Borealis Grille & Bar

4336 King Street East

Kitchener, Ontario N2P 3W6

October 21, 2023

**MEETING MINUTES**

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| **Golden Horseshoe 9 Delegates** | | **Southwest Ontario 6 Delegates** | |
| **Brampton**   * Barb Hore * Carol Kollar * Linda Ford * Angela McKinnon * Pat Dowling * Mina Di Domenico | **Niagara Falls**   * Jocelyne Desautels * Nancy Broerse * Anne Knicely | **London**   * Doris Hall * Dani Bartlett * Norma Yau * Kyla Wynia | **Cambridge**   * Lin Buxton   **Kitchener**   * Elaine Mortensen |
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| **GUESTS**  **BPW Ontario**  Marlene McKinnon, President | | **BPW North Toronto**   * Maide Yazar * Ethel Clarke * Valerie Clarke | |

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| 11:30 am Commence Meeting  **Land Acknowledgement, Elaine Mortensen, BPW Kitchener, President**  **Welcome Delegates and Guests, Linda Ford, BPW Brampton, President**  BPW Brampton would like to take this opportunity to welcome our BPW District Clubs and Sisters to this event.  Thank you to our BPW Southwest Ontario District Director, Barb Hore who really took the reigns and organized this event for Brampton to Host this year.  I want to recognize Marlene McKinnon, our BPW Ontario President. Thank you for being here and for your leadership.  And of course, our favourite sisters are here – Ethel and Valerie Clarke who not only support their own clubs but so many others.  Public Affairs and International Affairs Chair – Maide Yasar, thank you for being here as well.  It is always a great opportunity to get together with like minded women to really exemplify the core values that are BPW.  We don’t see each other in person very often but when we do it seems like it’s been no time at all as we fall into conversation and camaraderie and old friendships are renewed and new ones formed.  We can be proud of all the work BPW has done – but we know there is much more for us to do. We need to continue to lead on advocacy and effect change where we can – one small step at a time – as long as it continues to move us forward.  With the world in flux I think that it would be easy to say or feel – what are we doing all this for – is it making a difference? The answer to that is definitely yes! If we look back at some of the important and significant changes that BPW around the world has made we know it has.  Our resolutions are and continue to be immensely important. So let’s enjoy the day and continue good work BPW does.  Thank you all for being here.  **Meeting Appointments**:   * Secretary, Mina Di Domenico, BPW Brampton, Resolutions * Timekeeper, Jocelyn Desautels, BPW Niagara Falls, President   Introduction of Board Members, Delegates and Guests  **Greetings from BPW Canada and the Federal Government via Doris Hall, BPW Canada, Past President**  Shared Angie Godin, BPW Canada President’s message   * “Good day, I want to thank you on behalf of the BPWC board to the SW District Meeting. I wish you a productive meeting and hope you enjoy spending time with each other. We as the board are always available to you and in any needs you may have. Please feel free to reach out directly to any of us and we will be happy to connect. * I hope to see many familiar and new faces at our 2024 Convention to be held in Moncton, NB. Details for this will be posted on the BPWC website as they come along. * UNCSW VP Amanda will be sending a call for delegates in the upcoming weeks so please keep an eye out for that in your emails if you’d like to be amount the 20 attending in person in New York this coming March.   Read message from Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth   * Greetings, Women’s organizations, like yours, play a leading role in driving social change by supporting women and girls from diverse backgrounds both economically and socially. Simply put, advancing gender equality benefits everyone. It’s good for the economy, leads to greater health and happiness, promotes peace and security, and upholds fairness and justice in communities across the country. We all have a part to play when it comes to making sure everyone has an equal and fair opportunity to participate in political, economic, and social life in Canada. * I want to take a moment and recognize all the work that BPW does in communities, and the incredible impact they have right across Canada, and I am so happy that Women and Gender Equality Canada funds and supports important work. * Equality is the foundation from which everyone can lead healthy, happy, and fulfilling lives. While we’ve made progress, there is still so much more work to do. We remain committed to tirelessly working to build a more gender equality country, and we encourage every Canadian to join us.   **Greetings and update from BPW Ontario, Marlene McKinnon, BPW Ontario President**   * New BPW Ontario website has been launched. Password information was shared with BPW Ontario Club Presidents. * Anne Harvey is leading Ontario’s membership chair and Heather Ellis is championing a Resolutions Writing Workshop. Marlene thanks both Anne and Heather for leading these key roles. * Sharon Doran and Anne Harvey are leading streamlining reports for clubs. More to follow on this. * June 2024 BPWO Annual General Meeting will be held virtually. * Brampton Club is hosting the in-person BPWO Conference in June 2025. * Next board meeting is being held on November 4th.   All attendees introduced themselves and provided insights to their time with BPW. |
