



# BPW/TN ACHIEVER

*Business and Professional Women of Tennessee*

MARCH 2024 Issue 9



## March:

- 8 International Women's Day
- 10 Day light savings time begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Holy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 EASTER



## Call to Convention



By the authority vested in me as President, I hereby call you to the 105th annual convention of the Business & Professional Women of Tennessee, Inc. (BPW/TN) to be held virtually via Zoom beginning June 6th, 2024.

Among the items of business to be considered are:

- Reports & recommendations from state officers, committee chairs, regional directors, & local organization presidents
- Discussion of matters of interest and policy of the BPW/TN.
- Any and all business growing out of the above-stated items or resulting from actions of the Board of Directors, or falling within the jurisdiction of this body.

The Executive Committee, composed of state officers and regional directors, is called to meet at 6:30pm CST/ 7:30pm EST on June 6th, 2024.

The meeting of the Board of Directors, composed of the executive committee, standing committee chairs, immediate past state president, parliamentarian, bylaws chair, and local organization presidents or their appointed representatives, is called to meet at 7:00pm CST/ 8:00pm EST on June 6th, 2024.

The meeting of the Board of Directors is open to all members who wish to attend, and state officers and chairs should be presented to the president in writing no later than May 6th, 2024.

Zoom meeting information is posted on the website, in upcoming Achievers, and sent by email and physical mail to those with no internet access.

Amber Farley BPW/TN President, 2023-2025

Kelsi Hill BPW/TN Secretary 2023-2025



A Publication of the Business & Professional Women of Tennessee

**Linda Jennings Higgins****August 5, 1942—January 21, 2024**

Linda was born to Malcolm and Billie (Heidelberg) Jennings on August 5, 1942 in the Madison Hall community. Linda was a woman of firsts in a long list of lifetime achievements—such as being the first woman elected to a citywide position in Jackson, Tennessee—and one last: she was the final editor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's student newspaper, the Orange and White, before she helped it transition into the Daily Beacon. Even as a high school student she was writing, and was the first person from South Side H.S. to be a student reporter for the Sun before graduating in 1960. In her senior year at UT, 1963/64, she was named Most Outstanding Woman Graduate in the College of Business Administration - School of Journalism. This prompted her to join the American Association of University Women, which sparked a lifelong interest in women's rights. She married her long-time sweetheart, Richard Higgins on February 8, 1964 making this their 60th year of marriage. In addition to being a career woman, Higgins also held down the household while her husband, who served in the Air Force, was deployed overseas. Later she continued to support Richard in his career as a Jackson Police officer. She first took a job in public relations and communications for Lambuth College. After that, she held roles as a freelance editor and public affairs coordinator for several nonprofits including: West Tennessee Sheriff's Youthtown, Jackson General Hospital, and Harvest Years Senior Center.

Some years after earning her bachelor's degree, Higgins decided to pursue her master's degree in political science with an emphasis in public administration from Memphis State University. She juggled parenting and working while attending classes and graduated in 1981. After working as a freelance editor and public affairs coordinator, Higgins held many other roles, including: Grants writer, aging planner, and director of planning for the West Tennessee Development District, Executive Director of the Reelfoot Girl Scout Council, Marketing and grants for West Tennessee Legal Services and part-time journalist for the Jackson Sun. Then, in 1996, she became the first woman to win a citywide election in Jackson as the Jackson City Court Clerk. As her career and interests continued to evolve, Higgins began exploring history and genealogy. She was appointed to be the Madison County Historian by former Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, and she served on the Tennessee Outdoors Commission upon appointment by former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander. Not one to stop there, Higgins also co-authored a book, Images of American Madison County. Her Volunteer spirit has shone brightly for the past six decades and she never stopped giving back to the communities and people who were dear to her. It started with service at her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. When she was honored with a Sterling Award as one of West Tennessee's Most Influential Women, some of her volunteer accomplishments included: Vice chair of the West Tennessee Historical Society Board, Editor of Family Findings, for the Mid-West TN Genealogical Society, Historian for the Jackson-Madison County Daughters of the American Revolution, Member of the West Tennessee Historical Society board, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Tennessee Trust for Historic Preservation, TN Historical Commission and she wrote grants totaling \$556,267 to restore the auditorium/theatre in Bemis, TN.



