

ABPW Special Edition ~ 25th Anniversary Celebration



ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN NEWSLETTER APRIL 2006 ISSUE

Bringing the Past into the Present, ABPW members come together at The Rose to celebrate 25 years of history and memories

President's Message

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Dear ABPW Sisters,

How lovely it is to see snowy white blossoms on pear trees and the pink saucer magnolias in bloom, a sure sign that spring is here. Hope you've had a spring break, and can look forward to getting back to your routine well-rested, eager for great weather ahead.

Thank you to our March speakers Margaret Sucre-Vail, Mary Jane Dixon and Christine Walker for their valuable and informative program on retirement planning for business owners.



In introducing the program, Monica Millican commented on several reasons for retirement planning and added that it's not "about what you make, but what you keep" that's important.

It's a rather complicated subject with many options for business owners depending on the legal structure of the company, the number of employees, and other factors that must be considered such as qualified or non-qualified plans, defined benefits, profit sharing, and tax issues. Margaret, Mary Jane and Christine, our three experts in the field, obvi-

ously have much to offer and can help anyone work through the numbers and options. They provided extensive information in handouts for our program. We'll bring extra copies to our April 6 meeting for anyone who'd like to have that overview. Don't hesitate to contact them for further information for yourself or your company.

Again, we thank our speakers for sharing their knowledge and expertise with us.

When reading the history of ABPW, we're reminded that this organization was founded as a "good ole girl" network to mimic the "good ole boy" network that men have had for years, supporting one another in business and in life. I think we're successful in this area, but we can always do more to support one another. Unless we already have a business relationship established with another professional, think of ABPW members first when you need assistance. Look over the directory on our website and review the professions of our membership; you're certain to find the right person in ABPW!

Let's think too how we can grow and add other professions and business owners to our dynamic



ABPW

Honoring our past...

25 years

Our History

Springs Forth



group. I challenge each of you to bring one prospective member to a meeting this year to help us grow, reflecting the second half of our theme, "...Building Our Future".

At the March board meeting, a decision was made to donate \$600 toward the Interfaith Caring Ministries Child Care Scholarship program, which addresses the root causes of poverty: lack of education. Single parents of young children can complete their education with assistance from this program, which pays \$200 monthly child care costs directly to the child care provider. ICM Executive Director Sherry Cabler will accept our contribution at our April 6 meeting.

While we're thinking of service projects, please feel free to suggest areas that we might consider for future support. We're involved with Bay Area Turning Point, The Rose, ICM, The Bridge, McWhirter Elementary, and our scholarships at UHCL, along with personal involvement and support in many other areas. I'd like to see us consider involvement with the program that donates suits for low-income women going on job interviews. Your ideas and comments are always welcome!

Another action from the board this month was to add "service" to the scholarship committee; that committee really doesn't have a great deal to do now that the scholarships just roll along on their own! Linda Costanza, Scholarship Chair, offered to take on "service" as part of her committee's work. We hope that meets with everyone's approval!

Now, grab your calendars and mark some "save the dates." Our Social Committee, led by Linda Kloss and Anne Ness, isn't resting on its laurels after our great Past President's party, and are busy planning ahead.

There will be a Spring Fling on an upcoming Sunday afternoon at the Haak Winery. June 29th is Melissa Sommers 25 anniversary celebration at NASA Vision, and September 21st is set for our bag stuffing party at Durrett Motor Co., to benefit The Bridge and BATP residents. And planning way ahead, December 10 is our Christmas Party at Michelle Jacobs' home.

Hugs, with Paula Durrett and Ann Henderson, is working with our Social committee on a retreat for fall. So there will be many fun times ahead for ABPW.

A great program is being planned for our April 6 meeting, so we'll see you there.

Til then, Beverly

A Look At ABPW History...

Reading memories of ABPW past presidents compiled into a book by 2000 Historian Suzi Howe, we find many interesting facts about the early years.

Kay Henry, a successful pharmacist, gives us great insight into the political climate of the early 80s and women's struggle for equality while striving for balance at home and at work. Kay Writes, "Looking back, it's hard to imagine what the late 70s or early 80s were like..." She recalled watching bra-burning women's lib marches being shown on TV, and feeling that the movement had lost focus. "Women are still being sent home to get their husband's signatures for loans when they want to open a law practice... No matter that the husband knows...nothing about the business."

"...the women's lib movement doesn't celebrate

the many positive aspects of being a woman," she stated while discussing the situation with Rosemary Pledger, then Dean of Business at UHCL, and only one of two women nationwide to hold such a position.

