

Take note!

Day on the Hill

Convention Registration

Officer Candidates

Honor your veterans

Inside this issue:

President's 2,3

Day on the Hill 2
Zulfat Suara

Tressy Hart, 4

Carol Turpen, 4
Treasurer

Faces and Places 5

Martha Ervin, 6
Webmaster,

New local 6
officers

Sterling Awards 7

Day on the Hill 8

Veterans ads 9

State convention 10

Convention 11-12

Registration

Fun Zone 12

Sponsors 13

Legislative Platform 14

BPW Foundation 15

President's Form 16-17

Slate of officers 18-20



Meet Meryl Rice
Co-owner, Grannymae's Cedar Chest. Builds Adirondack garden furniture.
Education: Lexington High School, Lexington, Miss., 1970; B.A. Mississippi College, Clinton, MS., 1973; MSW, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss. 1977.

Equal pay, a prepared workforce: BPW's focus

By Jacque Hillman
BPW/TN President

Meet Meryl Rice of Whiteville, incoming president of Hardeman County BPW.

Meryl builds Adirondack garden furniture with her husband as her partner in Grannymae's Cedar Chest. Your garden and her furniture would look really great together.

But she's also a Sterling Awards winner 2013: 20 Most Influential Women in

West Tennessee. Meryl makes things happen.

"There is an old adage that all it takes for evil to prosper is for good men to do nothing. That's a reason for people to get involved – if they see things aren't happening for the good of community. If we sit on our hands, things will happen to us that we don't like. That is wrong, and it hurts the most vulnerable among us," Rice said.

See page 3

Meet new member Diane Morey

Diane Morey of Crossville is the owner of A to Z Printing and a new member of Cumberland County BPW.

She has an extensive background in fine art and graphic design.

She has won numerous awards for her paintings, photography and business leadership.

Diane also has a second degree black belt in American Karate and is in the Karate Hall of Fame. She enjoys horticulture and has a Master Gardeners Certificate.

Diane's goal is to assist people to excel beyond their expectations and provide motivation to promote success.



Diane Morey



Jacquie Hillman
President,
2013-2014

Paris BPW

Members of Paris BPW have helped raise \$351,663 for Helping Hand.

Rogersville BPW

Members of Rogersville BPW in the past have paid GED fees, awarded scholarships and honored the Woman of the Year.



Zulfat Suara,
1st Vice-President,
Hardeman Co.
BPW
(Legislation)
Issues
Management

Thank you for our successes!

What is success?

First, it's a word defined by each person's experiences in life. It's based on whatever their goals may be.

At year's end as president of Business and Professional Women of Tennessee, I find this quote from Amelia Earhart says it best for me:

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act and the rest is merely tenacity."

What I have found this year is that when you come together as a team, all things are possible. And if they aren't, at least you're with good friends and you can laugh at day's end.

I have also found that failure is not an option – at least not when my desire to help BPW/TN grow, thrive and change is greater than my fear of failing, to slightly paraphrase Bill Cosby.

So what have we accomplished since

we began our work?

Growing membership. Yes!

Raising awareness. Developing a stronger BPW/TN.

What I have heard this year as I have gone out as a public speaker to the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, the Tennessee Woman Veterans Summit, entrepreneur centers, universities, and our own local organizations is that there is a groundswell of women who are worried about their rights being eroded.

They want action. They want jobs, higher salaries, better healthcare, economic security for their families.

We have begun addressing the needs of women military veterans who are returning from active duty and cannot find jobs.

Continued on page 5.

Day on the Hill our best event to date

I know that you all are up to date on your respective bills that we worked for at Day on the Hill, but I thought it will be nice to give a summary.

In addition to working together on the Day on the Hill next year, I think it would be a great idea if we can work on meetings with our congressmen while they are not in session. There are issues impacting Tennessee women at the national level and meeting with the folks on their home turf will be great. Maybe one day, we can plan a joint legislative trip to Washington, D.C. Let me know if you will be interested and your

thoughts or comments.

Our victories

The following bills were passed and published:

*SB1794-Extends maximum sentence for repeat offenders- Pub Ch 693 (AWAKE).

*SB1660-Add the offense of promoting prostitution to the list of child abuse- Pub Ch 711.

*SB1028-Changes the statute of limitation for prosecuting someone for trafficking or soliciting sex. Pub Ch 416.

The following bills have not been published, but they have passed and are now transmitted to the governor:

*SB2084- Elimination of the statute of limitation on rape committed after July 1, 2014. This is a major victory that ensures that victims get justice no matter how long it takes
*SB1940-Requires LEA required to provide Family Life Curriculum to send a report to the state board (WPC initiative)

Our defeats

*SB0804-Prohibits TN from participating in any Medicaid expansion. This bill passed after 8 amendments in the House and 9 in the Senate. We believe despite the adjustments, this is still a bad bill for Tennesseans- Pub Ch 662

Continued on page 3

Day on the Hill

Continued from page 2

*SB1681- Creates a voucher program for payment of approved testing cost failed in the Senate education committee where Senator Tate who is the sponsor of the bill is the vice chairman. Go figure.

No actions

The following bills just did not get acted on before the assembly adjourned:

*SB 1428- creates a grant to assist veterans with creating

and opening small business.

*SB 2354-Revises the provisions governing harassment/bullying in schools

*SB1973 Requires publishing of reports concerning awarding of purchases to minority, women and disabled veterans.

What is disappointing is that the above bills are common sense bills – no brainers.

It is indeed a shame that our legislators could not make the time to pass bills that help veterans, reduce bullying and help women and minorities.

The lesson is that there are

no common sense bills. If we leave it to our legislators, those bills that we think are important may fall through the cracks (politics). It is therefore important that we keep the pressure on.

Go and visit your legislators at their district offices while they are on break. Again thanks to everyone for making this year's effort a success and we hope we can count on you next year.