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Richard Higgins founded the Linda Jennings Higgins UT Knoxville Alumni Tri-Star Scholarship Endowment at the end of 2023, which the family then presented to Linda over the holidays. Richard stated, "She was truly dedicated from the very start...and so this lady should also always be remembered."

Linda Higgins was a dedicated long-time Jackson Area BPW member and she will be missed.

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>

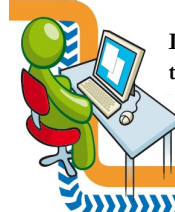


## MARCH 2024



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.



Letter from  
the Editor

**Sharon L. Taylor-Carrillo**

Past State President 2007-08, 2017-18

Achiever Editor 2021-2024

Parliamentarian 2023-2024

SharonLyrae@aol.com

615-319-6531



## MARCH PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Did you know that March is considered one of the happiest months on the calendar? Is there a better month to spend connecting with your fellow BPW sisters as we slip into longer days, warmer weather, and budding flowers, and celebrate important holidays and milestones such as International Women's Day and Equal Pay Day?

We have plenty of opportunities for members to come together this month and hope to see each of you either virtually or in person! In addition to monthly meetings held by each of our locals this month our West Region Director, Carol Turpen, will host the annual combined regional meeting on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be held virtually and will give insight into what our members are doing across the state. On Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, I along with our Equal Pay Day Chair, Sharon Taylor-Carrillo, will host the annual Equal Pay Day Unhappy Hour via Zoom. This unhappy hour gives our members and guests a time to come together to acknowledge how far into the new year we as women must work to earn an average of what our male counterparts work in one year (January-December). Lastly, BPWTN will be hosting the first Meet & Greet event in Hendersonville, TN on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Members are encouraged to attend for a day of fun and networking. We will be visiting the Monthaven Cultural Arts Center and enjoying a Haunted Hendersonville tour with Story teller, Allen Sircy. More information about each of these events can be found in this month's Achiever.

In this month's newsletter, you will also find the 2024 Call to Convention. Our Board of Directors met last month and voted to host a virtual convention this year as we will not need to install new officers until 2025. This decision to not meet in person was not made lightly, we encourage all members to join us virtually in June for these important meetings. In addition, although we will not host elections this year, I encourage anyone interested in serving as a state officer to reach out to me or one of our current officers for more information. I would love to help set you up with one of our mentors and help you grow your leadership skills. There are also opportunities to work with officers and standing committee chairs on various committees including Day on the Hill, fundraising, governance, legislation, and more.

Please feel free to drop me an email at [president@bpwtn.org](mailto:president@bpwtn.org) if you have any questions or comments.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!



Thank you, **Amber Farley**  
President, BPW/TN 2023-2025

**B P W T N**



# Rockwood Business and Professional Women's Organization

was organized on Saturday, October 22, 1921, with 16 members and Leah Fletcher, state president, presiding. Rockwood BPW's first president was Miss Elizabeth (Bess) Wilson. The first meetings of the club were held in the Mourfield Hotel in downtown Rockwood, and a four-course meal costing 75 cents was served. Rockwood BPW has conducted a number of fundraising projects, such as producing a play, selling pecans and holiday wrapping paper, a white elephant sale, and production of a yearly birthday calendar, on which community members could, for a small fee, list important dates for their family members such as birthdays and anniversaries, meetings of various groups, and other dates of importance.

Early service projects were maintaining a charity bed at the local hospital, building benches on a vacant lot downtown for the benefit of those who came to town on Saturdays, maintaining public restrooms, and working in cleanup campaigns. In later years, the group participated in holiday parades and decorating store windows. Most recently, we have provided hats, gloves, and scarves to children at Rockwood Housing, toiletry items for Meals on Wheels recipients, and personal care items for girls in Roane County Schools.

