**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**September 17, 2024**

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Linda Ford

Welcome to Members and Guests: Linda Ford

**AGENDA**

Approval of Agenda

* + Moved by Sue Perlman
  + Seconded by Angela McKinnon
  + Carried

Approval of May 21, 2024 Minutes

* + Moved by Sue Perlman
  + Seconded by Angela McKinnon

No business arising from Minutes

| **Chair** | **REPORT** |
| --- | --- |
| **President’s Report**  Linda Ford | As we embark upon our 78th year we take time to reflect on the successes and challenges of a grass roots organizations like BPW Brampton Caledon. Throughout the years we have seen the club ebb and flow, members come and go, and we’ve seen the women centric issues we champion change and evolve with the times.  BPW Brampton Caledon, also known as the Business and Professional Women’s Club Brampton Caledon is a non-sectarian, non-profit, and non-partisan organization that works to improve the economic, political, social, and employment conditions of women. It is an equality-seeking group.  BPW Brampton Caledon develops the business, professional, and leadership potential of women on all levels.  On a human level, it about more than that! It’s about being there for each other. Supporting our members in good times and bad. It’s a true sisterhood of unconditional support.  As all member-based organizations in these times we need to focus the year ahead on growth and sustainability.  With a wider and more diverse membership it allows us to do more for our community. Many hands make light work said the matriarchs of our society – and they were right.  Our call to action is: COME AND JOIN US!  Through your membership you support our local club but are also connected to a Provincial, Canadian, and International Federation.  We are a voice:  • Access to current information on issues affecting women.  • Shaping, lobbying, and influencing the world around us through resolutions, letters and  briefs to governments at all levels.  • Influence at United Nations with BPW Canada’s Consultative Status through ECOSOC  • Debating the issues and developing background research for resolutions.  • Insight into the big picture of our mandate “improving the economic, social, and political  status of women”.  • Look at the BPW Canada Website for our Database of Resolutions! We affect change – one resolution at a time.    I have always been proud to be a member of BPW Brampton Caledon, I have been honoured to be a part of the Board of Directors and privileged to serve as President for many terms over the years.  I look forward to the year ahead and doing the best work we can do, being the best humans we can be, and making a difference.  Sincerely,  Linda Ford  President, BPW Brampton Caledon |
| **Treasurer Report**  Pat Dowling | The Treasurer’s report was emailed to members before the meeting.  Please refer to the documents in the club website members area for details. |
| **Special Events**  Pat Dowling | Golf Tournament: June 17, 2024, Glen Eagle Golf Course   * This event raised $15,000 with funds going to HoneyChurch, Wellspring, VSOP * 72 golfers to date are registered, and 91 guests for dinner. * Many thanks to our sponsors.   Euchre Fall Event: November 15, 2024, Scottish Centre   * Funds to go to Ste. Louise * Tickets will become available on October 15th.   Holiday Meat and Seafood and Cookie Drive is coming soon. Stay tuned for updates. |
| **Membership /**  **Secretary /**  **2025 Provincial AGM**  Barb Hore | Sent regrets.  Membership Update   * The club has 33 members.   District Director  The announcement for the Golden Horseshoe and Southwest Ontario Meeting will be confirmed shortly. |
| **First Vice President /**  **International Affairs /**  **Bursary Chair**  Amanda Graham-Rowe | KIVA Micro Loans Projects:   * Sustainable Artisan Development project (Peru / providing training, market access, and higher incomes for 250+ artisans in Peru – enables Peruvian artisans to gain access to markets)   + Loan amount: US$250 (no payment to date)   + Another payment received.   + Full repayment expected by Dec 2025 * Gotitas De Esperanza 1 Group (Nicaragua / helping members buy supplies for business. Empowering women through community support and financial training)   + Loan amount US$125 (repaid $37– on track)   + Another payment received.   + Full repayment expected by Dec 1, 2024 * Kana Group (Congo DRC / helping member to buy wholesale boards to supplement initial capital – serves entrepreneurs in conflict-affected areas with few opportunities)   + Loan amount US$125 (repaid $37– on track)   + Another payment received.   + Full repayment expected by Dec 1, 2024 * Researching a Uganda women’s restaurant, single mom with two kids and a refugee.   International Affairs:   * The 2024 International Congress is taking place in St Kitts Nov 17 – 21 <https://stkittscongress.bpw-international.org/registration/> * The BPW International webinar is being launched later this month. |