**Zulfat Suara, CPA
Legislation/DOH Chair
BPWTN**



Zulfat Suara, DOH Chair, enjoyed Day on the Hill with past state president Terri Curran as they visited legislators.

Rice

Continued from page 1

"Lately the Tennessee legislature has had a barrage of 'attack bills', I call them attack bills because they attack public education; they attack children, the poor, the sick and the needy," Rice said. "Then there's the Medicaid expansion. They are not expanding Medicaid. That hurts a lot of people below poverty level--- the working poor. It doesn't help our rural hospitals either. They no longer get reimbursed for indigent care and that may spell the end for many of them. Those are just a few of the things I feel strongly about."

She always attends Day on the Hill and was there in February visiting our legislators at one of the best attended Day on the Hill events in several years, according to Zulfat Suara, Legislative Chair.

For many years, she has been a professional social

worker serving the poor, the sick and the mentally ill. When she moved to Tennessee in 1988, she worked at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital helping children and their families adapt to catastrophic illness. She relocated to Hardeman County in 2000 and commuted to work for Professional Counseling Services, providing therapy and crisis services in their Ripley and Somerville locations.

She began working for Quinco Mental Health in 2004. In 2008, she became Director of Crisis Services over a five-county area.

"I'm retired from Quinco, but I remain on their crisis response team,"

Meryl said.

Because she often works with those whose rights are violated and whose medical services are diminished by cutbacks, she is dogged in her determination to be politically active.

"I ran for State Senate, District 26, and I received 40 percent vote against an

incumbent in 2012," she said. "I was pleased with the showing. I got a late start. I was looking for someone else to run, but I ended up running because no one else would."

"If I had gotten an earlier start and had been able to contact more people, I think I would have done better and possibly would have beat her. It's hard to get the word spread in eight counties. So many people vote the party and pay no attention to who is running. The district leans Republican anyway," she said.

When Rice ran, she was endorsed by the 55,000 member Tennessee Education Association, Tennessee State Employees Association, and The Jackson Sun, among others. She chaired the Hardeman County Democratic Party from 2005-2011 and was vice-chairman.

She helped organize the charter chapter of Hardeman County Democratic Women in 2009 and is

president now. She was elected delegate to 2012 Democratic National Convention, and she co-chaired Greg Rabidoux's U.S. Congressional campaign.

As president of Hardeman County BPW, she'd "like to continue the work for women that is BPW's focus. All the women in BPW are interested in getting equal pay for equal work. Our efforts need to continue to be focused in that direction. I would also like to see more women in business, period."

She's also excited about the newly designed BPW/TN business training conference coming up June 13-15 in Jackson that will offer education tracks and business training sessions to non-traditional women students and to women military veterans, and male veterans as well.

The fact that 1 in 5 women returning from

Continued on page 20



**Tressy Hart
Incoming
President**

“Please let me know if you are interested in serving on any committee or want to join the leadership team.”



**Carol Turpen,
Treasurer**

We love new beginnings, a fresh start

**By Tressy Hart
Incoming President**

The most impressive thing about being a woman is our ability to get excited about possibilities and potential. We love new beginnings and a fresh start. The first of the year, the first of the week, the first of the month - these times are exciting as we think about what could be.

That is why we love convention so much - it is the start of a new year with the chance to do new things and maybe even get it right for once. We all have such high hopes for the new year and the incoming slate of officers. We want them to succeed. We want to be inspired by them and their ideas. We want them to achieve our

dreams and goals for this organization.

And then reality sets in and it is Interim Board and nothing has happened and we get discouraged and give up - until spring rolls around and we start to get excited again about the new year and the new possibilities.

Tired yet?

This year I am asking you to get off the roller coaster of hope and get active. Instead of waiting for the incoming slate of officers to achieve your dreams and goals, it is time for you to take action.

I understand needing inspiration and I have a couple of things that will get you inspired. It is time for us to reach outside our own organization and check the region.

Who is still active in the

southeast? Is there another state that is struggling? Can we inspire and be inspired by our sisters? I say YES.

If any of you have contact information for any of the BPW organizations (state or local) in the southeast, please share it with Deborah Brasfield or Beth Bates. I want to invite them to come to our Interim Board and/or convention and hope they will reciprocate the invitations so we can start getting outside ourselves.

For further inspiration - come to convention and attend the business meetings and board of directors meetings. Involvement creates passion and inspiration and that can only mean that you will be transformed by BPW.

What do you have to lose?

Check your dues status before convention

**By Carol Turpen
Treasurer**

Time is ticking away, passing by so quickly and the end of the year is fast approaching. Elections will bring our new slate of officers and members serving on different committees for the upcoming year, so please check with your local treasurer or me to make sure that your dues are current.

Local treasurers have a current list of paid membership, which will be checked with the state roster. It is easy for things to fall through the cracks and go undetected.

I would like to thank all the local treasurers for their diligence in putting together an updated correct membership list. Payments for upcoming

membership dues and new members are on the rise, which is a good sign that our organization is growing and will continue with the great leadership from all the locals across the state.

If you have a question about your status of paid membership, please feel free to contact me, (HM) 731-677-4102 or cgturpen@crockett.net.

Faces and Places

Cumberland County BPW



At Cumberland County's February meeting, Dr. Kim Holden, our speaker, presented "Ingredients to Having a Healthy Heart." Shown left to right: Terri Curran, Kaye Blakely, Lee Ann Gaddis (President), Dr. Kim Holden, Diane Morey.

At Cumberland County's March Meeting, Vickie Bilbery from Gentiva Hospice spoke on "Hospice: Volunteer and Care."