In March of 1922, work was begun on what would become a focus of Rockwood BPW's community service for many years, the establishment of a public library, with rent, fuel, and electricity paid by the city and BPW furnishing the books and paying the librarian's salary and keeping the premises in good condition. BPW raised \$500.00 for the first two years' expenses and loaned it to the city at 8% interest. Other fundraisers were held, and by 1929 the total amount of \$925.00 was loaned to the city at 8% interest. The library remained in one room in city hall until 1954, when city officials and the Council of Churches gave BPW a long-term lease on an old YWCA building on Gateway Boulevard. The city repaid the \$1000.00 loaned to them by BPW.

Rockwood BPW was instrumental in the city's celebration of its centennial. Members worked at headquarters selling centennial dresses, coins, and other memorabilia. They participated in parades, produced an historical book, collected old pictures, and sold books and plates. Proceeds of the Centennial were given to BPW for the library fund. From its beginnings in a back room of City Hall, the library grew to its present quarters in the city complex, a building made possible in part by funds from Rockwood BPW.

Rockwood BPW has earned many awards, has always had excellent representation at state conventions and has organized several state conventions. Several of our members have served in state offices as president, treasurer, corresponding secretary, region director, district director, and committee chairs.

For more than 50 years, Rockwood BPW sponsored the community calendar and used the proceeds to fund scholarships. We are one of the first organizations to provide scholarships to students attending Roane State Community College. We also award a scholarship to a female graduate of Rockwood High School to be used to attend a four-year institution.

Perhaps the most important part of our work is the sharing with working women of Rockwood, Roane County, and surrounding areas information about benefits of membership in Rockwood BPW and BPW/TN.

Several members have shared memories of their time as members of Rockwood BPW.

Terri Honeycutt says, "After being a member of another service organization for over 30 years and declining invitations to Rockwood BPW during that time, I was approached by a member of my choir to attend a membership meeting. My mom, who was ninety-two at the time, and I decided to attend the meeting. We were very impressed with the history of the organization and the fun the members had with each other. We joined that night and have tremendously enjoyed our membership during this year."

Lynne Spires shared this: "My first membership started around 1989. I worked for a bank in Knoxville which acquired a bank in Rockwood. I had recently remarried, and we'd built a home in Roane County. When my boss said I was being transferred to Rockwood, I was terrified. But I found there warm and lovely people who kept inviting me to BPW...people who were truly interested in my family and me. Geraldine Wallick and other BPW members were in the bank several times a week, and they persisted in their invitations to me to come to their group. I'm so glad I finally accepted the invitations. We've shared many experiences over the years. There was a break when my husband (RIP) was battling Alzheimer's and I just couldn't get to meetings. So I became a member at large. Rob passed away in October 2021, and I became an active member again.

Lee Ann Gaddis says, "I was invited to a membership luau by former member Linda Rector, who was my cousin. I enjoyed the atmosphere and topics, which led me to join on September 17, 2007. Later I became involved in state BPW activities, traveling and meeting new people which led me to great memories and lasting friendships. I am the youngest person to serve as state president and am the only person to serve three presidential terms. I have also served several times as Rockwood's and Cumberland County's local president.

Becky Layne told of being invited by a good friend to "come to BPW with me. You'll like it!" And I did! That's been over thirty years and I still like it. I have remained a member for many reasons, but two stand out. First, we award scholarships to young women graduates of Rockwood High School, one to be used at Roane State Community College and the other may be used at any four-year institute of higher education. The other reason has to do with BPW USA's constant support for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution."

