

Rockwood

Business and Professional Women **Celebrating over 90 years of Success for Women**

December 2012
Volume 2, Issue 6

Vickie Watts, President
Lee Ann Gaddis, Editor & Publisher

Rockwood BPW Programs for 2012-2013

December 18 Christmas

Betty Johnston, ch.

January 15 YC/ID

Lee Ann Gaddis, ch., Wanda Manning, Betty Ragle

February 19 Foundation

Jerry Wallick, ch., Linda Brummett

March 19 White Elephant

Lee Ann Gaddis, ch., Lynne Spires

April 16 Business Meeting (Equal Pay Day)

Mary Ann Owings, ch., Ann Hiege, Pearl Williams

May 21 Installation of Officers

Jean Loveday, ch., Bea Connatser, Elizabeth McCallie

June 18 BPW/TN Convention Reports

Kelly Gibson, ch., Velma Beckner

Let's make this year the BEST Ever!

Make your plans to attend!



Mittens for Love and Angel Tree Donations

On Monday, December 10, 2012 members shown above took donations of mittens, scarves, hats, and clothes to Evans Heights to give for their Angel Tree Drive. This is our second year doing this project and hope that this event will continue to grow allowing more members to participate. A Special Thanks goes to Vickie Watts, Lee Ann Gaddis, and Linda Rector for their donations and taking time to help with the delivery. Also special consideration to Geraldine Wallick, Betty Johnston, and Ann Hiegel for their contributions as well.

Guest Speaker

The speaker for the evening was Sarah Tinch, who is a 21 year veteran of the U.S. Navy. She talked about the women, such as her mother, who had major influences in her life. She also discussed parallels between advances for women in the military and BPW programs like the Red Purse initiative. The Foundation program Joining Forces Mentoring Plus provides grant opportunities to women veterans. (written by Becky Layne)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas

Tuesday, December 18th

Committee Chair for the Christmas Meeting will be Betty Johnston with assistance from Jerry Wallick. They will be calling members for a number to place our reservation. Once you agree to come and then decide to cancel your reservation, you must do so before the deadline at 10 am on Tuesday, December 18th. A fee of \$5.00 will be billed to you for any cancellations after the initial agreement to come. The meeting will have dinner served, individually, a 15% gratuity will be asked at the end of the meeting. We are given the use of the room free of charge. If there is a continuance of refusal to pay gratuity, the gratuity will be added to your bill for your meal. Please be kind and support the staff that is a tremendous help to our meetings by giving what is due them.

The custom of decorating a Christmas tree has been traced back to the 15th century.

December Birthday

3- Mary Ann Owings

The most expensive Christmas tree was decorated in the United Arab Emirates in 2010 at an estimated cost of over \$11 million.

The first commercial Christmas card was produced and sold in London in 1843.



From our Family to yours
May everyone this
Holiday Season find their
TRUE meaning of
celebrating and share it
with others.



There are two towns in the United States with the name of Santa Claus but only one named North Pole. They are located in Georgia, Indiana and Alaska, respectively.

As the NEW YEAR approaches, new ideas and promises are made. Next month will have a feature on what each members resolution will be whether personal or for BPW.

This includes EVERYONE. No time for shyness. Contact Lee Ann or Linda for your input.

Americans send an estimated 1.5 billion Christmas cards each year..

Throughout this newsletter you will find the history of some things that are honored during the Christmas Season. This is not intended to insult, disgust, or otherwise put one's religion above another's. This is only for interesting fun entertainment and should be taken in that context.

A large Christmas tree is traditionally placed every year in Rockefeller Center (Manhattan, New York City). The tallest tree placed in Rockefeller Center was a 100 foot Norway spruce from Connecticut in 1999.