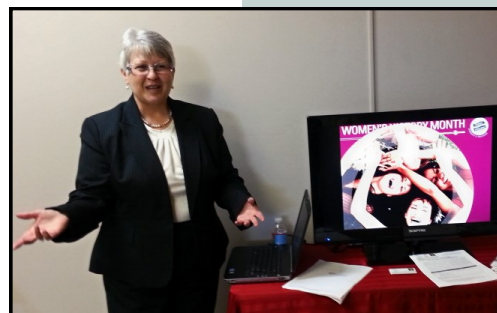


Shown left to right: Kaye Blakely, Terri Curran, Pamala Harris, Lee Ann Gaddis (President), and Bilbery.

Memphis Area BPW



Some attendees at the March 30 Open House hosted by Memphis Area BPW, our new local, were Beverly Schaeffen, secretary, BPW/TN President Jacque Hillman, Memphis Area BPW President Martha Ervin, guest Christine Lemons, and BPW/TN State Treasurer Carol Turpen.



Martha Ervin, Memphis Area BPW president, gave an inspired presentation on the history of BPW and Women's History Month. at the March 30 Open House.

Success

Continued from page 2

Our new state conference offers education and business training that will help women achieve their goals.

But we could not have arrived at this point of amazing change without the dynamite convention team I have had this year. Beth Bates, our convention chair, is a jewel. She has led one of the hardest working teams you'll find at any level of business or government anywhere. It includes Mary Jo Middlebrooks, Wanda Stanfill, Martha Ervin, Jan Bynum, Carol Turpen, Carolyn Beverly, Jackie Utley, Daryl Chansuthus, Andreea Temple, Tawnya Moore, Lynn Menendez, Amy Dietrich, Pat Wisniowski, Susan Sumner, Debbie O'Bryant, Beth Reitzammer and Pat Patrick. They have been meeting monthly since LAST JULY to be certain our vision for a new business conference came to fruition.

And although she didn't serve specifically on the team,

JABPW member Vicki Lake wrote our grant to the USDA for our convention. Right now, we are still waiting to hear from that, but it has reached the final stage due to Vicki.

I have had a tremendous group of officers to work with who understand the goals and how to get there. I am blessed as well that Zulfat Suara stepped up to be Legislative Chair and run Day on the Hill. She works like a Trojan, and she understands partnerships with other organizations statewide.

All year long, I have talked with past state presidents to gather their wise advice and talked with members about what they need and want in BPW/TN.

I am so enervated that I am dancing through life excited for BPW/TN. We have what women need and want. We just have to offer it.

Thank you for giving me a year full of blessings.

Jacque Hillman, State President, 2013-2014



**Martha Ervin,
Webmaster,
Financial Chair**

***“(Our website) is
our storefront to
letting the world
know who we are
and what we do.”***

**BPW/TN
Legislative
Platform
Preamble**

The Equal Rights Amendment, as authored by Alice Paul, shall stand first, foremost, and above all other items which may appear on the platform of this Federation until equal, legal rights for women and men become guaranteed in the United States Constitution, because all statutory law derives there from.

**The Equal Rights
Amendment**

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Web page is always changing, growing

When asked to be webmaster again for BPW/TN, I took the opportunity to look at the past websites and identify some of the challenges the organization has experienced with maintaining a communication outlet.

One of the issues I personally struggled with several years ago as webmaster was functionality and convenience. At that time, when notified of a change, I had to wait until I returned to my home computer to update the website. Why? Because both the software and data were contained on my home computer.

Today things are much different. Web based software allows us great-

er flexibility and access to our data as long as there is an internet connection. This means, when I receive an email message stating “my name is spelled wrong”, I can log into our Weebly account, make the change, and publish within minutes.

Why use Weebly for a website? First, it is easy to use and provides valuable videos on how to build a professional looking site from scratch. Second, the drag and drop functionality makes it easy to move items around on a page for an eye catching landscape.

Third, probably one of the most important reasons the price. For those with a limited budget, there is a free version

which allows you to get online with no investment. The purchased versions provide even more advanced tools to make your online presence more professional at an affordable price. For example, the paid version provides a more robust means to offer visitors online registration forms to events such as our annual convention.

Our website is more than just an informational tool for our visitors. It is our storefront to letting the world know who we are and what we do.

**Martha Ervin
Ervin Hypnosis
Center, LLC
2865 Summer Oaks
Suite 100
Bartlett, TN 38134**

2014-2015 local officers

Hardeman Co. BPW

President: Meryl Rice
Vice President: Tonya Perry
Secretary: Andrea Young
Treasurer: Dixie Spencer
Membership Chair: Ruby Kirby
Installation: May 8

Jackson Area BPW

President: Susan Sumner
1st Vice President: Pat Patrick
2nd Vice President: Wanda Stanfill
Treasurer: Beth Reitzammer
Secretary: Daryl Chansuthus
Installation: May 5

Rockwood BPW

President: Mary Ann Owings
1st Vice president: Linda Rector
2nd Vice President: Betty Johnson
3rd Vice President: Jerry Wallick
Recording Secretary: Becky Layne
Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Satterfield

Treasurer: Ann Hiegel

On May 20, 2014, Rockwood BPW will meet at Victorian Square for dinner and the installation of officers. Members will be called before noon May 12, for members' and guests' reservations. Committee: Betty Johnston, chair, Bettye King, Pearl Williams. Officers will be installed by Lee Ann Gaddis, 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair for BPW/TN.

Focus on women's issues

Jackson Area Business & Professional Women

Jackson Area BPW held its Sterling Awards 2014 ceremony honoring 20 Most Influential Women in West Tennessee on Tuesday, April 8, at the Ned R. McWherter Cultural Arts Center in downtown Jackson. This event is part of Equal Pay Day observances in Jackson.

These awards have been given since 2010, so at this 5-year anniversary celebration, the Top 100 Most Influential Women were honored.