| **Second Vice President / Personal Development**  Nelia De Sousa | * A virtual Navigating Conflict Conversations Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 21st, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Our speaker is Sandra Sharpe. * The workshop details are on the BPW Brampton Caledon website * Cost is free for attendees. |
| **Programs & Projects**  Angela McKinnon | 2024-2025 Program   * September 21 Workshop: Navigating Conflict Conversations – see website * October 15 General Meeting: Karin Gorgerat, Fanzorelli’s, menu selection * November 19 Holiday Social: Iris’ home (distribution through email) * January 21 General Meeting: Mayor of Orangeville Lisa Post * February 18 General Meeting: Uzma Aziz Ifran, Brampton Flying Club * March 18 General Meeting: Barry Shepley, Caledon Villa Inn * April 15, Social: Paint Night, Keltic Rock Pub, $40 pp + food & drinks * May 20, Annual General Meeting: Tina Haller, Caledon Villa Inn * June 26, Social Dinner: TBD |
| **Bursary Chair**  Amanda Graham-Rowe  Angela McKinnon | The bursary process is in progress. Once the award is announced in November or December, the recipient and professor will attend one of our meetings. |
| **Publicity & Public Affairs / Newsletter / Dinner Convenor**  Sheila Walker | Sheila has been a member for 22 years and leads publicity and public affairs.  Key deliverables include sending notices of meetings and relevant information to members and the community. |
| **Correspondence Secretary & Fellowship**  Sue Perlman | Sue has been a member since 2019 and leads the club’s correspondence and volunteers with the annual golf tournament fundraising committee. |
| **yBPW**  Rianna Ramesar | Sent regrets and emailed update:  Young BPW is registering a project with BPW International. The project is an open letter addressed to the Government of India asking that they declare violence against women and girls a national crisis. Young BPWs from Brazil, the UK, and the US will work with Rianna on this.  Rianna is now representing BPW Canada as Vice President of yBPW. Congratulations Rianna!!! |
| **Resolutions/By-Laws Public Affairs /**  **Website**  Mina Di Domenico | **Provincial**  Our club submitted three resolutions for 2024. These resolutions were discussed, debated, and voted on at the BPW Ontario conference in May. All three resolutions were unanimously carried. They are included in the BPW Ontario brief to the provincial government's relevant ministries and opposition parties.  Many thanks to Victim Services of Peel, our community partner, for partnering with the BPW Brampton Caledon Resolutions Committee.  **Federal**  The BPW Canada Conference was held in Moncton, New Brunswick, from August 9 to 12, 2024. The BPW Brampton Caledon Resolution Committee submitted one national resolution on “The Prioritization and Inclusion of Femicide in Canada’s Criminal Code.” This resolution was unanimously carried. It will be included in the BPW Canada brief to the federal government's relevant ministries and opposition parties.  **International Update**  In 2023, the BPW Brampton Caledon Club submitted a federal resolution on Women’s Access to Health Services and Health Education through Technology. The good news is our club resolution is now included as part of the BPW International Congress in St. Kitts & Nevis from November 17-20, 2024. Interesting in attending? Please visit our website for details. |

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Announcements

* Business cards opportunity
* Navigating Conflict Conversation Workshop this Saturday, register via our website
* Wellspring Walk information is on the tables
* Rotary Club Concert
* Gala announcement

Meeting adjournment: 6:46 PM EST