Geraldine Wallick is currently the member with the longest membership in Rockwood BPW. She says, "In 1960, Bettye King invited me to a Rockwood Business and Professional Women's Organization meeting. I attended, was very impressed, and joined that night. I have very much enjoyed my experiences in BPW state, regional, and local, and I have made many lasting friendships"

On December 25, 2023, Rockwood BPW lost Bettye Coleman King, who had been a member of Rockwood Business and Professional Women's Organization for over 73 years, making her the oldest member of Tennessee BPW. She was a home economics teacher at Rockwood High School for 31 years. She was an active member of Roane County Retired Teachers, Daughters of the American Revolution, Rockwood First Christian Church, and Order of the Eastern Star. She was a supporter of all things associated with the University of Tennessee. She loved her family,





## 2023-2024 Rockwood Officers

### *Standing L to R*

Malinda Yager (Corresponding Secretary)

Lee Ann Gaddis ( LO President)

Terri Honeycutt (1st Vice President)

### *Sitting L to R*

Geraldine Wallick (Treasurer)

Becky Layne ( Recording Secretary)



## B&PW Club Officers at Installation—Rockwood



—Courtesy of Spurling Studios

Reading from left to right are: Hazel Carden, District Director; Mayme Margrave, President; Alma King, First Vice President; Wilma Bristow, Second Vice President; Margaret Fisher, Third Vice President; Amanda Pierce, Treasurer; and Christine Grant, Corresponding Secretary.

This picture was made during an installation service recently at the home of Juanita Hanna and Mae Evans. The B & PW Club of Rockwood is a Civic Organization organized approx. 30 years ago which stands for any worthwhile activity that is beneficial to the town. This club has always been considered as a very worth while organization. The club's main project is the Rockwood Library. This library is open to the public and many citizens enjoy the pleasure of using this library at all times. All of the latest books and best sellers are always available. It is located directly behind the City Hall in the same building. There are plans underway now for many improvements to be made in the next few months. With the aid of the citizens of Rockwood this club hopes to have a beautiful library before too long.

This club meets the first Monday of each month and has 32 members. It is also interesting to note that the State President of the Business & Professional Club is Mrs. V. L. Kelly, wife of one of TPC officials of Chattanooga. Other employees of TPC are: Amanda Pierce, Treasurer of the Club and employed as Cost Clerk in the Rockwood Office; and Nell Frizzell, Legislation Committee and employed as Payroll Clerk in the Rockwood Office.

## Rockwood 100th Year Anniversary Luncheon

### *Standing L to R*

Lee Ann Gaddis,

Betty Johnston,

Malinda Yager

### *Sitting L to R*

Becky Layne,

Geraldine Wallick,

Betty King

## ROCKWOOD HISTORY

### A 1950's Newspaper article.



# BPWTN Spring Regional Meeting

Thursday, March 7th, 2024  
6:00 pm CST / 7:00 pm EST

Please join us for the combined East and West Region Spring Meeting on Thursday, March 7th at 6:00 pm CST / 7:00 pm EST via Zoom. Login Information can be found below. A zoom link will also be sent out via email on March 1st.

Local Presidents, please bring local updates to share.

## Join Zoom Meeting

[https://etsu.zoom.us/j/85810174373?](https://etsu.zoom.us/j/85810174373?pwd=RG5SUUxTaytOMzNwRXdkWXNlc21DUT09)

[pwd=RG5SUUxTaytOMzNwRXdkWXNlc21DUT09](https://etsu.zoom.us/j/85810174373?pwd=RG5SUUxTaytOMzNwRXdkWXNlc21DUT09)

Meeting ID: 858 1017 4373

Passcode: BPWTN24

## Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 858 1017 4373

Passcode: 9258113



*Left to right,*  
Beth Bates,  
1st Vice President-Kimberly Jones,  
President-Margaret Taylor,  
Wanda Stanfill,  
Mary Jo Middlebrooks  
and Jackie Utley.



# Jackson Area Business & Professional Women members/officers at the 2024 Sterling Awards



## Equal Pay Day

**DATE: MARCH 12, 2024**

78 cents for "all earners" (full-time, year-round + part-time and part-year)

84 cents for full-time, year-round earners

**84 CENTS: THAT'S HOW MUCH WOMEN IN THE U.S. WHO WORK YEAR-ROUND ARE PAID FOR EVERY DOLLAR PAID TO MEN ACCORDING TO CENSUS DATA FROM 2022.**

On this day, we will highlight the fact that, according to 2022 Census data, the wage gap for women compared to men is 84 cents on the dollar for full-time, year-round workers. When you look at all earners, including full-time, year-round earners + part-time and part-year workers, the wage gap widens to 78 cents. These wage gaps are unacceptable. Women continue to be underpaid and undervalued.