The 2014 winners included these Jackson Area BPW members:

- ♦ Mary Reed, co-founder of WRAP, owner of Reed & Associates in Jackson.
- ♦ Carol Turpen, BPW/TN state treasurer, retired GIS technician, and now consultant.
- ♦ Jacque Hillman, BPW/TN president, senior partner, The HillHelen Group LLC.
- ♦ Pat Alford, director of Jackson Children and Teen Theater.



Mary Reed



Pat Alford



Jacque Hillman, left.

Carol Turpen, right.



What did you do for Equal Pay Day?

BPW local organization members across the state:

- Shared information about votes in Congress.
- Talked with congressmen.
- Visited city mayors to receive Equal Pay Day Proclamations.
- Wrote op-eds for newspapers.
- Were interviewed on radio.
- Posted on social media.

Equal pay for equal work is a primary focus of Business and Professional Women and has been since 1919.

New member spotlight

Irene Blackburn is founder and owner of Business Cumberland, a local advertising company focused on "Preferred Businesses" serving Cumberland and Putnam Counties, now in its 4th year. Irene was the 2011 President of the BNI Crossville Chapter. She received the 2011 new "Rising Star" award by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center of Cookeville. Irene is a retired school principal, and has worked as an education consultant. Running and golf are her pastimes, and she enjoys visiting her children and grandchildren.



Irene Blackburn

Irene Blackburn, Founder/President Business Cumberland 528 N. Willow Ave., Suite 104 Cookeville, TN 38501 Mailing address: P.O.Box 1826 FFG, TN 38558 (931) 338-0751 phone (931) 528-4239 fax Facebook [ire-ne@businesscumberland.com](#) BusinessCumberland.com

Day on the Hill



BPW/TN members and other groups met with Speaker of the House Beth Harwell, who is a former BPW/TN scholarship winner. It was a great day with the best attendance in several years, according to Legislation Chair Zulfat Suara, seen standing next to Speaker Harwell at right, back row. A later photo was taken of the entire group with Gov. Bill Haslam.

For information about bills passed, defeated or tabled, see Zulfat Suara's column on page 2.



Rep. Jimmy Eldridge, center, met with Jackson Area BPW members Carol Turpen, Jacque Hillman, Jackie Utley, Beth Bates and Mary Jo Middlebrooks. Turpen is state treasurer; Hillman, state president; Middlebrooks, state volunteer attorney.



As these photos of the crowd indicate, the breakfast was sold out for Day on the Hill.

Honor your veterans!

BPWTN Convention in Jackson offers you a unique and affordable way to honor a veteran.

For only \$20 you can purchase a Flag Day ad for the convention program. There will be twelve Flag Day ads per page. The ads will be approximately business card size. Please provide the following along with a check:

- Name:
- Branch of Service: (ex. U.S. Navy)

- Approximate Dates of service or war|conflict era:
- Example: Vietnam War



The check and information must be submitted by May 16, 2014 to Carol Turpen, 622 Lanier Road, Alamo, TN 38001.

Please remember that you can also honor a veteran with a half page black and white ad for \$100 or a full page color ad for \$250.

Sample business card sized ad for \$20 ↓

**In honor of
Jesse Carl Hillman**
United States Army
Medic, assigned to 25th Infantry
Korean War
By Jesse Hillman

A full page color ad is \$250 and size 7.25 wide X 9.5.

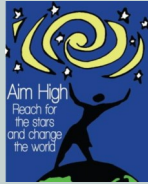
Sample half page \$100 black and white ad 4.5 X 7.25 ↓



Recommended Sept. 23, 2013
for Medical Surgical Clinical Specialty Leader.

**In honor of
Navy Cdr. Cathy
Lovelace**
Combat nurse
Served in the NATO
Role 3 Trauma Hospital,
Kandahar, Afghanistan
Trauma Hospital,
Landstuhl, Germany
Medical surgery nurse on board
the USNS Comfort medical
support to patients in
Port-au-Prince, Haiti and the
Dominican Republic.

By Ret. Navy Cdr. Debbie O'Bryant



What: BPW/TN STATE CONVENTION "AIM HIGH" When: June 13-15 Where: Doubletree Hotel, Jackson

BPW/TN has been working since 1919 in Tennessee to help women in the workforce and their families both through education and legislative action. Today, more than ever, we are needed to help women return to college, or to transition from military to civilian life.

Join us for our **Aim High** convention June 13-15, 2014, as we offer education, business training, and mentorship for both nontraditional women students and women military veterans.

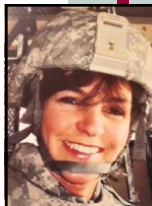
State delegates attend from local organizations from each grand division. Members' fees are \$100 for both days if registered before June 1. It's \$125 after June 1.

Outstanding keynote speakers:

Friday, June 13: **Navy Commander Cathy Lovelace**, APRN, MSN, and Oklahoma University College of Nursing professor, tours in Afghanistan and Germany as a combat nurse. Friday lunch and speaker only: \$40.

Saturday, June 14: National **Award-winning author Lillie Leonardi**, retired, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Pittsburgh Division. In her book, *In the Shadow of a Badge*, Lillie shares what she witnessed at the Flight 93 crash site on 9/11. Saturday lunch and speaker only: \$40.

Lunch reservations required by: Monday May 26. Call 423-2234.



Lovelace



Leonardi

Conference reaches out to women military veterans – and men – and to non-traditional female students interested in returning to post-secondary education and in receiving more business training.

Goal is 150 to 200 attendees for training.

Register for business sessions by **Monday June 2**. Call 423-2234. Registration in advance is a good idea since we are presenting Certificates of Completion for business training at the Saturday luncheon so that those attending will be able to take certificates back to their HR directors, or keep for their resumes.

We will welcome visitors registering for business training sessions at the door, however.

Visitors' passes are only \$15 for women veterans, and we have corporate sponsors who are offering their passes for any woman veteran who needs a free pass to attend – or for any male veteran who wants to attend.

Veterans representatives will be present in the boardroom to meet with any military veteran regarding their benefits.

