

Welcome to the BPW NAC quarterly newsletter. In the second quarter we continue to provide in-depth and insightful information about the various affiliates and clubs in our region. Some of the clubs are celebrating anniversaries while others are assisting charities and inviting new members in.

The NAC region comprises North America and the Caribbean, and our newsletter aims to inform about the various events and activities that we, as a region, are embarking on or have completed. We look forward to your support in spreading the news about what we do.

### Message from R.C. Karin Gorgerat

NORTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN REGION



Greetings BPW Sisters. I have returned home after attending the wonderful BPW Europe Regional Conference in Malta. There were over 350 members from 43 countries who attended, and it was a great opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with others. ...more on page 2

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

You'll find detailed reports from our Presidents on pages 3 to 9—  
offering valuable insights into the activities across the regions

## In Pictures

A picture tells a thousand words... visit page 10 to catch a glimpse of  
some of the other things we've been up to!

## Message from the Regional Coordinator Karin Gorgerat



Greetings BPW Sisters. I have returned home after attending the wonderful BPW Europe Regional Conference in Malta. There were over 350 members from 43 countries who attended, and it was a great opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with others. NAC members who attended were from St Martin, St Kitts (Liamuiga), USA and Canada.

The Conference took place in the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta, Malta, which is a 16th Century Building with stunning views across the Grand Harbour of Valletta. The Theme of the Conference was Breaking Barriers – Drive Your Own Success and the 4 Pillars addressed Future Focus, Digitalisation, Globalisation and Celebrate Our Superpowers. Each Pillar included high level speakers and break out Workshops. In addition, the 12th annual Youth Symposium was held with additional speakers and panels for Young BPW Members.



The Welcome Reception was held in the Private Gardens of the Presidential Residence Palace, and we were honoured to have H.E. Myriam Spiteri Debono, President of the Republic of Malta speak to us at that time. The Gala Dinner and the Farewell Event were both held in La Valette Hall with wonderful food and music for dancing. A fun time was had by all at these events to celebrate everyone and BPW.



BPW Europe Region voted to have an award to honour the legacy of Past International President Sylvia Grace Perry. UK President Jo Kinsey was the 1st recipient of this award and it was so well deserved. It was very special opportunity to attend this wonderful event on behalf of North America and the Caribbean.

I would like to extend special congratulations to BPW St Kitts on their 50th anniversary in May. It is wonderful that they have achieved this Golden Milestone, and they had an opportunity to celebrate their hard work, dedication and friendships recently. Well done BPW St Kitts!!!

Plans have started in earnest to work with hotel in Toronto for the North America and Caribbean Conference in September 2026. Dates will be shared as soon as they are available so we can all make sure the dates are in our calendars to be able to attend.



Warm wishes for a wonderful summer.  
RC Karin Gorgerat

## President's Report

### BPW Canada

Greetings Everyone,

As we move forward with the hopes of an aspiring new membership year here in Canada, I wish the same for every club across the globe. Membership is the foundation of BPW and we need to keep it strong at our grassroots level. To do that we as presidents of our countries need to lead with a strong purpose and guide with a steady hand. We need to lead by example and be willing to help our members anyway we possibly can. We need to find the answer if we don't know it and be willing to admit we do not know everything and admit that even we make mistakes. Open and honest communication with our executive and board members is needed as well, if we hope to be successful and continue to be successful for many years to come. We need to be role models and mentors to other members. We need to guide our members and give them a chance to speak. I believe they have a lot to offer us more seasoned members too.

If we look back to 1930 here in Canada, this was the beginning of a period in our country's history known as the "hungry thirties". A time when we had a serious unemployment problem and jobs were hard to find and take-home pay was minimal. Yet, despite these hard times, small groups of women had the determination and courage to gather, create clubs across the country and help improve conditions for women and children everywhere. Women in some cities were already gathering in the 1920's to find their place in a world that only recognized men as leaders and decision makers.

On August 26th, 1930, the International Federation was launched in Geneva with Lena Madessin Phillips as president. Again, a difficult time everywhere for women, financially and as role models and leaders. Yet, here was this dynamic group of women from around the world getting together and forming an international club for women. They faced tough times but pushed through, they managed to build this wonderful organization we call BPW. If they could put this all together facing hardships everywhere and not having the technology to work with like we have today, I believe we can move forward, build our membership, build on and strengthen the foundation from which we started. All it takes is a little determination and courage from each one of us.