They decided to involve Nancy Levine who seemed to be the epitome of a successful woman – at home, in her family life, and in her business, Bay Area Speech and Language Center. The three decided that early morning meetings would best fit into the busy schedules of women they hoped to attract to the new organization.

Monica Millican recalls that letters went out to 50 area women inviting them to the first meeting of the new tentatively – named Bay Area Professional Women Executive Club. To their surprise, 35 women attended, "and the rest is history."

"Rosemary was adamant that the purpose of the organization was 'power and money,' moving our members into positions of power in the community and increasing our ability to compete for equal pay," Monica said. "Rosemary pointed out that men had their, 'good old boy network' and that they had been practicing networking all their lives. Women needed their own 'good old girl network' and needed to learn to promote and support each other."

Nancy was a superb organizer, Katy states while noting that Nancy served as president from 1981-1983. The group attracted Cheryl Cook and Sally Jordan who wrote the membership rules. Kay was program chair, and brought in many outside speakers, including Paula Zahn, who discussed everything but her assigned topic!

Building our Future



A speaker from Dallas was truly impressed when reviewing the membership book which included... "everyone from astronauts to lawyers, physicians and accountants. I didn't know anything like this existed," exclaimed the Dallas speaker.

"That was the point," said Kay. ABPW wrote letters to bank presidents promoting the then unheard-of idea that women be considered for positions on their boards of directors, or even for management roles within the banks. "Bay Area Bank and Trust was aggressive in attracting women's business. In 1980, they approved my loan to open my real estate office on my signature alone," says Monica. Maria De Cardenas was Vice President, and the bank had a Women's Advisory Committee to understand female business owners' needs and meet them. Monica chaired that committee, and after a by-law change, moved from Advisory Director to Director. She and Maria were pioneers in women's banking issues! Although progress in that area was slow, most area banks had women in managerial and director positions by 1989.

The Chambers of Commerce was another focus of the group, Monica recalls. "Once we got representation on the Chamber Board, members served on the nominating committee to open doors to other members, thus perpetuating our presence on that board. Those efforts paved the way for ABPW members such as banker Cindy Kennedy Herbert to be president of the Clear Lake Area Chambers several years ago.

Another challenge Kay mentioned was the difficulty in getting meeting notices published in those early years! The newspaper just wasn't interested. Kay concludes, "If someone asked me today to trade just my little part of our legacy with Gloria Steinam, and in return, I could have her fame, fortune, looks or all three, without hesitation I would answer... 'Nope, no trade.' Rosemary, and Nancy, Cheryl and Sally were right. *I always felt honored and special to walk in the same room with ABPW members.*"

And don't we all!

Special ABPW Days

*March
Birthday Wishes*

to **ABPW** Members
on their Special Day

Maria De Cardenas, April 1
Suzi Howe, April 15
Dorothy Weston Gibbons, April 24

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006

Brentwood Inn (formerly Holiday Inn)
ABPW Meeting -Guests Welcome
7:00 A.M. Meet & Greet Coffee Social

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006

BOARD MEETING
7:30 A.M. Gateway Community Church

IMPORTANT DAYS TO REMEMBER

ABPW meets at 7:00 A.M. on the First Thursday of every month at the Brentwood Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn - NASA)

Articles/pictures to be published in the next newsletter; need to be sent to Beverly by the 15th of the April so it can go in the production schedule. I realize that images and write-up's for some events may not allow us that much lead time. Please send by e-mail message, attachment, word document, or a pdf. I can also work with publisher files. NO Faxes Please!

Website maintenance has been scheduled for April. Any articles, images, changes, or suggestions etc. must go to Beverly Baldwin for approval and must be submitted by April 15th. We are still looking for website content input.

Officers

President	Beverly Baldwin 281.996.8080
President-elect	Kathy Scalf 713.795.3575
Treasurer	Jennifer Bowers 281.218.9313
Treasurer-elect	Christine Walker 281.488.2577
Secretary	Jean Burkett 281.333.3703
Past President	Becky Reitz 281.488.7001
Directors 1st Term	Polly Lewis 281.286.9898
1st Term	Sharon Maaz 281.334.2737
2nd Term	Cindy Kennedy 281.461.1300
Parliamentarian	Arlene Weinberg 281.332.1244

Social Committee

Chair	Linda Kloss 281.486.5800
Chair	Anne Ness 281.286.2337

Cindy Kennedy Hebert

Paula Durrett	Linda Tuck
Kathy Scalf	Ann Henderson
Karen Keesler	Michele Jacobs
Becky Reitz	Loretta Anderson
Norine Jaloway	Beverly Baldwin