New business training conference:

Education track with 10 colleges, universities and colleges of applied technology having information available.

Business training sessions offer:

Generation Gaps: Managing Multi-Generations in Business.

What human resources directors see: The Total Picture of Who You Are.

Who are YOU in Social Media

Women's Political Power

ID Course Overview/ Negotiate your salary; Ace the Interview; Dress for Success;

Women and Financial Decisions.

Veterans and Business

Economic Development/Entrepreneurship: The importance of women in the state's economic development

Legislation and your business: Why this is important to you

3-hour course Saturday: How to prepare for a federal job and get your resume ready.

The Fun Zone: Thursday, June 12: Bus trip to Discovery Park of America in Union City \$40 for bus and entrance to the park. Lunch at Sassafras Restaurant and dinner at The Opera House in Martin. We welcome members, families, friends and children to come on this trip. **Register at 423-2234. Deadline: May 10. Make checks payable to BPW/TN. Mail to: Mary Jo Middlebrooks, P.O. Box 1985, Jackson, TN. 38302. Note: The Fun Zone also includes TableEscapes by Kent Freeman, AnyArt, and Jackson Day Spa.**

See Fun Zone registration on page 12.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN OF TENNESSEE, INC. (BPW/TN) 2014 State Convention June 12 – 15, 2014

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Jackson
1770 Highway 45 Bypass
Jackson, TN. 38305
Telephone: 1-731-664-6900 FAX: 1-731-668-0474
Convention Chair: Beth Bates
Email: batesb@aol.com
Phone: 731-426-1313 (WK)

Mail registration to:
Registration Chair :Carol Turpen
622 Lanier Road
Alamo, TN. 38001
Phone: (H) 731-677-4102
Email: cgturpen@crockett.net
Make checks payable to: BPW/TN Convention

Please type or print in **black** or **blue** ink.

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Office Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Local Organization: _____

Email: _____

First-timer to attend a BPW/TN Convention: _____

Please check the functions you plan to attend:

	Before 6/01/2014	After 6/01/2014
Registration Fee	\$50.00 _____	\$55.00 _____
Friday Luncheon	\$25.00 _____	\$35.00 _____
Saturday Installation Luncheon	\$25.00 _____	\$35.00 _____
TOTAL Amount Enclosed	\$100.00 _____	\$125.00 _____
Visitor Pass only (Fri. & Sat.-Convention)	\$ 15.00 _____	\$15.00 _____
One Day Registration	\$ 15.00 _____	\$15.00 _____
Friday Lunch only	\$ 40.00 _____	\$40.00 _____
Saturday Lunch only	\$40.00 _____	\$40.00 _____

****One-Day registrants or Visitors pass are not eligible to VOTE in elections or business meetings and will NOT receive any materials.**

TOTAL AMOUNT Enclosed \$ _____ \$ _____

State Officers, Regional Directors, Standing Committee Chair, Parliamentarian, Immediate Past State President – SEND CHECK FOR NON-EXEMPT EVENTS ONLY

Dietary Restriction: If you have dietary restrictions because of health, please describe

Events registration (Discovery Park, Century Farm and the Comedy Club): online at bpwtn.org and in the next Achiever.

ROOM RESERVATIONS: HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

A block of rooms has been reserved for BPW at the DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL in Jackson, TN., 38305 for June 12 – 15, 2014. Cut-off date for reservations is **May 27, 2014**. The rate for rooms reserved prior to May 27, 2014 is **\$99.99** plus tax for single or double occupancy. Room requests after the cut-off date are subject to availability, and rates higher than the group rate may apply. For reservations, please call the **DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL (731-664-6900)** in-house reservations listed above and identify yourself as a member of Business and Professional Women of Tennessee, Inc. (BPW/TN). All reservation requests must be accompanied by the first night's deposit via a major credit card or check. The deposit is refundable up to 48 hours prior to check-in time.

I AM REGISTERING AS:

- ☐ State Officer
☐ Regional Director
☐ District Director
☐ Standing Committee Chair
☐ Special Committee Chair
☐ Parliamentarian
☐ Past State President
☐ Young Careerist-ALT
☐ ID Participant
☐ Local President (2013-14)

Local President's Representative

- ☐ Local Delegate [MOL or SOL]
☐ Local Member
☐ Member-at-Large
☐ Member-at-Large (1 Day)

- ☐ Visitor
☐ Guest

Please place an **X** beside the primary office for which you are registering; use check marks for delegates, members, visitors and guests.



BPW Fun Zone Reservations

Excursions



Thursday, June 12, 2014: Discovery Park, Dyersburg

8:30 a.m. Leave DoubleTree Hotel. Noon: Lunch, Sassafras, Union City, or Discovery Park. 5 p.m. Leave Discovery Park. Dinner at Olivia's Opera House Restaurant, Martin. 7 p.m. Return to DoubleTree Hotel. Cost: \$40. Includes bus transportation and admission to Discovery Park. Meals on your own.



Friday, June 13, 2014: Baudo's Restaurant and Comedy Club, Jackson. 6 p.m. Dinner (Dutch – order from menu). Followed by Comedy Club act. \$10. Comedy Club.



Saturday, June 14, 2014: Century Farms Winery, Jackson. 6:30 p.m. Carpool to Century Farm Winery. Dinner by Gourmet Your Way. Pulled pork and fried chicken with fixins, dessert, tea and water. Wine may be purchased on site for additional charge. Enjoy music and lively conversation on the grounds of the Winery. \$25. Dinner & Music.

