



OK/BPW

Lighting the Way for ALL Women

President's Letter - July 2007 Glenda DeShazo



The **2007 BPW/USA Working women *moving FORWARD* Conference** held in Reno, Nevada, July 17-21, 2007, is now history. And, what a historical event it was! When we arrived, we were asked one-on-one if we were ready to **Vote for Change**. If we answered, "Yes," we were given a large, orange, square "Vote for Change" button to wear all week. The response was overwhelming. Our members are ready for change! You will be receiving information in the near future about the changes that were ratified during the business sessions. Some of the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures will take effect immediately and others will not until as far away as after the 2008 BPW/USA Conference next July. During the business session on Saturday, **OK/BPW Vice President Nelda Tyler** presented a motion that would change the Bylaws to require only five members instead of 10 to charter a new local. Nelda did a great job of speaking to the motion and letting the body know that Okmulgee has nine members who are ready to charter. The motion passed and went into effect immediately. So, Nelda and the other members are in the process of completing the paperwork to charter Okmulgee. How exciting! Way to go Nelda!

I was very proud to have President Elect Kathie Tanner, Vice President Nelda Tyler, Treasurer Dorothy Forth, Individual Development Representative Susan Barton, Young Careerist Brandi Walters (and her husband Zac), OK/BPW Foundation President Sharon Baker, and Dual Members - Past Oklahoma President, Dr. Lois Sharp-ton from Colorado and Judi Hurd from Kansas join me in Reno. By the time we came home, everyone there knew Oklahoma was present and is excited about BPW. Only the Individual Development and Young Careerist who placed first were named, but all contestants were recognized at the Legends Awards on Thursday night. We were so proud of **Susan Barton** from Metro Tulsa and **Brandi Walters** from Ada for the professional way they represented Oklahoma all week. Many people from other states gave us wonderful, positive comments about these young ladies. **Treasurer Dorothy Forth** reported that both gave outstanding presentations. They are both winners for Oklahoma! Spending time with Brandi, Zac, and Susan certainly made the rest of us from Oklahoma feel younger at heart. What a joy! I also want to recognize **Sharon Baker** and **Lois Sharp-ton** for being judges for the Individual Development and Young Careerist competitions. Sharon was also a Microphone Technician for some of the meetings and Lois was an Election Teller. Good job, ladies!

It was my honor to accept the First-Place 2007 Excellence in Legislation Advocacy Award for **Metro Tulsa**. Thank you Metro Tulsa for your hard work and taking the time to submit all the paper work to get this prestigious recognition for Oklahoma. Thank you, **Connie Douglas**, for your leadership last year and again this year as our Legislative Chair for OK/BPW. **President Elect Kathie Tanner** was recognized with a Nike at the Legends Awards for being a member of the Issues Management Task Force that spent many, many hours over the past several months working on the recommended changes to the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. Kathie will be serving on that committee for another year. She was also a Floor Teller during the business sessions. I was also honored to receive a Nike award from BPW/USA President Nancy Jackson for participating in so many Webinars so I could be informed about the changes and share the information with our membership. Only four people out of the 516 in attendance were recognized with special awards.



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There were two people running for the office of Vice President and three ladies vying for the office of Recording Secretary. We even had to have a runoff. How exciting. We hope to generate some of that enthusiasm here in Oklahoma next May. We were very excited that **Tina Garner** from Texas was elected Treasurer. Many of you may remember Tina attended our State Conference this year in Tulsa. She also serves as Chairman of the Issues Management Task Force and is a Foundation Trustee. Below are the national officers:

President - Barbara Henton
President Elect - Diane Polangin
Vice President - Susan Parsons Reed
Recording Secretary - Sandi Haase
Treasurer - Tina Garner

I was honored to be a part of the very impressive formal installation on Saturday night, followed by entertainment by *Three Men and a Tenor* that was truly entertaining. They were great!

It gives me great pleasure to announce that two students from Oklahoma received scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 each from the BPW/USA Foundation. The recipients are **Pamela McMinn**, an Education major from Jenks and **Kinu Tanaka**, a nursing student from Oklahoma City. They have both been contacted and given information about BPW. We hope to become better acquainted with them this year. Past BPW/USA President **Rosalyn Ridgeway** is the new BPW/USA Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman. \$43,500 was collected at the Conference for the Foundation.

I am extremely happy that **immediate Past BPW/USA President Nancy Jackson** and **Treasurer Tina Garner** have both accepted our invitation to be guest speakers at our Board Meeting at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center in Oklahoma City on October 26-27, 2007. Some of the things they will be discussing are the changes to BPW. They are both very entertaining speakers and we are so fortunate they have accepted our invitation. I am challenging you to have 80 people in attendance for the Board Meeting and Foundation Gala. More information will be published in the next issue of the **Oklahoma Business Woman (OBW)**.

Speaking of the OBW, the deadline for articles and ads is August 15. Ads are only \$10 each for a business-card size ad. I'm sure there are people you would like to congratulate, a new grandbaby you'd like to introduce, a thank-you note, etc. The possibilities are endless. Mail or email your articles and ads to OBW Editors **Sherri Curry**, sherri@wpsinc.com, 23534 State Highway 1 East, Ada, OK 74820 or **Dee Ann Jones**, deeanjones@cableone.net, 16076 CR 3532, Ada, OK 74820. Make your checks payable to "OK/BPW."

I hope you're feeling as excited as I am about OK/BPW. Enthusiasm is contagious. I'm passing it to you!!!

Keep Your Lights Brightly Shining!