



November Spotlight:

Jackson Area BPW



In 1919, when Jackson Business & Professional Women formed in a meeting at the Carnegie Library, thousands of women were marching in the streets dressed in white. They sought the ability to vote nationwide through the ratification of the 19th Amendment, coming up in 1920.

Now, more than ever, as women's rights are being denied and laws rolled back in 2023, we need the courage and skills that those women showed in 1919.

A favorite saying in The New York Herald back then was "Are Politics Dirty? Then Call In The Cleaning Woman." Ads against woman suffrage said the morality of the South would fail if women voted.

One of the state and national leaders for woman's suffrage was Sue Shelton White of Jackson, Tenn.

As the 19th Amendment was being crafted and debated, White was among National Woman's Party demonstrators in Washington, D.C. who supported the amendment. On Feb. 9, 1919, she burned an image of President Woodrow Wilson in front of the White House – it was either a cartoon or a photograph, depending on whose account you read. It was a freezing cold day, and I imagine she couldn't feel her feet as snow drifted down. She tossed that photo of the president, probably with gusto, into the small fire the women had built for warmth. She was arrested and spent five days in the workhouse and was the only Tennessee suffragist to spend time in prison for her suffrage work.

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Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Meeting
November	TBD 11/5 11/20	TBD	Governance Committee Meeting Achiever Published Online and Mailed to Subscribers Deadline for submission of material for the Achiever



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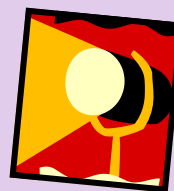
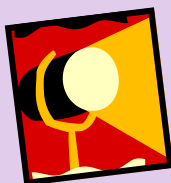
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Coming soon:

This 2023-2024 year each BPW TN local organization will be highlighted. Please be on the look out for those special issues and learn about our local organizations. Our December Highlighted club will be:

Lafollette BPW

Memphis Area BPW
Rockwood BPW
Chattanooga Business Women



For more information visit

BPWTN.org

also

Check us out on Facebook

**Business and
Professional Women
of Tennessee**

Link

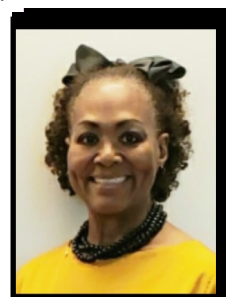
is <https://www.facebook.com/BPWTN>



Letter from
the Editor

Sharon Taylor-Carrillo
Past State President 2007-08, 2017-18
Achiever Editor 2021-2024
Parliamentarian 2023-2024
615-319-6531

I hope everyone has enjoyed receiving the Achiever. It has definitely been a great way to keep up with BPW activities and see what was going on across the state. Please send me your articles by the 20th of each month to be in the next issue. If you have any questions, please contact me via email or text any time. Thank you,



Amber's November Message:



All I can say is wow, what a busy October we had. Throughout the month members across the state celebrated and hosted National Business Women's Week events, attended the annual Interim Board meeting, Rockwood BPW's pop-up event, and Jackson Area BPW's Ghost Tour. I would like to say a special thank you to all of you who helped to organize these events in your communities and for our members!

November is typically a time when we think about the things we are most grateful for. I myself am thankful for the opportunity to serve our membership as we work towards creating a brighter future for BPW/TN. Our members are an integral part of this endeavor and I am excited to see how our organization moves forward.

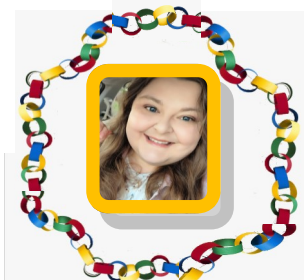
I would also like to take a moment to thank everyone who attended our Interim Board meeting on October 19th. We had a great turnout and were joined by Kathy Kelly, the Vice President of Membership of the National Federation of Business & Professional Women. Kathy provided our members with information regarding the benefits of rejoining the national federation along with information on the programming they offer. Members with access to email will be sent a link to her presentation for viewing. BPW/TN is considered a heritage organization and our members have the opportunity to become members at the federation level through their momentum program. This means your first three months of membership are free and you have access to meetings, workshops, and more. To see more of what is going on at the federation level, I encourage all members with access to visit their website at <https://nfbpwc.org/>, here you can also access their monthly magazine which is available to the public.

Fundraisers, during the months of November and December all purchases made through our RADA fundraiser will be used for our State Convention fund. Please help us by sharing the link and social media posts with your contacts.