DoubleTree Fun Zone (Please check sessions attending)

Friday, June 13, 2014: DoubleTree Fun Zone Suite

_____ TableEscapes Demonstrations by J. Kent Freeman. 9 a.m. no charge
 _____ Jackson Massage & Day Spa (Beginning at 9 a.m.)
 _____ Manicure (includes tip) \$30
 _____ Pedicure (includes tip) \$40
 _____ Chair Massage (includes tip) \$30

Saturday, June 14, 2014: (Please check a.m. or p.m. session)

_____ **9 a.m. AnyART** (minimum 10 per class). Create your own work of art under the supervision of AnyART. \$30 per session includes all materials.

_____ **2 p.m. AnyART** (minimum 10 per class). Create your own work of art under the supervision of AnyART. \$30 per session includes all materials.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email address _____

Thursday, June 12, 2014: Discovery Park, Dyersburg _____ @ \$40 = _____

Friday, June 13, 2014: Baudo's Restaurant/Comedy Club (Dutch) _____ @ \$10 = _____

Saturday, June 14, 2014: Century Farms Winery _____ @ \$25 = _____

TableEscapes with J. Kent Freeman _____ @ N/C

Jackson Day Spa _____ @ _____ = _____

AnyART _____ @ \$30 = _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____



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IRIS \$5,000. Opportunity to speak at opening luncheon and to receive Women Veterans' Mentor Award.

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More information: Email Wanda Stanfill at:
fundraising@bpwtn.org.
Jacque Hillman, president@bpwtn.org,
Or call (731) 423-2234.

www.bpwtn.org

BPW/TN Legislative Platform



Alice Stokes Paul,
American
Suffragist
And Activist



PREAMBLE

The Equal Rights Amendment, as authored by Alice Paul, shall stand first, foremost, and above all other items which may appear on the platform of this Federation until equal, legal rights for women and men become guaranteed in the United States Constitution, because all statutory law derives there from.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.



PLATFORM

Economic Equity

Actively work to support equal educational opportunities; equal treatment for women in all areas of employment, including adequate retirement benefits, improved programs for women re-entering the workforce, and implementation of equal pay for work of comparable worth.

Health

Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for full access to all health care services including reproductive choice, funding for research into and protection for women's health care and educational programs concerning women's health issues.

Civil Rights

Actively work to pass legislation, which will ensure equal rights and remedies for women in all phases of their lives, including support of affirmative action programs; and eliminate all forms of harassment against individuals.

Dependent Care

Actively work to strengthen and improve enrichment programs, physical facilities, and funding for affordable quality dependent care of all ages.

Victim Rights

Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for all individuals who are victims of violent acts including domestic and/or sexual violence; promote violence prevention programs; support services and facilities for survivors of this violence and the funding thereof; and support legislation, which provides compensatory and punitive damage awards to victims.

Policy Items

Actively work for the election of and appointment to policy-making positions those who support the BPW Legislative Platform.

The organization supports issues of importance, which promote the goals, objectives, and mission statement of the Business and Professional Women of Tennessee, Inc. (BPW/TN). The placement of the Platform items in no way indicates importance or priority of one item above another.

Foundation chair

By Carolyn Beverly
Hardeman Co.
President

If you have not donated to BPW Foundation this year, now is the time to consider giving.

Below you will find just a small bit of information about the good work they do for women everywhere. Thank you if you have already donated.

I hope you win one of our awards at convention!



Carolyn Beverly
Foundation Chair

Resources

In order to support successful workplaces and an empowered workforce, Business and Professional Women's Foundation conducts research, shares knowledge and information as well as advocates. Our public resources provide insight to transform the workplace and inform the creation of best practices.

BPW Foundation also serves as a repository of resources for the betterment of workplaces and seek to expand the information base. We encourage employers, organizations, agencies and policy makers to submit your research, best workplace practices and real life suggestions on how to transform today's workplace. We will add them to the [Rawalt Online Resource Center](#), a portal of information for and about working women and their families.

BPW Foundation has a track record of providing evidence-based resources and information in an effort to solve the workplace challenges of today and tomorrow.

BPW Foundation recently conducted a survey among 500 Women small business owners. Please follow this link to our [survey results presentation](#) and our [summary white paper](#).

www.bpwfoundation.org

BPW/TN Local Organizations

www.bpwtn.org

Chattanooga Business Women

3rd Monday ~ If you would like to attend the next meeting, please contact Treasa Newton at treasa@WomansWayJournal.com for more information.

Cumberland County BPW

3rd Thursday ~Cumberland Business Incubator building at Roane State Community College, 2569 Cook Rd., Crossville, TN 38571. 5:30pm

Contact: Lee Ann Gaddis, 865-250-8149 or email lee-ann4002@yahoo.com

Elizabethton BPW

4th Monday At different area restaurants. 5:30pm

Contact: Freida Carrier, President, at social-pine@signaturehealthcareLLC.com

Greater Nashville BPW

3rd Thursday ~ Meeting Place and Time to be announced

Jackson Area BPW

1st Monday ~ Baudo's Restaurant. 5:30pm (Networking begins at 5:15pm). 559 Wiley Parker Road, Jackson, TN.

Contact: Susan Sumner, President, at ssumner@mglawfirm.com

Website: bpwjackson.org or [Visit our Facebook Page!](#)

Lawrence County BPW

3rd Tuesday night ~ Scout Cabin in Lawrenceburg. 5:30 pm.

Columbia BPW

Contact Elizabeth Crutcher at columbiaBPW@gmail.com for meeting information.

Gallatin BPW

1st Thursday ~ At different area locations 12:00pm

Contact: Joyce at hoosierbanker@comcast.net
Patricia kara7072@aol.com

Hardeman County BPW

2nd Thursday ~ Bolivar Library. 12:00pm

Contact: Carolyn at carolyn.beverly@ttcwhiteville.edu

LaFollette BPW

3rd Monday ~ LaFollette Community/Recreation Center

5:00 p.m. **Contact:** Sheree Schneider, President, at sheree.schneider@lmunet.edu

Paris BPW

Contact: Susan Hayes for meeting info.

jsusanhayes@hotmail.com

Rogersville BPW

1st Tuesday Miss Bea's Pies & Perks . 6:30pm

Contact: Pat Rimer, President, at patrimer@bellsouth.net

Rockwood BPW

3rd Tuesday ~ Victorian Square, 241 S. Chamberlain Ave.

