



Business and  
Professional  
Women/USA<sup>®</sup>

## **Business and Professional Women -- The Leading Advocate for Workingwomen**

### **Mission Statement**

**To achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information**

Business and Professional Women/USA, founded in 1919, promotes equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information. With 1,500 Local Organizations across the country and members in every congressional district, BPW/USA is the leading advocate for millions of workingwomen on work-life balance and workplace equity issues. BPW Local Organizations provide members with professional development programs, networking, participation in grassroots activism, and opportunities to support scholarships for disadvantaged women.

One of the first women's organizations to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment in 1937, BPW/USA has been a successful leader in promoting and supporting legislation affecting workingwomen ever since. In addition, BPW educates its members on policy issues and provides them the tools to become effectively involved in policy development in their own workplaces and in grassroots efforts at the local, state and federal levels. BPW/USA members not only work at the grassroots level but support their beliefs financially. BPW's Political Action Committee (**BPW/PAC**) provides contributions and endorsements to women and pro-women federal candidates who support the BPW legislative agenda.

### **BPW Working for Workplace Equity and Work-life Balance**

BPW/USA's commitment to America's workingwomen is reflected in our Signature Events, programs and work that benefit local communities, aid in the personal and professional development of women, and raise awareness of issues affecting workingwomen among business leaders and legislators.

Signature Conferences, Events and Programs sponsored by BPW/USA and the BPW/Foundation are important tools for communicating the core values of BPW and connecting women across the country as they learn from each other, support each other, network, improve working conditions, and create lifelong friendships. Signature Events include:

- **Policy & Action Conference** held annually for grassroots members in Washington, DC to learn and lobby
- **The National Conference** held annually, brings together more than 800 women for a week of BPW business, professional development workshops, career coaching, networking and friendship renewal
- **Women Mean Business Awards** recognize women who are leading the way
- **Equal Pay Day and Unhappy Hours** highlight the continuing wage gap

- **Career Advancement Scholarships** support women 25 years or older wanting to improve their lives and careers
- **National Business Women's Week** has, for more than 75 years, spotlighted the accomplishments of women and their importance to American business
- **Virginia Allen Young Careerist Program** helps young women and men, 21-35, hone their professional skills
- **Individual Development Programs** help women build the skills that will enable them to take that next important step in their career
- **WOMENomics** forums address issues that affect workingwomen in order to gain a better understanding of what they need and want to achieve work-life balance

### **The BPW Foundation – Women Helping Women Achieve Success**

In 1956, BPW members established the BPW Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, to promote equity for workingwomen through education, information, research and financial assistance as well as serving as a resource on issues affecting women in the workplace. Since 1969, the BPW Foundation has awarded more than \$6 million in scholarships, loans and grants to over 8,000 women seeking to improve their lives.

### **Who We Are**

BPW members are workingwomen seeking to advance their career goals, earn higher salaries, build stronger business, achieve pay equity and equal opportunities, and establish rewarding careers. As all women gain earning power and spending power, they are reshaping U.S. consumer trends. And BPW members are on the leading edge of that trend.

- 75 percent are women working in business
- 30 percent are professionals in the fields of law, medicine, government, finance, education, and engineering
- 30 percent are CEOs, executives and managers
- 30 percent are small business owners
- 70 percent have a graduate or post graduate degree

### ***BusinessWoman***

*BusinessWoman*, published quarterly, is the main communications vehicle for the BPW membership. Ninety percent of readers rate *BusinessWoman* as an excellent resource for workingwomen.

### ***Headquarters News***

Published twice monthly, this electronic publication keeps BPW/USA members across the country up-to-date on the latest happenings at the national level and important developments in issues and trends affecting workplace equity.

### ***Legislative Hotline***

BPW/USA's Legislative Hotline is updated each week and provides BPW/USA members current information and reports concerning our legislative priorities.