Lastly, I would like to touch base about our BPW/TN Book Club! As mentioned in last month's Achiever, we will kick off our book club in January. I have set the date of Thursday, January 25th at 6:00 pm (CST) / 7:00 pm (EST) for us to meet. This meeting will act as an introduction to the book along with what to expect during our Book Club Meet Ups. To give everyone time to pick up a copy, I announced that the book will be Strengths Finder 2.0 by Gallup and Tom Rath. This book can be used along with the Clifton Strengths Assessment and encourages the reader to pinpoint things they are good at and focus on developing those qualities, rather than expend time and energy improving weaknesses or fixing things that are wrong. I am excited to kickoff 2024 with us learning more about our strengths and strategies on how to improve them!

Amber Farley, President

Business & Professional Women of Tennessee, 2023-2025



Continued from cover page

Asked why she was willing to go to jail, she said, **“We are in a war for democracy. To rout a foe in a fight for principle is one thing. To save the principle is the main thing.”**

In February and March 1919, Sue Shelton White rode the suffragists’ **“Prison Special”** train across the country wearing her prison garb.

How did our organization begin? While mobilizing for World War I, the U.S. Government recognized the need to organize and identify women's available skills and experience since the men were going to war. A Women's War Council, financed through a federal grant, was established by the War Department to organize the resources of professional women. The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs was founded on July 15, 1919.

On July 3, 1920, a group of women representing seven business and professional women’s clubs met in the Hotel Patten, Chattanooga Tennessee, and formed the Tennessee Federation. The seven charter clubs of the Tennessee Federation were Chattanooga Business and Professional Women’s Club, Chattanooga Business Women, Columbia Business and Professional Women’s Club, Jackson Business and Professional Women’s Club, Knoxville Business and Professional Women’s Club, Memphis Business and Professional Women’s Club, and Business and Professional Women’s Club of Nashville.

When Sue Shelton White was inducted as JABPW president for 1929-1931, she told the members: **“We must remember the past, hold fast to the present and build for the future. If you stand in your accepted place today, it is because some woman had to fight yesterday. We should be ashamed to stand on ground won by women in the past without making an effort to honor them by winning a higher and wider field for the future. It is a debt we owe.”**

As an attorney, she later helped write the Social Security Act.

In front of City Hall, you’ll find a bronze statue on granite, created by Jackson sculptor Wanda Stanfill, and the bronze plaque reads **“a West Tennessee Woman who changed America.”** That’s true, she was. That’s why we celebrate her life today.

People in West Tennessee – and in Jackson – have often been unaware that because of Sue Shelton White, women across America are able to vote today. If you get a Social Security check, you can thank Sue Shelton White of Jackson for her work.

More than one hundred years later, Jackson Area BPW still offers education, business training, health advice, with networking and legislative action.

We work to offer political forums and listen to the candidates' positions.

In our legislative reports, we study what new laws will affect women in the workforce and their families.

Our monthly speakers cover topics such as education, health, jobs, economy, safety. We note job openings.

We recognize Equal Pay Day annually by attending the Jackson City Council meeting where our city mayor presents us with a proclamation.

We provide scholarships for women returning to college to better their educational level, increase their skills and/or change careers.

We honor women for their business skills and dedication to their communities through our National Business Women's Week/Woman of Achievement Award and through the Sterling Awards: 20 Most Influential Women in West Tennessee, the Sue Shelton White Award and the Outstanding Woman Military Veteran Award.

For more than 100 years, Jackson Area BPW has set goals and reached them.

In 2023, we are still in a battle for democracy and women's rights, more than ever, and we cannot give up!



Beth Bates

Join the powerful women of Jackson Area BPW today!



Dawn Mooney



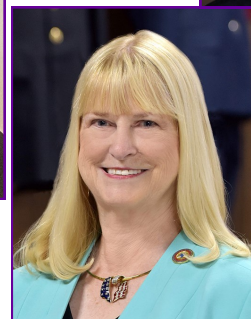
Margaret Taylor



Linda Theus



Kimberly Jones



Jackie Utley





Jackson Area Business and Professional Women elected new officers for 2023-2024 at their August meeting and continues their tradition of educating women in the workplace since 1919.

Margaret Taylor is president; Kimberly Jones, first vice-president for membership; Beth Bates, second vice-president for programs; Dr. Linda Theus, secretary; and Dawn Mooney, treasurer.

Dr. Margaret Taylor, president, is the outgoing Executive Director at A Step Ahead Foundation West Tennessee and a 2011 Sterling Award winner. She is now the Community Impact Coordinator for the West Region for the Tennessee Department of Health. She said, "I've been an advocate for women since my college days. I believe in equity for all women and the disenfranchised."

Kimberly Jones, first vice-president, is executive director and system controller of West Tennessee Healthcare and a Sterling Award 2023 winner.