Historian Committee

Chair	Toni Masone 281.280.8190
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Hugs Committee

Chair	Paula Durrett 713.941.5616
Ann Henderson	Jennifer Bowers
Jean Burkett	

Seeds Committee

Chair	Norine Gill
Martha Kennedy	Beverly Baldwin
Loretta Anderson	Paula Durrett
Linda Tuck	Polly Lewis
Carolyn Hibbard	Lynette Mason Gregg



In Your Life

There is excitement in your life. . .be a part of it.
 There is work in your life. . .begin with it.
 There is sorrow in your life. . .ease the pain away.
 There is joy in your life. . .feel it, know it, share it.
 There are goals in your life. . .
 . . .strive for the highest.
 There is a purpose in your life. . .explore it.
 --Jonivan

News 'N' Notes

Congratulations to Jean Burkett and her husband Gayle who celebrated 20 years in business recently at a reception at the Nassau Bay Hilton, attended by their employees, and many community and business leaders, clients and friends. Their company, GB Tech, was established to provide technical services to the aerospace industry. After the Challenger tragedy and the subsequent shut-down of the space program, Jean and Gayle changed their focus to provide technical support for small businesses. Their company has grown tremendously and now provides a wide range of services to aerospace companies and many other businesses. GB Tech was named No. 41 on Inc. Magazine's 1994 list of fastest growing companies in the country, and Gayle last year was named one of America's 50 Most Influential Minorities in Business by the Minority Business and Professionals Network. Congratulations, again, Jean and Gayle!

Kathy and Mike Scalf's oldest son, Michael Schanlaub, was married March 25 to Nichole Gallagher in San Antonio at the Southwest School of Art and Craft on the Riverwalk. The picturesque location provided a lovely backdrop for the reception which followed the ceremony. Michael is employed by the San Antonio Police Department, and Nichole is working on her Master's while working for San Antonio's school district. They honeymooned in St. Lucia and are now enjoying their new home in San Antonio.

Becky Reitz and her Organizational Development Committee, Jane Sweeney, Diane Vest, Roberta Gardiner, Jennifer Bowers, Christine Walker, Linda Costanza and Beverly Baldwin enjoyed wine and munchies while sorting through old ABPW records recently at Jane's office. It's a good start on a big project, and Becky urges anyone who has more ABPW "stuff" to bring it to our April 6 meeting or drop it by Jane's office at Minute Man Press. We found some interesting tidbits from the early days that we'll be sharing with you soon.

While ABPW celebrated its 25th anniversary, Lynn Shigekawa's parents celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and loving marriage in Georgetown, Texas. Lynn, her brothers and sister hosted the two-day affair at her sister's (Ruth Ryan) country home. Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren gathered for a family dinner and presented the honorees with round trip tickets to Sweden and Norway where they will visit relatives and tour the countries again in late June.

Any ABPW golfers out there? The Rose is hosting its third annual Golf Classic at Timber Creek Golf Club in Friendswood Friday, April 21. Contact our own Dorothy Weston Gibbons or Dee Lowery at The Rose, 281- 464-2743, for further information. It would be great for ABPW to have a team play that day.

Scholarships Committee

Chair Linda Costanza
281.326.1822

Carolyn Hibbard Lynette Mason Gregg
Beverly Baldwin Loretta Anderson
Ann Henderson Mary Jane Dixon
Becky Reitz

Public Relations Committee

Chair Lynn Shigekawa
281.660.3183

Dorothy Gibbons Beverly Baldwin
Pam Culpepper

Newsletter/Website

Chair Karen Anderson
281.648.2308

Roberta Gardener Monica Millican
Judith Blanchard Paula Durrett
Beverly Baldwin

Programs Committee

Chair Monica Millican
281.333.1020 *17

Cindy Kennedy Hebert

Lynette Mason Gregg

Polly Lewis

Mary Jane Dixon Becky Reitz
Jennifer Bowers Martha Kennedy
Diane Vest Norine Jaloway

Membership Committee

Chair Carolyn Hibbard
281.316.4800

Judith Blanchard Lynette Mason Gregg
Monica Millican Kay DuBois
Mary Jane Dixon Paula Durrett
Peggy Morrow Jean Burkett
Martha Kennedy
Diane Vest

Org. Development Committee

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Kathy Scalf Beverly Baldwin
Jane Sweeney Monica Millican
Roberta Gardener Christine Walker
Jennifer Bowers Carolyn Hibbard
Lynn Shigekawa