6:30pm (EST). **Contact:** Mary Ann Ownings, President, at owings_m@bellsouth.net or [Visit our Facebook Page!](#)



Business and
Professional
Women/TN 2014

Local Organization President's Report

Name of Local Organization _____

City _____

_____ # of Members 2013-2014

_____ # of Members 2012-2013 (to show increase)

Local dues: _____

Meeting day, time and location: _____

Names of Officers:

President _____ Vice President _____

Secretary _____ Treasurer _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ Email Address _____

Date Submitted to State President, State 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President.

Electronic submission by email will suffice. Please ask for email confirmation receipt.

Send your email to both state officers listed below **with a copy to State President:**

Membership Chair, LeeAnn4002@yahoo.com. Vicepresident2@bpwtn.org

Or mail: Lee Ann Gaddis, 1258 Joiner Hollow Road, Rockwood, Tenn. 37854

Issues Management/Legislative Advocacy Chair BPW/TN, vicepresident1@bpwtn.org

zsuaara@advancebusiness.org

Or mail: Zulfat Suara, 108 West Market Street, Bolivar, TN 38008

State President: Jacque Hillman, president@bpwtn.org jacquehillman@gmail.com

Local Organization President's Report

PROGRAMS PRESENTED IN THE PAST YEAR

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.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

What programs and events did your local participate in during this past year that assisted members with personal and professional development and are not related to legislative activities? Examples include Women Joining Forces, Tennessee Economic Council on Women Summit, TN Woman Veterans Summit, 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.

LEGISLATION/DAY ON THE HILL

Describe any 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?)

PLEASE RETURN TO 1ST VICE PRESIDENT, 2nd VICE PRESIDENT, AND PRESIDENT
BY MAY 15.

Note: This date was changed from past years because membership dues are collected in April, and the final dues are often not turned in until April 30. This allows more time for the membership report to be current and accurate.

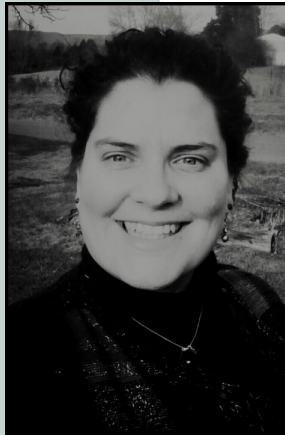
For Foundation Awards:

Please email your information on donations total and by members to Carolyn Beverly, Foundation Chair, at [Carolyn.Beverly @tcatwhiteville.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Beverly@tcatwhiteville.edu).

Please add lines and pages as necessary to finish your report.

2014-2015 BPW/TN Slate of Officers

President-Elect Lee Ann Gaddis



Lee Ann Gaddis, 34, of Rockwood, Tenn. has a Masters in Educational Psychology and 10-plus years of service in education, both regular ED and Student with Special Needs.

Currently, I am in agriculture and retail, two vastly different fields of work but both serve their purpose to keep me in the different social networks.

I first heard of BPW when I was a senior in high school. I won the Rockwood BPW Scholarship for \$1,000. After going to a Membership Luau, I joined BPW in 2007. Upon joining Rockwood, I became a candidate for Young Careerist. I became the winner in Region I and went to State and placed Runner-up. I serve currently on the committee for Young Careerist/Aspiring Leaders of Tomorrow). I served as State Fundraising Chair for 2010-2011 and 2012-2013.

1st Vice President Martha Ervin



Martha was a member of East Memphis BPW/Greater Memphis BPW from 2007 to 2013 when she transferred to Jackson Area BPW. Today, Martha is an active member in good standing with Jackson Area BPW and current president of Memphis Area BPW.

Martha has held state offices to include: Women Joining Forces Chair, Financial Committee Chair, and Webmaster. Martha's past local offices include: Foundation Chair for East Memphis BPW and Recording/Secretary and Webmaster for Greater Memphis BPW.

Martha's current obligations for BPW/TN 2013-2014 are to serve as the Financial Committee Chair, Webmaster, and member of the 2013-2014 state convention committee.

Martha is employed with International Paper in Memphis, TN as an IT Business Analyst working with human resources and payroll software. Martha is a returning employee with International Paper after having served in a similar position for over 5 years with Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare in Memphis, TN. Martha's information systems career spans 20 years in which she has advanced through various rolls to develop the qualifications and skills necessary to assist her customers.

Martha also is 51 percent owner in a family business, Ervin Hypnosis Center. Through a joint effort with her husband, Richard, they have built a successful hypnosis practice in Memphis which celebrates its 7th year of operation in 2014. As a business owner Martha utilizes her skills and talents learned through corporate jobs to advance the success of the family business.

Education:

- AAS, Microcomputer Management, State Technical Institute of Memphis
- BS, Health Care Management, Southern Illinois University
- MBA, Human Resources Management, University of Phoenix

2014-2015 BPW/TN Slate of Officers

Brenda has been a member in good standing of the Lawrence County BPW since 1982. She has served the local as Treasurer. She has also served her Local Organization as Second Vice President, First Vice President, President Elect, and President. She has previously served the state federation as Treasurer for two terms, 1997-98 and 1998-99, Region II District III Director, Second Vice President, First Vice President, President Elect, and President.

Brenda has more than 25 years' experience in the banking industry. Since 1985 she has worked for First Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Columbia. She is an Assistant Vice President with F&M and currently works as the Overdraft Privilege Coordinator. Her duties include managing the 25,000 accounts in the Overdraft Privilege Program.

She has served the community as the Vice President and President of the Board of Directors of the Shady Brook Mall Merchants Association. She is a graduate of Leadership Lawrence County, The Southeastern School of Consumer Credit, and the Southeastern School of Banking.

