair credit for women, worked so women could obtain non-traditional jobs, and worked to give women the right to serve in the military as many did recently in the Persian Gulf. Through BPW women work together for a common goal...gender equity. BPW women are proud of their heritage.

Our members take great pride in the programs that our LO offers – programs like our scholarships that serve our community, the reality store, YC Career day, the IDC program, assistance for the domestic violence center, the family we adopt at Christmas, the work we do with the libraries in our area, the woman of achievement night, etc. BPW members touch the lives of the people in our community and we are proud of our BPW programs.

## **FINAL QUESTIONS**

Do you need additional opportunities for career growth?

Would you like to have an outstanding support network?

Do you need a place to develop your management skills?

Do you enjoy meeting new people?

***If your answer to one or more of the above questions is “yes”,  
then BPW is for you!***