I'm not sure why I went down this road today as I was writing my submission for our next newsletter, maybe a little melancholy, perhaps thinking about our future, our discussions about embracing new technology at our last board meeting, I'm not sure, perhaps all three. What ever inspired me to go where I did, I just want to say I am excited and fortunate to be a part of such an amazing group of women and an organization that is almost a century old. Embracing new technology, and revamping old ideas to match today's world BPW Canada will still focus on our four pillars (Lead, Advocate, Learn and Collaborate). Having speakers and events based on these four pillars helps us move forward in our mission, which is to develop the business, professional and leadership potential of women through advocacy, education, mentoring, networking and skill-building. We also advocate for women's economic independence, equal opportunity and representation in economic, civil and political life. Thanks to all our BPW sisters around the world for all that you do, but closer to home, I want to acknowledge that BPW Canada continues to grow and flourish. You are BPW! You are the backbone of our organization! Thank you - thank you - thank you!

Shan McEwing - President BPW Canada  
 president@bpwcanada.com  
 403.990.6693





## President's Report

### NFBPWC

National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc (USA)  
 NAC Rep: President: Barbara J. Bozeman  
[president@nfbpwc.org](mailto:president@nfbpwc.org)

Between April and June, USA held over 30 national meetings - with 210 members and non-members signing up for those meetings. This included our quarterly Board Meeting on April 8, 2025.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2025. Annual conferences were held by Arizona, California, Colorado and Washington.

In April, Liz Benham attended the BPW Arizona State Conference and in May, Barbara Bozeman attended the BPW South Carolina State Conference. BPW South Carolina is a Heritage Organization and we welcomed two new members from that organization.

There have been three issues of our monthly digital magazine published and distributed. Our July issue will recognize the founding of BPW. ([nfbpwc.org/E-magazine](http://nfbpwc.org/E-magazine))

In May, 9 members of USA attended the BPW European Regional Conference in Malta.

- Barbara Bozeman
- Neelima Basnet
- Emily VanVleck
- Francesca Burak
- Nermin Ahmad
- Dr. Yasmin Darwich
- Larisa Miller
- Liz Benham
- Judi Kilichand

#### United Nations / Commission on the Status of Women:

Emily VanVleck has been nominated to the board of NGO/CSW.  
 Elections will be held June 20, 2025.

#### Organization of American States:

First Woman Assistant Secretary General: Laura Gil (Columbia) was elected on May 5, 2025. She will assume office on July 17th, 2025

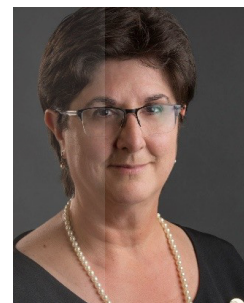
Barbara Bozeman is the Chair for BPW International OAS Committee. Additionally, We have 3 committee members from USA but are looking for representatives from all the corresponding countries within the Americas.

Linda Wilson of California passed away in May 2025. She had been a member of BPW for over 53 years, Past National Vice President of Advocacy, Past State President for California, Past District President for Sierra Mar, President of East LA - Montebello

Linda was a well-loved member of our BPW community and active right up to the day of her passing. Please read our June magazine where a very touching memorial commentary has been dedicated to her from her state federation as well as members of USA.

Since our last regional meeting, USA has welcomed 11 new members! Our current membership stands at 444 members as of June 12, 2025, with members from 34 states and 4 countries. USA is preparing for our Biennial General Assembly, which will be held July 16-19, 2025, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Barbara Bozeman





## President's Report

National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc (USA)

NAC Reps: President: Barbara J. Bozeman / Secretary: Nermin Ahmad  
[president@nfbpwc.org](mailto:president@nfbpwc.org) / [secretary@nfbpwc.org](mailto:secretary@nfbpwc.org)



- Members: 444 members as of June 12, 2025 (from 34 states and 4 countries)
- Quarterly Board meetings: April 8, 2025. Next meeting: July 8, 2025
- From April to June: over 30 national meetings held, with 210 signed up

Annual Conferences Held:

BPW Arizona

BPW California

BPW Colorado

BPW Washington

NFBPWC Biennial General Assembly has been scheduled for July 15-19, 2026 in Raleigh, North Carolina

3 magazines have been published ([nfbpwc.org/E-magazine](http://nfbpwc.org/E-magazine))

8 Members of NFBPWC attended the BPW European Regional Conference (Malta – May 2025)

Barbara Bozeman – President

Emily VanVleck – VP Advocacy

Nermin Ahmad – Secretary

Int'l Liaison – Larisa Miller

First VP United Nations – Neelima Basnet

VP Membership – Francesca Burak

Past Int'l President – Yasmin Darwich

CAC Chair – Liz Benham

Judi Kilichand - NYC

United Nations / Commission on the Status of Women:

Emily VanVleck has been nominated to the board of NGO/CSW.

