

TO: Presidents of the California, Pacific Rim and New York Federations, El Paso and Chicago Associate Clubs
FROM: Bessie R. Hironimus, President, EPW-USA

As your Fall meetings are taking place, I would appreciate your sharing the following information with your members:

With the merging of BPW/USA and its foundation, that federation ceased to exist as a membership organization in the US. Additionally, the Foundation has announced its ownership of the trademark letters BPW and the name Business and Professional Women, so these names cannot be used in the US unless a license fee per member is paid annually.

To avoid any trademark infringement, the five state federations and clubs in the US that belong to the International Federation have formed a new country federation, Enterprising and Professional Women-USA (EPW-USA). The letters EPW and the name have been legally filed with the US trademark office. Please note that the BPW/USA trademark is owned by BPW foundation in the United States only; therefore, within the United States, we are called EPW-USA, but under BPW International, we are known as BPW-USA. As a new country federation of BPW International, we are now clear to welcome more clubs and federations in the US to join us.

EPW-USA was formed to provide our members with an organization where they belong, where their voice is heard, and their vote counts. We will continue the legacy of Lena Madessin Phillips and that of all our members who have worked so hard to provide advocacy and bring equality, skill building, networking, mentoring and training to working women. We must keep the mission, goals and vision that have guided our membership for many decades.

The Executive Committee is busy working on the structure of our new organization. Currently, we are meeting via conference calls and e-mail. Some of the issues we are working on are the details of incorporation, bylaws, membership/dues structure, ways to effectively communicate with our membership, website, etc. Since we will not have a Board of Directors until our Annual General Meeting (AGM), we have an Advisory Board to work with the Executive Committee.

There have been some changes and new appointments in our leadership team. The Executive Committee is:

President, Bessie R. Hironimus of California - bessie-epwusa@hotmail.com

First Vice President, Trish Knight of Michigan - wetrainU@gmail.com

Second Vice President, Gayle Guthrie of Illinois - geggayle@gmail.com

Secretary, Hilda Kelley Moran of El Paso, Texas - hildakelley@hotmail.com

Treasurer, Mary Lou Lowrey of Illinois - lowreym@comcast.net

Assisting as Parliamentarian is Betty Faye Chapman Kaupalolo of California.

The members of the Advisory Board are:

Janet Ramsey, President of the California Federation - ramsey_janet@sbcglobal.net

Kathleen Jordan, President of Pacific Rim Federation - kajordan251@aol.com

Eileen Brennan, President of the New York Federation - brennan.ei@gmail.com

Nancy Melendez-Forbes, President of Paso Del Norte Club, Texas

melendez-forbesN2@elpasotexas.gov

Anna Harkins, President of Chicago La Grange Club, Illinois aharkins521@comcast.net

Manjul Batra, California

Alyce Daly, New York

Barbara J. Davis, California

Kathleen Johnson, Oregon

Joyce C. Morrissey, California

Kathleen Ray, Illinois

Connie Vasquez, El Paso, Texas

Elizabeth Vanardenne, New York

Trudy Waldroop, California

Barbara Yong, Illinois

EPW-USA will hold its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) next September in conjunction with the BPW International Regional meeting. During the Annual Meeting our members will be voting on the new bylaws, dues structure, etc., as well as electing their new Executive Committee for the next three years. The current officers and Advisory Board members are now working on an interim basis until the Annual Meeting. As they join us, the federations and associate club presidents will be members of the Advisory Board.

Our Regional Coordinator for North America and non Spanish Speaking Countries of the Caribbean, Jill Worobec of Canada, is organizing the Regional Meeting and accepting bids to host the event. The State Federations and Associate Clubs presidents have received information on hosting this meeting.

EPW-USA has a facebook group page, under Enterprising and Professional Women (EPW-USA), an e-mail address, epwusa@gmail.com and our website www.epw-usa.org is being finalized. Our website contact is Michelle Husby of California. We also have www.bpw-international.org for information and communication with our members worldwide.

The Executive Committee and Advisory Board members welcome your input, comments, suggestions and assistance. One issue that is our foremost priority is that of membership participation. This is your organization, and only your participation will keep it the way you want it to be. Be a part of this historic moment, be active in what you believe.

Best Regards,

BESSIE R. HIRONIMUS

EPW-USA President

September 7, 2009