**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 21, 2025**

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Linda Ford

Welcome to Members and Guests: Linda Ford

**AGENDA**

Approval of Agenda

* + Moved by Barb Hore
  + Seconded by Sue Perlman
  + Carried

Approval of November 19, 2024 Minutes

* + Moved by Pat Dowling
  + Seconded by Sheila Walker
  + Carried

No business arising from Minutes

| **Chair** | **REPORT** |
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| **President’s Report**  Linda Ford | Linda welcomed special guests and Lisa Post.  The club’s AGM minutes, and annual reports were approved electronically on December 13, 2024. All Information is posted on the club’s website for your reference. |
| **Immediate Past President**  Carol Kollar | Sent regrets |
| **Treasurer Report**  Pat Dowling | The Treasurer’s report was emailed to members before the meeting and posted on the club’s website in the Members Area. |
| **Special Events**  Pat Dowling | * The June 16th Golf Tournament is our biggest event of the year. We need prizes and silent auction items. If you have any corporate connections, please get in touch with Pat Dowling. Table vendors will be available at the Golf Tournament to help raise money for our community partners. * Bingo paperwork is underway so the BPW Brampton Caledon members can participate in Bingo fundraising for our community partners. More to follow. * Once a year, at our Holiday Party, members select our community partners for the calendar year. For 2025, our Community Partners are Caledon Community Services, Ste. Louise Food Bank, Victim Services of Peel, Honeychurch Women’s Shelter, and Wellspring Chinguacousy Cancer Support Centre * We will hold the Meat and Seafood Drive at the end of April and early May—details to follow via email communication and on our website. |
| **First Vice President /**  **International Affairs /**  **Bursary Chair**  Amanda Graham-Rowe | Sent Regrets and latest report:  KIVA Micro Loans Projects**:  $39 available to lend**    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 - $27.77 repaid * The first two payments were finally made.  September, October, and November payments are delinquent; however, there is an Irregular repayment schedule.  No comments or updates were received. Will continue to monitor. * Full repayment expected by Dec 2025 * 11% has been paid back     Madina from Tajikistan (New in September 2024 – Loan amount USD$125   * Madina is an X-ray specialist in a nearby village seeking a loan for an updated X-ray machine. There is a high demand for her services, which she wants to expand with an updated machine, so radiographs will be more precise, providing better results and treatment for the community. * Loan term: 26 months, with monthly repayments - first repayment scheduled for December 2024. * 11% has been paid   Fully Paid Loans:   * Gotitas De Esperanza 1 Group (Nicaragua / helping members buy supplies for business. Full repayment Dec 1, 2024 * Kana Group (Congo DRC / helping members buy wholesale boards to supplement initial capital – serves entrepreneurs in conflict-affected areas with few opportunities). Full repayment Dec 1, 2024 |
| **Second Vice President / Personal Development**  Nelia De Sousa | We have two virtual events coming up:   * February 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Single Seniors and Federal Income Tax Fairness. This event centers around a federal resolution our club has created. * March 22 or 29: A free Virtual Event on Transforming Your Mindset. More details to follow. |
| **Membership /**  **District Director /**  **2025 BPW Ontario AGM**  Barb Hore | Membership Update   * The club has 43 members.   BPW Ontario Conference  The 2025 BPW Ontario AGM will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the  Brampton Golf Club. Our club is sponsoring this provincial event.  The club is looking for sponsorship. Registration will open after the long weekend in May.  District Director, Golden Horseshoe, and Southwest Ontario  The next Golden Horseshoe and Southwest Ontario Meeting will be held on October 25, 2025, at Betty’s Restaurant in Niagara Falls. The BPW Niagara Club is hosting the event.  Other District News  BPW London club is celebrating their 80th anniversary  BPW Niagara Falls is holding a fundraising event. |
| **Resolutions/By-Laws Public Affairs /**  **Website /**  **Secretary**  Mina Di Domenico | **Resolutions:**  This club year, at the provincial level, the club is submitting the following to BPW Ontario:   * Resolution: Addressing Gender-Specific Mental Health Needs and Reforming Ontario’s Mental Health Care System (a collaboration with BPW Niagara). Many, many thanks to *Dawn McCormick Tracz* for strengthening the resolution with her feedback. * Commendation: Our members are recognizing Charmaine Williams. She is a Canadian politician currently serving as an MPP for Brampton Centre. She is known for her advocacy on mental health, community safety, and women's empowerment.   At the federal level, the club is submitting three resolutions to BPW Canada:   * Federal Income Tax Equity for Single Senior Women. The club is hosting a free Canada-wide virtual event on Tuesday, February 11, 2025; the Zoom link is available on our website. * Criminalizing Coercive Control in Intimate Relationships. This resolution is a follow-up to the club’s femicide resolution last year * Supporting Afghan Women and Girls. This resolution calls for increased humanitarian aid, protection of their rights, and international efforts to ensure access to education, healthcare, and safety in the face of ongoing challenges under Taliban rule.   All information can be found on the club’s website in the Members’ Area.  **Website:**  The Community Partners and Tax Receipt Page has been updated, making it easy for you to donate to our community partners—many thanks to Pat Dowling for her partnership on this update.  **Social Media:**  We are currently automating our social media updates through feeds from our website and partnering with BPW Ontario's Social Media manager to distribute event information to several platforms—many thanks to Emmanuella, Nelia, and Angela for participating in this sub-committee. |
| **Correspondence Secretary & Fellowship**  Sue Perlman | Sue shared a thank-you letter from Meals on Wheels.  All letters are posted on our website in the Community Corner area. |
| **Publicity & Public Affairs / Newsletter / Dinner Convenor**  Sheila Walker | The winter newsletter was published and emailed to members. It is also available on our website. The newsletter included lots of fantastic photos from the holiday party. |
| **yBPW**  Rianna Ramesar | Sent regrets.  Rianna continues to work through her role on the BPW Canada board as Vice President, yBPW on the following:   * Leading a project on missing Indigenous women and girls – creating a petition. * BPW International: 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. |
| **Programs & Projects**  Angela McKinnon | 2024-2025 Program   * February 11: Free online workshop on Federal Tax Fairness with Single Seniors * February 18: International Night with Uzma Aziz Ifran, Vesuvio’s * March 18: Anne Marie Hayes, Flight Club * April 15: Social: Paint Night, Keltic Rock Pub, $40 pp + food & drinks + tip + HST * May 20: Annual General Meeting with speaker Tina Haller, Caledon Villa Inn * June 26: Social Dinner: To be confirmed   Visit our website for details and updates. |
| **Bursary Chair**  Amanda Graham-Rowe  Angela McKinnon | A bursary has been awarded to Jasmeen Arora.  Jasmeen and a representative from Sheridan College attended the general meeting this evening. |

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Barbara Schembri and Emmanuella Dwumfour were installed as new members by Barb Hore and Linda Ford.

**Next General Meeting:**

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 pm at Vesuvio’s Restaurant.

**Celebrating BPW International Night with Uzma Aziz Irfan**

Collect

Meeting adjournment: 6:30 PM EST