



OK/BPW

Lighting the Way for ALL Women

President's Letter - February-March 2008 Glenda DeShazo



February and March were very busy and exciting months for OK/BPW. I hope all of you celebrated Foundation month during February. Not only does BPW/USA Foundation and the OK/BPW Foundation provide wonderful scholarships, but they each have partnered with BPW/USA and OK/BPW to provide educational programs and handouts to our membership, research materials on women's issues, and support of the Young Careerist and Individual Development programs. OK/BPW now also has a corporate sponsor program that enables us to have more quality speakers and programs. All members who have donated at least \$25 from March 1, 2007—March 1, 2008 to OK/BPW Foundation will be invited to a Foundation Breakfast on Saturday morning at State Conference. All member contributions are used to give annual scholarships and are also tax deductible. Thank you for your continued support.

President Elect Kathie Tanner, Vice President Nelda Tyler and I traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the *2008 Policy & Action Conference - Partnering for Political Change*, Board of Directors' meeting and special-called BPW/USA Convention on February 13-16. We visited our Senators' and Representatives' offices on Capitol Hill to inform them about three very important bills pertaining to women and family issues—the *HEART for Women Act*, *Fair Pay Restoration Act*, and *Family Leave Insurance Act*. We also shared information about the ERA and our 2008 Lobby Day. We were positively received and believe we made an impact. BPW/USA made history by offering for the first time a National Convention that could be participated in by Webinar. My thanks to OK/BPW members Sherri Curry and Dee Ann Jones from Ada and Maria McFadyen from Norman who participated and helped us meet our quorum.

OK/BPW was well represented with 13 members at the 2008 Lobby Day, *Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams*, at the State Capitol on March 5. Connie Douglas, OK/BPW Legislative Chairman and Oklahoma Women's Legislative Coalition Chairman, did an outstanding job moderating the meeting that was well attended by women's organizations across the state.

Several OK/BPW officers, members, and PSP's attended El Reno's Annual Joint Meeting at noon on February 8 with Jari Askins as the keynote speaker and Cartwright Hi-Noon's Foundation Gala on February 25 with Brigadier General Rita Aragon as the guest speaker. Both events were outstanding (with wonderful food) and very well attended.

Please submit this week all articles and ads for the OBW which will come out the middle of April. The OBW is a great place to brag on someone, thank people, or advertise your business or a business in your community. I encourage Committee Chairs to submit an article. Information about the State Conference, May 16-18, at the Holiday Inn Airport will be in the OBW as well as the hotel reservation information. Mark your calendars now because this will be an event you won't want to miss. BPW/USA President Barbara A. Henton will be our National Representative and PSP Dr. Lois Sharpton will be conducting the Installation Ceremony on Saturday night. Many other great events will be announced in the OBW. We have had a great year and plans are being made every day for even a better year in 2008-09.

Don't forget that the person who sells the most Centennial Quilt tickets by Saturday noon at State Conference will be reimbursed their basic registration to the Conference (\$100). The beautiful Centennial quilt was designed and machine embroidered by Katherine Zeller. Also, the District Director whose District sells the most tickets will win a lovely quilt created by Mary Zeller. A great big THANK YOU to the talented Zellers for their wonderful contributions to OK/BPW.

In reviewing membership, we have found that several active members' dues are listed as "Lapsed." Please check your anniversary date and make sure you have paid your dues. As your LO receives new members, be sure the paperwork is sent in soon as possible. Our goal is to have 400 members by State Conference. We are just a few short. There are people out there waiting to be asked to join. Invite them to your next meeting!

Keep Your Lights Brightly Shining!