Strange Christmas Facts

- The people at Reynolds et al make a substantial amount of money selling foil during the Yuletide season. It has been confirmed that at least 3000 tons of foil are used to wrap turkeys annually.
- Warning: Christmas shopping may be hazardous to your health. If you are an avid Christmas shopper statistics have concluded that you will be elbowed at least three times while shopping. Ouch!
- Sending Christmas cards is still the in thing to do around Christmas time. Americans on average send out 28 Christmas cards to friends and family yearly, and guess what, it's certainly not in vain either, most will receive 28 for the same period.
- Christmas is a great time to exercise. You will walk an average of five miles between the parking lot and stores, however, don't let this give you a false sense of security, most people still gain those pesky Christmas pounds despite this.
- Leftovers can sometimes be your enemy. Spoiled leftovers are responsible for 400,000 cases of post Christmas associated illnesses.

The song "Jingle Bells" was copyrighted in 1857. "Deck The Halls" is even older - from the late 18th century.

For many countries, Christmas is the single largest annual economic stimulus.

Americans buy 25-30 million real trees and 8-12 million artificial trees to decorate each year.

All info about Christmas was taken from
history.com
and
christmasfacts.org



History of the Candy Cane



In the late 1800s, a candy maker in Indiana wanted to express the meaning of Christmas through a symbol made of candy. He came up with the idea of bending one of his white candy sticks into the shape of a Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols of Christ's love and sacrifice through the Candy Cane. First, he used a plain white peppermint stick. The color white symbolizes the purity and sinless nature of Jesus. Next, he added three small stripes to symbolize the pain inflicted upon Jesus before His death on the cross. There are three of them to represent the Holy Trinity. He added a bold stripe to represent the blood Jesus shed for mankind. When looked at with the crook on top, it looks like a shepherd's staff because Jesus is the shepherd of man. If you turn it upside down, it becomes the letter J symbolizing the first letter in Jesus' name. The candy maker made these candy canes for Christmas, so everyone would remember what Christmas is all about.

- Ever wondered where the idea of elves came from? They are actually modern day versions of "Nature folk" described in Pagan religions of the past.
- The Holy Days and Fasting Act of 1551 in Britain declares that all its country's citizens must attend the annual church services held on Christmas day. In fact it goes as far as stating that no vehicle should be used to travel to church on this day. The law still exists on the books, although it is not observed.
- The tradition of burning a Yule log actually has its roots in ancient Scandinavia. Supposedly the Yule log was a source of good luck and its remnants were saved to inspire good fortune throughout the year. It was such a widely held belief that people even threw the ashes in wells to make the water safer to drink.
- It was once believed that any woman who went under a mistletoe and was not kissed would not marry the coming year.
- The annual Christmas pudding was more than just a tasty treat. Small items were placed in them which had the power to predict what the New Year would bring. Coins were associated with a gain in wealth, a ring was a sign of an imminent marriage and a button signified extended bachelorhood. This idea actually goes back to the middle ages where the cake being served on the Twelfth Night would come complete with a hidden bean. Whoever found this bean was declared "king" for that one night.
- If you counted all the gifts that were given in the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" you would realize that the number of gifts being presented were 364 in total, thus a gift was given for each day of the year.
- Christmas was illegal in England from 1647-1660. This was enforced by the then leader Oliver Cromwell who believed it was immoral to hold celebrations on one of the holiest days of the year. The celebration of Christmas was therefore a criminal offence which could lead to an individual being arrested if he or she was found guilty of condoning any revelry during the period.

PARADES

The Rockwood and Kingston Parades were a great success but due to heavy demand we threw out over 40 pounds of candy and toys.

If anyone would like to donate to help compensate for these parades or contribute for the next parade in July, please contact Vickie Watts, Lee Ann Gaddis or Linda Rector.

Thanks to Betty Johnson for her contributions toward the parade fund.

It is recommended that funds be set aside to use for purchasing candy/toys for the July Parade in Kingston. It is also recommended that Parades be a new line item for the budget 2013-2014, due to the promotion and advertising we do for Rockwood BPW.

**Here is a comment
made from BPW
Berea....**

**Do you
have an
ornament
honoring
women
on your tree?**



ROCKWOOD BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION Minutes for November 20, 2012

Rockwood Business and Professional Women's Organization met on Tuesday, November 20, 2012, at the Rockwood Street Grill with Vickie Watts presiding. Betty Johnston gave the invocation, and President Watts led the group in the pledge to our flag.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected. Ann Hiegel, treasurer, presented the treasurer's report, which was filed for audit.