Elections will be held June 20, 2025.

Organization of American States:

First Woman Assistant Secretary General: Laura Gil (Columbia) was elected on May 5, 2025. She will assume office on July 17th, 2025

Barbara Bozeman is the lead representative for BPW International OAS Committee.

We have 3 committee members from USA but are looking for representatives from all the corresponding countries within the Americas.

Linda Wilson of California passed away in May 2025

She had been a member of BPW for over 53 years. She was also the Past National Vice President of Advocacy, Past State President for California, Past District President for Sierra Mar and President of East LA – Montebello

Linda was a well-loved member of our BPW community and active right up til the day of her passing. Please read our June magazine where a very touching memorial commentary has been dedicated to her.

Submitted by: Barbara Bozeman  
 NFBPWC President  
 2024-2026  
[president@nfbpwc.org](mailto:president@nfbpwc.org)

# President's Report

## BPW Bahamas

### January 2025 – Spiritual Renewal & Unity

We began the year with a special church service to reflect, unify, and set intentions for our members and the year ahead. This meaningful gathering underscored our shared commitment to serve with purpose and integrity.

### February 2025 – One-Year Anniversary Celebration

February marked our first anniversary as an official part of the BPW family. We celebrated this milestone with a members' event reflecting on our accomplishments and reaffirming our goals for future impact. We celebrated with a Galentines Event.

### March 2025 – Women's Empowerment & Signature Event Launch

- On March 8th, our members proudly participated in the International Women's Day celebration hosted by the IWD Committee here in The Bahamas where we obtained a partnership with that organization for women on a yearly basis. The speaker for that Event was the Wife of the Prime Minister Mrs. Ann Marie Davis
- Later in March, we held our inaugural "Salute to Women"—a signature annual event recognizing trailblazing women in leadership and service across the country. We adopted this event from BPW Dominica Club. It was a major success and we opened the doors for new members.

Also in March 2025 I traveled to the UK to formally sign out twinning agreement with The UK and President Jo Kinsey at the Mayors Office and present Now deceased PIP Mrs. Sylvia Perry

### April 2025 – Official Recognition & Strategic Partnership

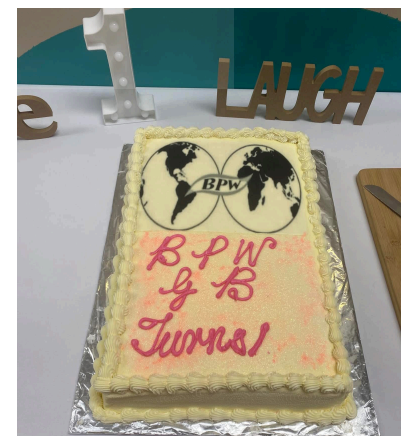
We were awarded our non-profit certificate from the Government of The Bahamas. Additionally, we formalized our partnership with the Ministry of Social Services, Gender, and Family Affairs, under which BPW falls. This milestone enhances our visibility and enables collaborative action aligned with national priorities.

BPW Bahamas club also Sponsored a women's event Walking in purpose work key note Speaker Mrs April Holt Smith from Atlanta GA, the Wife of the Deputy Prime minister Mrs. Cecelia Cooper

June 12 we will be having a Denim and Pearls Mix and mingle event to welcome our new members and also to introduce BPW to our

In partnership with the Ministry of Social Services and Gender Affairs, we are hosting a Leadership and Business Economic Symposium, aimed at advancing women in leadership, economic inclusion, and entrepreneurship.

In sisterhood and service,  
Dr. Anastacia Lewis  
President  
BPW Bahamas



## President's Report

Club/Federation      BPW Dominica  
President 2025-2028    Rhoda St. John

BPW Dominica over the past 2 months has been focused on building the chapter. Annually, around April to June BPW Dominica tries to recruit new members and the process is intense. Individuals are vetted, interviewed, and given a task to complete to show dedication to the chapter. Dominica's terrain and country topography sometimes poses a challenge for women who live in the outer districts to attend meetings and be part of the various planned activities. Therefore, in an effort to alleviate this issue, we have established branches in 4 locations across the country, subdividing the country into districts and implementing the constitution suited for these branches with a steering committee headed by a branch coordinator. Each of these branch coordinators forms part of the national executive. In this regard, the branch coordinators relay the information from the national level and feed it down to the branches and this has yielded much fruit. To date BPW Dominica boasts a 101 strong membership, including the Young BPW team, which has 38 members.