This year we are going to be organizing around tools to help close the wage gap through equal pay and more transparency in pay. Pay transparency policy reforms – like the posting of job ranges and banning the use of prior salary history in setting wages – are important tools in the effort to close they wage gap. They require employers to set and publicize wages tied to job duties and experience and increase the information available to employees about how positions are compensated. They decrease subjectivity in setting wages; such subjectivity can allow bias to seep into the process.

Across the country, states are implementing these reforms, and recently the Biden Administration announced that it would ban the use of salary history for setting the wages of federal workers. The administration is also proposing to do the same for employees who work for federal contractors. In Congress, there are bills that would also provide new tools to address pay inequity and increase wage transparency as well. Two such bills are the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Salary Transparency Act.

During this Equal Pay Day, we will be urging members of Congress to support both bills, and are talking about why enacting pay transparency reforms are so important at every level of government.

Our shared federal calls to action will center on urging federal lawmakers to support: the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would modernize and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to better combat pay discrimination and close the wage gap, including by protecting workers from retaliation for discussing pay, banning the use of prior salary history, and codifying pay data collection; and the Salary Transparency Act, which would help reduce the pay gap by requiring employers to provide the salary range for jobs.

***If you have any questions please contact me. Sharon Taylor-Carrillo, Equal Pay Day Chair  
email: SharonLyrae@aol.com or by Text or phone call: 615-319-6531***





April 22 – April 28th, 2024

**BPWTN Annual Walk/Run**  
for Education

## Join us for the 4th annual BPWTN Walk/Run for Education!

Proceeds from the walk support the Business & Professional Women of Tennessee's Aspiring Leaders of Tomorrow and Career Advancement scholarship funds.

As a participant, you will receive a Commemorative 2024 Walk/Run gift and a chance to win a 1-year paid membership to the Business & Professional Women of Tennessee valued at \$50.

REGISTER ONLINE: at <http://bpwtn.org>

ENTRY FEE: \$25.00

PRIZE: For most miles walked or ran will be a 1 year membership to BPWTN

Tracking Methods: Tracking can be done in an app or by using a mileage log, such as the one provided here on the next page. Suggested apps include but are not limited to FitBit or MapMyWalk. Mileage must be forwarded to the Fundraising Chair and President at [fundraising@bpwtn.org](mailto:fundraising@bpwtn.org) and [president@bpwtn.org](mailto:president@bpwtn.org).

If using MapMyWalk, please let us know and we will add you to the walking challenge set up in the app. The app is used to gather mileage information as well as encourage walkers and runners during the weeklong event.

Additional questions can be sent to President, Amber Farley, at [president@bpwtn.org](mailto:president@bpwtn.org)

Donations are also accepted for those who do not wish to participate in the walk/run. Please complete the form and select the option of "Donating Only" under "registering as." On the PayPal site there will be an area for you to enter a donation amount. Donations of \$30 or more will also receive the 2024 commemorative gift.





# Join us for the first BPW/TN Meet & Greet in Hendersonville, TN

**The Meet and Greet events are intended solely for members to come together and enjoy one another's company for a day of fun.**

**We hope to see you on Saturday, March 23rd.**

*Meet and Greet Events are not reimbursable at the state level.*

*Members must cover the cost of their own travel, lodging, meals, and activities chosen to attend.*

*An RSVP will be required so that appropriate reservations can be made as needed. This will be sent out via email to members with access to internet. Members without access may contact President, Amber Farley via phone to RSVP.*

## MONTHAVEN ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

The Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) is Sumner County's premier arts organization. A nonprofit launched in 2017 and located in Hendersonville, Tenn., the MACC offers art classes and stages world-class art exhibitions in their headquarters at Monthaven Mansion, a spectacular antebellum home built in the 1850s. Once serving as a field hospital during the Civil War, Monthaven's galleries and halls now exist to create vibrant arts and cultural experiences for people of all ages.