Linda Rector, finance chair, asked us to turn in calendar and wrapping paper money as soon as possible. She needs gloves and scarves for children by the first week in December. Vickie Watts will get names and needs from the Angel Tree.

Ann announced that she has written a check for our annual budgeted contribution to Operation Reach and said that anyone who wishes to make an additional gift may give her a check that she will send with the club's to Reach officials.

Lee Ann Gaddis showed a brochure from BPW/TN and suggested integrating it with our local information. After discussion of several possible ways to do this, Vickie Watts said that she would ask the executive committee to meet and come up with a plan to most effectively accomplish this.

The speaker for the evening was Sarah Tinch, who is a 21 year veteran of the U.S. Navy. She talked about the women who had major influences in her life. She also discussed parallels between advances for women in the military and BPW programs like the Red Purse initiative. The Foundation program Joining Forces Mentoring Plus provides grant opportunities to women veterans.

The December meeting will be chaired by Betty Johnston.

Jerry Wallick, sunshine chair, said that she has sent several cards since the last meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Club collect.

Becky Layne for Wanda Manning



Rockwood Parade 2012



Kingston Parade 2012



The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

In 1836, Alabama is the first state in the USA to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

In 1889, Tennessee declared Christmas an Official Holiday.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the last USA state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

In 1937, the first postage stamp to commemorate Christmas was issued in Austria.



The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.



In 1843, the first Christmas card was printed in England for Sir Henry Cole. He was a busy man who wanted to save time in his own Christmas letters, but was also interested in encouraging the expansion of the postal system. 1000 copies of the card were sold at one shilling each. It was not until the 1860s that the production of cards accelerated, with cheaper printing methods. Then in 1870, the Post Office introduced a half penny stamp for sending cards.

The actual gift givers are different in various countries:

- Spain and South America: The Three Kings
- Italy: La Befana (a kindly old witch)
- England: Father Christmas
- France: Pere Noel (Father Christmas)
- Russia: In some parts - Babouschka (a grandmotherly figure)
- Other parts it is Grandfather Frost.
- Germany: Christkind (angelic messenger from Jesus)
- She is a beautiful fair haired girl with a shining crown of candles.
- Scandinavia: a variety of Christmas gnomes. One is called Julenisse
- Holland: St Nicholas.

All pictures were taken by our own Linda Rector, Vickie Watts, and Lee Ann Gaddis.

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

As this month came around we were in full swing with getting in the spirit and participating in many timely events to give our community a better idea of what Rockwood BPW is doing.

I do not know if many realize that many people did not know who we are or that there is a state and national BPW.

Ladies, our work has never been as important as it is today.

We must still strive to promote our organization and continue to produce future leaders. I believe we are making progress.

We may not be blood kin but we are from the heart SISTERS UNITED. May you and your family have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Lee Ann Gaddis, Editor

Any corrections or extra information given after this newsletter has been issued will be duly noted and expressed in detail in the next issue.

Thank you for your time and energy.

Watts New

Dear Rockwood BPW Members,

As this year closes and a new one begins we need to reflect our purpose as members in Rockwood BPW. Both Lee Ann Gaddis, Linda Rector and myself participated in the Rockwood and Kingston parades, as well as, donating to the Evans Heights, Mittens for Love and Angel Tree. I, myself, believe we are women first and during any time of the year when we can help women...WE SHOULD!

We are not meeting are full potential. In order for Rockwood BPW to remain a viable force in the community, it is imperative every member do their part. As you can see in the pictures, in this newsletter, those are the ones pushing this organization along. It should not be this way.

May we grow ever more in the new year and more members help make it so.

Vickie Watts, President Rockwood BPW

You can find us on Facebook under Business and Professional Women Rockwood, Tennessee and at www.facebook.com/RockwoodBPW



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