North	Margaley George Joseph	11	Steering Committee
Northeast	Clariessa Bedminister	12	Steering Committee
East	Amanda Theodore-Langlais	13	Steering Committee
Southeast	Sherne Jno Finn-Vigilant	12	Steering Committee
Southwest	Rhoda St. John	53	National Executive

Many of the members have girl children between the ages of 5 to 17 and leaving them home or finding someone to watch them can sometimes be a challenge. In order to overcome this hurdle, BPW Dominica has created the YYBPW (Young Young BPW) where programs and activities are catered for them at their level which not only fosters sustainability for the chapter but also helps to shape their minds.

On the 31st of May BPW Dominica visited CHANCES; a childcare home that houses 23 boys and girls ranging from 2 to 15 years old. Young BPW has introduced a mentorship program at the facility where they will work with the staff and mentor these children to be able to properly integrate into society. Many of the children there were either abandoned or physically or sexually abused.

BPW Dominica also partnered with the Lupus foundation and supported them during Lupus month. The Northeast and East branch held walks and a Cardio jam to raise funds for the Lupus Foundation. Additionally, the Southeast did a Purple \$1.00 day at one of their schools. A total of \$600.00 was raised and donated to the Lupus foundation.





## President's Report

Members: 20  
Submitted by: President Catherine Magdeleine

Club News: Elections 2025-2027 will be held 31st May 2025.

### Projects/Events:

Marigot – Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025 – The BPW Concordia Saint Martin held their “Members in Motion” Project for the month of April 2025, chaired by the lovely and talented Sophia Carti. Miss Sophia Carti broke the silence by being vulnerable and sharing her personal experience with the trauma of domestic abuse and how it impacted her life’s journey.

The audience held on to her every word in anticipation of what was going to happen next as she expounds on the long term impact of domestic abuse on women. To ensure that her audience got the full understanding of what domestic abuse is and its long term impact in our communities, Miss Sophia Carti partnered with the Sisterhood Organization whose mission is to help women navigate through the trauma of domestic abuse.

This comprehensive session aimed to help women move from victim to victor by giving women a voice and letting them know that they are not alone in their quest to freedom there is a whole community of women and men standing behind them.

BPWC SXM “Members In Motion” Project 2025 May 2025 was chaired and facilitated by the beautiful and gifted Danielle Glasgow Chance under the theme: Self-Seeking Fulfilling Prophecy.

An engaging and transformative session on the concept of Self-Fulfilling Prophecy was held on Wednesday evening at the Simpson Bay Conference Center, drawing a full-capacity audience and generating overwhelming calls for a follow-up. The event explored how beliefs, behaviors, and mindset work together to shape one’s reality. The session was both intellectually and emotionally stimulating.

Danielle Chance was widely congratulated for her excellent leadership and delivery. The enthusiastic response from attendees confirmed that this discussion was not only timely but also much needed within the community.

On Saturday 31st May 2025, BPW Concordia St-Martin held elections for the executive board members for the tenure 2025-2027 :

President - Catherine Magdeleine; Vice President Membership - Kathia Magdeleine  
Vice President Public Relations : Open Assistants : Danielle Chance & Luciana Yamamoto; Secretary - Sophia Carti; Treasurer - Emelinda Lake, Assistant - Sharanne Gibbs



## President's Report



Installation and Candle Lighting Ceremony was held in June.

Part 2: was held on 4th June 2025 under the theme: Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: Break the Belief Barrier" hosted by our dynamic member, Danielle Chance!

The session was a masterclass in dynamic presentation, engagement, and empowerment. From the moment the doors opened. Danielle captivated the audience with her seamless delivery, blending insightful recaps of Part 1, a comprehensive exploration of self-fulfilling prophecy, and innovative strategies to shift limiting beliefs. The session included an engaging icebreaker, lively discussions, and a moving mindset reset exercise, complete with soothing music to calm and inspire.

Key takeaways from the session included:

- Recognizing how our own beliefs and expectations shape our behavior and potential.
- Understanding the sources of limiting beliefs, whether rooted in culture, childhood, or family expectations.
- Learning actionable strategies to reframe limiting thoughts and affirm positive beliefs.
- Committing to a journey of personal growth and continuous self-improvement.

One of the highlights was a deeply emotional action reflection exercise, where participants visualized themselves breaking through imaginary barriers of self-doubt and emerging with a renewed sense of possibility. The feedback was overwhelming and participants expressed how the session shifted their mindset and left them feeling empowered and ready to grow.