Celebrate Black History with the illustrations of the noted Tennessee artist Michael J. McBride. His exhibition celebrate the Gullah-Geechee language and culture of the Carolinas.

## LUNCH AT SAUNDERS FERRY PIZZA

Local Pizzeria



## THE STREETS AT INDIAN LAKE

After lunch we'll have some downtown to enjoy some shopping and hanging out enjoying time together at the Streets at Indian Lake.

## DINNER AT THE RUDDERS

The Rudder at Anchor High Marina is the lakeside dining destination where people go to enjoy great food and entertainment in a laid-back atmosphere on the lake!

## HAUNTED HENDERSONVILLE

Get ready for an unforgettable evening filled with spine-tingling tales and hair-raising encounters as Allen Sircy, Tennessee's renowned hauntstorian, unveils "Haunted Hendersonville Tour," offering a unique brand of chilling adventure.

For those seeking a different kind of thrill, the "Haunted Hendersonville Tour" is an extraordinary expedition where the vivid tales from Sircy's book, "Southern Ghost Stories: Hendersonville, Tennessee" come to life. Starting in front of Walton Ferry Books, this 60-minute tour will guide you through the haunted annals of Hendersonville's history.

**<https://tinyurl.com/bpwmeetandgreet>**

Below are links for you to check out locations and activities webpages:

- Monthaven Arts & Cultural Centers - <https://monthavenarts.org>
- Haunted Hendersonville - <http://hauntedhendersonville.com/>
- Demo's Restaurant - [demosrestaurants.com](https://demosrestaurants.com)
- Saunder's Ferry Pizza - <https://www.sandersferrypizza.com>
- The Rudder's - [therudderahm.com](https://therudderahm.com)

**PLEASE  
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# 2024 Calendar of Events

## March

Women's History Month

3/5/2024 Achiever Published Online and Mailed to Subscribers

3/7/2024 6:00 pm CST Spring Regional Meeting

3/12/2024 Equal Pay Day & Unhappy Hour Event

3/20/2024 Deadline for submission of material for the Achiever

3/23/2024 Meet & Greet in Hendersonville, TN

## April

4/5/2024 Achiever Published Online and Mailed to Subscribers

4/20/2024 Deadline for submission of material for the Achiever

4/22/2024 Virtual Walk/Run Fundraiser (22nd-28th)

4/30/2024 ALT-YC Scholarship Entry Deadline

4/30/2024 Annual Membership Dues Payment Deadline -  
For Membership Awards Consideration

## May

5/5/2024 Achiever Published Online and Mailed to Subscribers

5/15/2024 All Reports for Convention due

(State Officer, Committees, Local President Report)

5/20/2024 Deadline for submission of material for the Achiever

5/23/2024 6:00 pm CST Pre-Convention EC Meeting

5/23/2024 6:30 pm CST Pre-Convention BOD Meeting

5/31/2024 6:00 pm CST Convention Meeting

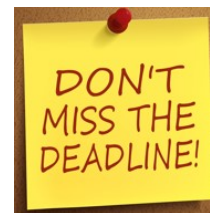
Day 1—Opening of Convention—Bylaws

## June

6/6/2024 - Pre-Convention Meetings

6/10/2024 Convention Meeting

6/18/2024 Post-Convention Meetings



## Secretary of State Issues Warning About UCC Scam

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett has issued a warning to all Tennesseans about a scam involving Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) documents. According to [Chattanooga.com](http://Chattanooga.com), as part of the scam, citizens receive an official-looking mailer from TN UCC Statement Service, incorrectly implying businesses or individuals must obtain a copy of a UCC-1 financing statement filed against them. Hargett says that the mailing is intended to "trick borrowers into paying excessive costs to obtain a document they will likely never need." The UCC is a comprehensive set of laws governing sales or other commercial transactions. A UCC-1 financing statement is a legal form that creditors use to give notice that they have a lien on an asset of a debtor. Hargett is encouraging anyone who receives this mailing to report it to the [Division of Business and Charitable Organizations](#) and the [Tennessee Attorney General's office](#).