| **Establish voting strength for each club in both Districts** **led by Barbara Hore, BPW District Director**  Golden Horseshow 9 Votes: 6 Brampton; 3 Niagara Falls  Southwest 6 Votes: 4 London; 1 Cambridge; 1 Kitchener |
| **Motion to approve the 2023 District Agenda**  Motion to approve the 2023 Golden Horseshoe and Southwest Ontario District Joint Agenda   * Mover: Jocelyn Desautels; Seconder: Nancy Broerse   Carried as amended  **Approval of 2022 District Meeting Minutes**  Motion to approve the 2022 Golden Horseshoe and Southwest Ontario District Joint Annual General Meeting Minutes   * Mover: Norma Yau; Seconder: Linda Ford   Carried. |
| **President’s Reports (See Appendix A)**   * Golden Horseshoe President’s Report (2 minutes)   + Brampton, Linda Ford   + Niagara, Jocelyne Desautels * Golden Horseshoe Treasurer’s Report (2 minutes)   + Nancy Broerse reported closing balance of $218.00 * Southwest Ontario President’s Report (2 minutes)   + London, Dani Bartlett   + Cambridge, Lin Buxton   + Kitchener, Elaine Mortensen * Southwest Ontario Treasurer’s Report (2 minutes)   + Norma Yau reported closing balance of $414.01   Motion to approve the Golden Horseshoe President and Treasurer’s Reports   * Mover: Carol Kollar; Seconder: Nancy Broerse   Motion to approve the Southwest Ontario President and Treasurer’s Reports   * Mover: Dani Bartlett; Seconder: Doris Hall |
| **Reproductive Rights and Justice Committee Update by Norma Yau, BPW London**  Norma shared the genesis of this committee and the work to-date.  Highlights: Canada does not have an abortion legislation. Abortion is a service under the Health Care Act. This year, the committee produced 3 national resolutions and held 3 webinars. Information can be found on the BPWC’s website, and a flyer was shared with details. Norma continues to lead and partner with 12 members across the country for the coming year. The goals include raising awareness, producing resolutions, creating a position paper, holding an advocacy partnership event in the late winter, and partnering with allied organizations on what’s available. |
| Introduction of our speaker, Norma Yau, BPW London**Guest Speaker: Dani Bartlett, Activist, Advocate, Collaborator, Agitator and Mom** Dani shared an inspirational speech providing how she got into a non-traditional role and her evolution her involvement with various advocacy committees. Her speech was peppered with beautiful quotes, insights, and a call to action for all of us. Lin Buxton, BPW Cambridge, President facilitated Q&A and thanked Dani. |
| **Nominations and Election for District Directors led by Carol Kollar, BPW Brampton, Past President**   * There were no nominations from the Golden Horseshoe or Southwest Ontario districts. * Moved by Norma Yau and seconded by Nancy Broerse that Barb Hore lead a second year as District Director for both Golden Horseshoe and Southwest Ontario districts. * Everyone was in favour of a combined 2024 District Meeting. * Confirming BPW Kitchener to host the 2024 District Meeting. Location pending. |
| **Announce winners of 50/50 Draw and Raffle, Pat Dowling, BPW Brampton, Treasurer.**  50/50 Winner: Carol Kollar $75  Prize winners:   * Mina Di Domenico * Valerie Clarke (2 prizes!) * Lin Buxton * Dani Bartlett * Barb Hore * Elaine Mortensen   Pat Dowling announced this event raised $315; $60 from emblems, $180 raffle tickets, $75 from the 50/50 draw. |
| **Announcements:**  Doris Hall announced BPW London Club is hosting the #IDEAS4GenderEquality workshop on November 2 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Flyer of event was shared. Please RSVP if you are attending and share with your club members. **(See Appendix B)**  Norma Yau shared the Reproductive Rights and Justice flyer. Please share with your members. **(See Appendix C)**  Mina Di Domenico announced there is a National Advocacy Community meeting taking place on Monday, October 23rd at 7:00 pm ET and a Resolutions Writing Workshop on November 6th. **(See Appendix D)**  Jocelyne announced the next BPW Niagara Falls Bingo event is taking place on October 18, 2024.  Maide Yasar shared the IFBPW has an international directory where members can post their resume and skills.  She also encouraged clubs to post their current projects. Example: IDEAS and twinning mentioned. Please visit BPW International Website for details.  **Adjournment:**  Barbara Hore, BPW District Director Golden Horseshoe and Southwest Ontario Districts thanked:   * Everyone for taking time out of their busy Saturday to attend today’s meeting. * Marlene McKinnon for making a long trip to attend. * Dani for her inspiring speech. * Norma for providing an update on the Reproductive Rights and Justice Committee work. * Niagara, Brampton, London, Cambridge, and Kitchener Clubs for the wonderful door prizes and funds raised. * Jocelyn and Mina for assisting with meeting administration. * Nancy for her Candy Bundles Fund Raiser * Elaine and Carol for assisting with the venue * Lin for taking photos * Pat Dowling for managing the 50/50 draw / raffles prizes and reporting on the funds raised.   2:50 pm meeting adjourned |