

BPW Local Organization President's Report

Name of Local Organization: Hardeman County Business and Professional Women

City: Bolivar, Tennessee

of Members: 21

President: Carolyn Beverly

Vice President: Carla Cliff

Secretary: Debbie Flurry

Treasure: Lora Moore

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Date Submitted to President: May 13, 2013

Please tell us a little about your programs presented during the past year, any special projects and/or accomplishments, and awards or recognition of the organization or its members.

This past year 2012-2013, the Hardeman County BPW sponsored several very exciting and successful outreach programs. We again, sponsored BPW Ladies Night Out in celebration of National Business Women's week. We had over 120 ladies to attend. The event was held on October 18 at the National Guard Amory in Bolivar. The theme was "Combating Abuse." The keynote speaker was Mrs. Tina Mays, an assistant victim witness coordinator with the District Attorney's office in Jackson, TN. Mrs. Mays spoke on domestic violence, and shared her personal testimony where she had been a victim of domestic violence earlier in her life. Her personal message was empowering and inspiring for all in attendance. The ladies also enjoyed shopping with the vendors and tasting different soups. Two of the vendors were Relay for Life Teams. They did an outstanding job of getting everyone involved in the awareness that all of us have been touched by cancer. Hardeman BPW member, Andrea Young, a one

year survivor shared very briefly about the importance of regular checkups, screenings, and following the advice of your physician.

Since we were gearing up for election, we included a message on the importance of voting and how hard women fought for that right by showing the video "Bad Romance." This was a unique way of getting their attention on the importance of voting.

Hardeman County BPW received a proclamation signed by Willie Spencer, County Mayor and Steven Barrett, City Mayor declaring the week of October 22-26, 2012 as National Business Women's Week.

This year's Equal Pay Day event was a huge success. Over 150 pay day candy bars bearing a message about the lack of equal pay for women were distributed throughout Hardeman County. At our regular lunch meeting, a proclamation was read and signed by County Mayor, Willie Spencer and City Mayor, Steven Barrett. We also had approximately eleven Business Systems Technology students from the Tennessee Technology Center at Whiteville to join us. They were very engaging and vocal about issues that relates to women and pay. Student Chelsey McBride had actually done research on Equal Pay for women and made a very interesting and informative verbal presentation to the group. Because of BPW's efforts in supporting the causes that affects women and children, the eleven female students are interested in joining as student members. With the financial support of Hardeman BPW members, the membership fees will be covered for these ladies to join and get involved in making a difference for women and children.

Hardeman County BPW also present two scholarships to two very deserving high school female students.

On March 20, 2013, Hardeman County BPW joined other Tennessee BPW members for Day on the Hill.

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, three Hardeman County BPW members, Carolyn Beverly, Andrea Young, and Meryl Rice were recognized as 20 of the Most Influential Women in West Tennessee by receiving the Sterling Award.

What programs and events that assist members with personal and professional development and are not related to legislative activities did your club participate in during the last year? Examples include Women Joining Forces, Womenomics, National Business Women's Week events, health and education issues, Equal Pay events and other BPW signature events or issues that are not tied to specific legislation.

- Equal Pay Day
- Ladies Night Out – Voting Rights; Relay for Life – Cancer Awareness; Domestic Abuse Awareness
- Scholarships for female high school graduates
- Partnership event with Bolivar Rotary
- Hospice Awareness (volunteer programs available)

Describe any legislation addressed by your club. State your objectives, and how the project or program worked to advance BPW/TN's mission. What led you to select this particular project? How did you determine there was a need (i.e., workplace assessment, general survey, hot issue in community or media)?

Hardeman BPW did not pursue legislation that was not a part of BPW Tennessee legislative agenda.