Beth Bates, second vice-president, is Managing Attorney, Benefits Unit, at West Tennessee Legal Services Inc., Sterling Award winner 2012, and Sue Shelton White Award winner 2017.

Dr. Linda Theus, secretary, is associate professor of business and area coordinator for business administration programs at Lane College and a Sterling Award winner 2020.

Dawn Mooney, treasurer, is the owner of PC Paladins and a Sterling Award winner 2019.

Jackson Area BPW was formed to educate women in the workplace 104 years ago through the Tennessee Federation of Business Women, a member of the National Federation of Business Women formed in 1919.

Jackson Area BPW will continue four traditions this year:

The Margaret Faulkner Career Advancement Scholarship is for non-traditional female students returning to college for a new career or to increase their educational level. In past years, we have presented \$1,500 to each of two winners.

"Ghost Walking Tours and Dinner Event" was held Friday, Oct. 27, 2023.

The proceeds benefit their annual scholarship.

"Sterling Awards: 20 Most Influential Women of West Tennessee" will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. The Sterling Awards also recognize the Sue Shelton White award winner and the Outstanding Woman Military Veteran.

The long-standing JABPW Woman of Achievement award will be presented at the Sterling Awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, along with the Career Advancement Scholarship winner.



The next meeting of Jackson Area BPW will be at 5 p.m. on Zoom on Monday, Nov. 6. If you would like to attend, please contact Dr. Margaret Taylor, president, at Margaret.taylor@tn.gov.

Jackie Utley wins Jackson Award for Volunteer Service

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JABPW long-time member Jackie Utley is the 2023 winner of the Jackson Award for Volunteer Service, presented by the Community Foundation of West Tennessee. The award recipients will be honored at The Foundation's annual Charity Gala on Saturday, November 11 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in downtown Jackson.

She is an active volunteer for the veteran community of Jackson and works alongside several local organizations to engage citizens with Veterans Day programs and events. She is a Jackson native and graduate of Jackson High School and Union University.



Jackie serves as an Honorary Chapter Regent for the Jackson-Madison County Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). In this role, she organizes Jackson and Madison County annual Vietnam Veterans Day events, presents Certificates of Honor to veterans who have served the United States in any branch, conducts pinning ceremonies for Vietnam War veterans and surviving spouses, coordinates the area military ministry for the American Bible Society, and volunteers as the Jackson-Madison DAR chair for Wreaths Across America. In addition to her local work, she is the chair for the Tennessee State DAR Service for Veterans Committee, managing veterans' events across the state.

She has been with the Veterans Day Committee since it was formed in 2013 and plans the Friday evening program and Saturday morning parade each year to present a free Veterans Day program for veterans and their families in Jackson. Jackie is also the chair of the West Tennessee Veterans Coalition, serving on Veterans in Crisis Fund, annual Military Ball Committee, Faces of Freedom Veterans Banner Committee, and the Veteran Memorial Coin project for Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries.

Jackie goes beyond her volunteer efforts by working with funeral directors and attending funerals for unaccompanied veterans with no living relatives. During COVID, she coordinated with the Tennessee State Veterans Home in Humboldt to provide snacks, beverages, and birdseed for feeders outside each resident's window.

Jackie has received several awards, including the 2020 Jefferson Award, 2020 Vietnam War Commemoration Tennessee Volunteer of the Year, 2020 Vietnam War Commemoration Southeastern Division Volunteer of the Year, 2021 DAR Community Service Award, 2021 Tennessee State Outstanding DAR Service for Veterans Volunteer, 2021 Southeastern Division Outstanding DAR Service for Veterans Volunteer, and 2021 National Outstanding DAR Service for Veterans Volunteer.

Jackie, who has served as a past JABPW officer, was also selected as a 2011 Sterling Award: 20 Most Influential Women in West Tennessee winner and devotes her energy to helping each ceremony be as perfect as possible for the award winners annually.

For more information on these awards, go to <https://www.cfwn.org/news/2023-jackson-awards>.



What a great **Ghost Walking Tour** this evening sponsored by the Jackson Area Business and Professional Women. We heard the history of many Jacksonians who have traveled the roadsides of Jackson long before we did. Lane College Catering provided a delicious meal. Decorations were perfectly fitted for the occasion by Laura Bryan and [Wanda Stanfill](#)! Below is a sample of those who attended, some ghosts that joined us for dinner and some of the wonderful BPW members who helped to make

it all happen, especially [Mary Jo Middlebrooks](#)! Volunteers from the Empowered Tern Council served as tour guides for three of the groups. Thanks Kendall, Ava, and Jayden! Don't miss it next year. It was an evening to remember. All funds raised will be used to assist a non-traditional female student return to school to reach her educational



November Tells Her Story

By Lenore Hetrick



From her dark rainy mists
November looked out.
"Just as I thought!
There's no one about!"
Said November and sighed,
Folks will stay at home!
When I am around,
No one cares to roam!"