The success of this session has sparked excitement for future events. More sessions are in the pipeline, as the enthusiasm for these life-changing discussions continues to grow.

These events also support the advancement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: Quality Education, particularly Target 4.7, by promoting self-awareness, lifelong learning, and the personal development skills needed to foster sustainable lifestyles and global citizenship.





## President's Report

### BPW St. Kitts celebrates 50 years

Business and Professional Women (BPW), St. Kitts celebrates its 50th Anniversary under the theme: Empowering women for gender equity, BPW SK 50. BPW St. Kitts was inaugurated on 16th May 1975, as an affiliate club of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women. To commemorate this milestone anniversary, BPW St. Kitts hosted a Gala Dinner on the exact date of its anniversary, 50 years later, on Friday, 16th May 2025, at the Carambola Beach Club.

In attendance, was the first president and only living member of the first Executive of BPW

St. Kitts, Ms Pamela Wall MBE GGSM, who received an award for her contributions, guidance and overall support over the years. Also receiving special awards for their contribution to the work of

BPW St. Kitts were:

- 1) Her Excellency Dame Marcella Liburd, GCMG JP
- 2) Dame Constance Mitcham
- 3) Dawne Williams, Past President of BPW St. Kitts and Past Regional Coordinator, BPW International
- 4) The Ministry of Health, represented by Ms Davida Irish
- 5) The St. Kitts and Nevis Medical and Dental Association, represented by Dr Joanna Davis
- 6) The Advance Vocational Educational Centre, represented by Petra Newton

Outgoing president (2024-2025), Gillian Crooke, in her opening remarks highlighted some of the club's signature projects and initiatives over the years. She affirmed that "We celebrate not just a milestone in the history of our organisation, but also the vision, dedication, and contributions of every woman who has been part of this incredible journey. Over the past five decades, BPW St. Kitts has been a powerful force for change, empowering women in business, leadership, and community service, and fostering a spirit of collaboration and solidarity among women in all walks of life. As we reflect on the achievements of the past, we also look forward to the future, to continue paving the way for the next generation of women leaders."

One of the highlights of the evening was Featured Speaker, Wendy Isaac, a daughter of St. Kitts-Nevis who rose from humble beginnings and boundless aspirations. Wendy shared her life experiences and lessons that shaped her journey to becoming a successful Businesswoman and prominent figure in the fashion industry in New York and the Caribbean, a testament to hard work and perseverance, and an inspiration for all women and girls.

Other activities to commemorate this milestone anniversary included a Leaders Summit held 17th May, and which was led by members Dawne Williams and Delcia Bradely-King. Members also worshipped at the St. George's Anglican Church on Sunday 18th May to round off the weekend's activities. BPW St. Kitts will also be publishing a commemorative 50th Anniversary magazine which will be in circulation in June 2025.

**The mission of BPW is to develop the business, professional and leadership potential of women on all levels through advocacy, education, mentoring, networking, skill building, and economic empowerment programmes and projects around the world.**





## 3rd Annual Job Readiness Workshop

BPW St. Kitts Hosts 3rd Annual Job Readiness Workshop

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, BPW St. Kitts successfully hosted its 3rd Annual Job Readiness Workshop at the St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The workshop welcomed 25 participants and focused on preparing individuals entering the workforce with the essential skills needed for a successful job search and career start.

The event featured engaging and impactful presentations from three BPW St. Kitts members: Beliesa McDonald-Natta, Delcia Bradley-King, and Nakeida Drew-Stephens. Each presenter shared valuable insights and practical strategies designed to empower attendees with job readiness tools.

A highlight of the workshop was a mock interview session, providing participants with a realistic interview experience. Conducted by experienced BPW members with







Lizca, Nicole and Renal with RC Karin



R.C. Karin with Irish BPW sisters

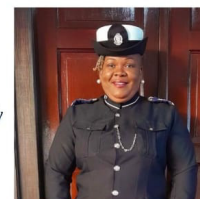


R.C. Karin with PIP Yasmin and UK President Jo



R.C. Karin and President Diana at Gala

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
LEADERSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY**  
SAINT ELIZABETH UNIVERSITY POLICE STUDIES INSTITUTE  
& SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**HONORING  
SERGEANT CHARMINE AUDAIN  
ROYAL SAINT CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS POLICE FORCE  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 @ 5:30 PM**

**Rainis Auditorium - St.Elizabeth University  
2 Convent Road, Morristown, NJ**

Honouring our BPW Sisters



Part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations in St. Kitts