Note: This biography came from an earlier date since the candidate's bio file would not open. *Editor*

2nd Vice President and Secretary positions are open. Candidates may be nominated from the floor at convention.

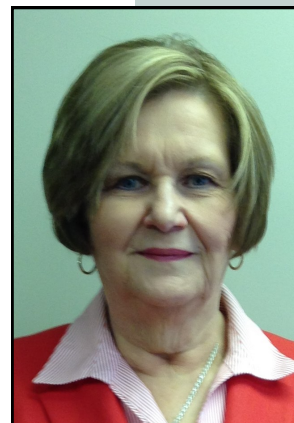
Ms. Sheree A. Schneider is a member of the Lafollette Business and Professional Women's club. She is an assistant professor at Lincoln Memorial University where she teaches for the School of Business.

Ms. Schneider is the former IT Director for Lincoln Memorial University and held that position for 14 years before transferring to the School of Business. She teaches courses in Business Analysis and Information Systems.

Prior to joining Lincoln Memorial University, Ms. Schneider was the Systems Manager for Quanterra Environmental Services of Knoxville for 6 years where she was responsible for directing a staff of eight environmental project managers and two department managers.

Ms. Schneider has been a member of the Lafollette BPW for 3 years and currently serves as the local's president. Her previous experience with BPW includes membership in the Bell County Kentucky local for 8 years. Ms. Schneider and her husband reside in Speedwell, Tennessee and have two adult daughters.

Treasurer Brenda Risner

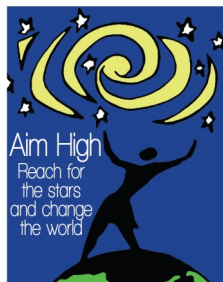


Education:

- Associates of Science Degree from Columbia State Community College with an emphasis in Elementary Education.
- Bachelors of Art Degree from Martin Methodist College with an emphasis in Business Administration.

Region I Director Sheree Schneider





718 Thompson Lane Suite
108-323
Nashville, TN 37204

Phone: 731-394-2894
E-mail: info@bpwtn.org
webmaster@bpwtn.org
president@bpwtn.org

We're on the Web:
bpwtn.org



Business and Professional Women are **Joining Forces for Women Veterans®** across the country.
http://bpwfoundation.org/index.php/issues/women_veterans

Links to convention information at bpwtn.org:
Brochure with schedule of events - <http://www.pdfs.bpwtn.com/Forms/Convention/BPWTN-conventionbrochure.pdf>

Online Registration - <http://www.bpwtn.org/registration.html>

Paper Registration - http://www.pdfs.bpwtn.com/Forms/Convention/2014_ConvForm.pdf

Fun Zone page - <http://www.bpwtn.org/fun-zone.html>

Fun Zone Registration - <http://www.pdfs.bpwtn.com/Forms/Convention/Fun%20Zone-1.pdf>

President's Report Form - <http://www.pdfs.bpwtn.com/Forms/Lo-cal/2014PresidentReportForm.doc>

2014-2015 BPW/TN Officers

Jacque Hillman of Jackson is the outgoing president of BPW/TN and a mentor at BPW Foundation. She is past president of Jackson Area BPW and a 2004 Woman of Achievement winner.

She is a senior partner in The HillHelen Group LLC media services, and she is also the owner/designer of Recon-figured Art Jewelry and has won awards statewide.

Former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen chose Jacque to be one of five to receive a Tennessee scholarship for the Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy, Delta Regional Authority, Class of 2010-2011. During that year, she studied economic factors influencing eight states in the Delta Region. She remains active in the DLI network.

Jacque was an award-winning writer and editor at The Jackson Sun for 23 years.

She serves on these boards: Entrepreneur Development Center; Tennessee Woman's Suffrage Monument; West Tennessee Regional Economic Conference and Area Relief Ministries.

Region III Director Jacque Hillman



Education:

B.A. English, Millsaps College, secondary education, minor in history.

Graduate work, Mississippi State University and University of Memphis.

Rice

Continued from page 3

active duty cannot find a job is an issue that she is glad BPW/TN is working on, offering resources and mentoring at the convention.

"I certainly hope the convention will be successful. Even if we're not talking about women going into business themselves, they need to be prepared to go into the work force. Before we can bring in industry and jobs, we have to have a prepared workforce," Rice said.

Meryl and her husband Randall continue to be community activists. "When health insurance markets opened, my husband and I felt we should really get involved. We got training to help people enroll," she said. "About a week before the enrollment period was to open, the state handed down 'emergency rules' saying that there were certain criteria people had to meet before they could talk to

anyone about the marketplace. If people did not meet the criteria and mentioned the marketplace to anyone, they were subject to a penalty of \$1,000 per occurrence," Rice explained.

"Randall and I were among the plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed through the Tennessee Justice Center alleging the state was trying to take away our First Amendment rights to free speech. Within a few days the state back-pedaled and said the regulations weren't meant to include everyone, but for certified counselors and navigators only; and that as long as we did not represent ourselves as being either one of those or in any official capacity, we could talk about anything we wanted to. Later a judge incorporated the state's settlement with us in a judicial order."

So eventually she and her husband held eight community events to inform people about the health insurance

marketplace.

"There were also certified counselors at various community medical facilities that helped people enroll. But with one person for put on Facebook that we had enrolled someone and three counties, they had more than they could do," she said. "So we got the word out that anybody who wanted help, we'd help. We enrolled 40 or so people in our home area. Each time we enrolled someone, I'd the plan they had chosen."

People started calling them from different states and other counties.

Meryl's goal is that she wants to see women succeed, to get the education and business support they need, and to work with our legislators to get the laws passed that we need.

She's running for the Democratic Party State Executive Committee Women this year. Her election will be in August for District 26.