November's lip quivered.
"I know I am gray!
I know that I'm dismal
Each long autumn day.
Gray are my skies,
And gray are the lanes,
The twilight is gray,
And so are my rains.

"Folks hug the fireside -
They read a good book!
At my somber beauties
They give not a look!
They chat and they talk,
They tell stories, too.
And they treat me so coldly-
It makes me feel blue!

"And yet," said November,
With a much sharper tone.
"I feel that one right
to some praise I own.
If I make these people
All love their dear home,
So they have no wish,
Or longing to roam -

"Don't you think that is certain,
And very good cause
To give me a round
Of hearty applause?
I really do good,
And that's plainly seen-
But I'll explain fully
Just what I do mean!"

Then November continued,
"In this modern age
When traveling abroad
Is so widely the rage,
Isn't it fine how
I keep folks at home!
They hug the warm fireside
From Rio to Nome!

"So what do I care
If they do not like me!
I know I've done good
As the world must agree.
The virtues of a nation,"
Said November "depend
On how much of your time
In your dear home you spend!"

"The home," said November,
"Is the center of all.
So I think when I reign
In the dark of the fall,
And keep folks at home
The way that I do -
I'm WONDERFUL - and never
Were mere words more true!"

"Perhaps my whole mission
In life is just that!
From this moment I'll cease
Feeling so flat!
I shall sigh not again!"
Said November - and her rain
Cam splashing down loudly
On the front window pane!



November Girl

VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



NOVEMBER 11th



**Tennessee Conference on
Volunteerism & Service-Learning
Feb. 18 - 20, 2024**

CALLING ALL SPEAKERS

1. Are you a high energy, engaging presenter?
2. Can you inspire and challenge volunteer, service-learning and civic leadership?
3. Does collaboration energize you?

**Submit your workshop
proposal today!**

tn.gov/Volunteer-Tennessee





BPW/TN

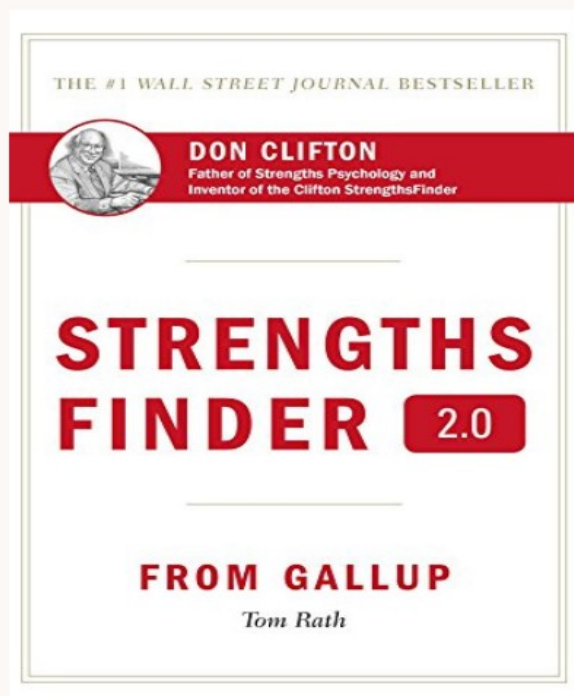
fundraiser

BPW/TN has an ongoing fundraising catalog with Rada Cutlery. RADA products are a perfect idea for the holidays! They offer a wide selection of kitchen knives, utensils, gadgets, quick mixes, and gift sets. Their products are high-quality, 100% made in the USA, and backed by a lifetime guarantee!

Members are encouraged to use our link when making a purchase so that we can raise funds for our Convention and Interim Board Accounts. Increasing our fundraising will allow BPW/TN to bring in speakers and provide workshop/training opportunities for all members.

Members will receive the link to the fundraiser via email and have access to the link via our Facebook page.

BPW/TN BOOK CLUB



Join Us as we kick off 2024 learning about our strengths and how we can develop those.

STRENGTHSFINDER 2.0 works hand in hand with the Clifton's Strengths Assessment helps individuals pinpoint things they are good at and focus on developing those qualities.

You can find this book at local bookstores, Amazon, or online. If you have a library card you may have access to the Libby App. This is a great app for borrowing books and audiobooks online or on your phone.

Book Club Meetings:

Thursday, January 25th

Thursday, February 22nd

Meetings will be held at 6:00 pm (CST) / 7:00 pm (EST) via Zoom.