

Welcome to the BPW NAC quarterly newsletter. In this third quarter we in-depth information about the various affiliates and clubs in our region. 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



"Inspire, Innovate, Empower, Transform – Together We Shape a Sustainable Future"....
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Go to pages 3-7- for in depth reports from from the various Presidents
around the region...

BPW NAC Regional Conference





Message from the Regional Coordinator Karin Gorgerat

Greetings BPW Sisters.

Summer has ended and Fall is upon us already. I hope you all had a lovely summer and time to enjoy time with family and friends.

I was so proud to see all the ways many of our Affiliates in NAC celebrated BPW International's 95th anniversary last month – you are all to be congratulated for your work and promotions on your Social Media sites. This anniversary gave me an opportunity to reflect on our founder Dr Lena Madeson Phillips and what an inspiration she was to all of us. She wanted to unite women in the United States and founded the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in St. Louis, Missouri in 1919. From there she had an international vision and USA, along with Austria, Canada, France, Great Britain and Italy founded the International Federation in 1930 in Geneva, Switzerland. She believed that gaining economic equality would enable women to achieve equality in education, social and political aspects of society. She was quoted to say "if our motive is right, if we have faith, vision and courage, accomplishment must come." What a wise woman, and these words still ring true today!

I am so pleased to finally be able to share the exciting news about the North America and Caribbean Regional Conference in 2026!!! It will be held at the Hilton Niagara Falls/Fallsvue Hotel & Suites in Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada August 23 – 25, 2026. It will begin the afternoon of August 23rd with our Youth Symposium, led by our Young BPW Rep. The Young BPW team will be working hard to have a valuable program that will include things that our Young BPW members want and need. On August 24th we will begin with our NAC President's meeting, Opening Ceremonies and other activities and speakers. On August 25th we will have our Leader's Summit which will include some amazing speakers. There will be some fun events during this time as well so we can enjoy time with our BPW friends from around the world.

Niagara Falls is truly spectacular, and I hope many of you will plan on attending as well as staying for a few extra days to see what the region has to offer. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available!

Warm wishes

Karin Gorgerat
Regional Coordinator North America and the Caribbean



President's Report

BPW Canada



It has been a busy couple of months here at BPW Canada. Getting everything ready and having our Virtual AGM was a bit exhausting to say the least. Our resolutions and bylaw team gathered resolutions from clubs across Canada and fine-tuned them so that they could be presented at the AGM for delegates to vote on.

We had an amazing team of "back room" members keeping everything on track, from timing to voting and everything in between. We were extremely fortunate to have a lot more things in French this year, which our French speaking members appreciated. Lots of writing and re-writing and editing but we are now done and look forward to submitting a Brief to our federal government from the resolutions that were submitted and accepted. This Brief will also go to the Members of Parliament as well as our Prime Minister with hopes of getting time with them to further discuss the issues at hand.

Over the last few months many clubs here in Canada have had their AGM's and are ready to continue the great work they are doing in their communities. BPWC has some great Strategic Plans happening over the next few months and as we progress and complete them, I will share with you.

I look forward to sharing more with you as the months progress and I look forward to reading about what clubs in our region are doing as well.

Respectfully,
Shan McEwing, President
BPW Canada



President's Report

NFBPWC



President's Report to North America and the Caribbean Region July 2025:

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

President: Barbara J. Bozeman president@nfbpwc.org

- Members: 446 members as of July 22, 2025 (from 34 states and 4 countries)
- Quarterly Board meeting: July 8, 2025
- From June 22 – Jul 22nd: 9 National level Meetings held with 107 registered (not including local events)
- NFBPWC Biennial General Assembly has been scheduled for July 17 & 19, 2026, in Raleigh, North Carolina
- 1 magazine has been published (nfbpwc.org/E-magazine)
- United Nations / Commission on the Status of Women:
Emily VanVleck has been elected to the board of NGO CSW/NY (June 22, 2025)



HLPF 2025 (14-23 July 2025)

Known event participants from USA:

Barbara Bozeman
Emily VanVleck
Nermin Ahmad
Francesca Burack
Larisa Miller

- Organization of American States:
First Woman Assistant Secretary General: Laura Gil (Columbia) has assumed office (Jul 17, 2025)

OAS General Assembly held in St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda
– report for IFBPW prepared by Kathleen Ray.

Submitted by: Barbara Bozeman
NFBPWC President
2024-2026
president@nfbpwc.org

President's Report

President's Report

Club/Federation: BPW Concordia Saint Martin

Members: 20

Submitted by: President Catherine Magdeleine

Club News: Members In Motion Project continues.

Month: July-September 2025

Projects/Events:

BPW Concordia Continues to Blaze Trails with Dynamic 'Members in Motion' Session on Cultural Currency.

BPW Concordia continues to set the pace for women's empowerment through its transformative 'Members in Motion' series; this time shining a spotlight on the powerful concept of cultural currency. On July 2nd; members gathered for an inspiring session hosted by passionate BPW Concordia member Cindy Peters, featuring a presentation and captivating sit-down interview with cultural advocate and storyteller Tamara Groeneveldt. Under the theme "Members in Motion: What is Your Cultural Currency!"; The session highlighted the true value that our cultural knowledge, traditions, language, symbols, and practices hold in our daily lives, institutions and collective prosperity. Through an engaging conversation-style interview, Cindy Peters invited author, poet, and business owner Tamara Groeneveldt who shared about her literary journey with her poetry and first book "After the Storm". The owner of St. Martin Sweetness explained how she recognized and harnessed her own cultural currency through her cultural poetry and her business of local pastries and juices.

Drawing from the work of renowned sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, Peters emphasized that indeed cultural knowledge acts as a form of capital, a currency that shapes our experiences, expands our opportunities, and it is a necessary tool especially in colonial spaces to strengthen our communities and development.

Participants were encouraged to recognize, embrace, promote, protect, and monetize their cultural wealth in ways that build social influence, preserve identity, and generate economic and political empowerment for Caribbean women, and our communities.

Ms. Peters expounded on key recommendations from a Forbes 2019 article which included:

- Always be consumer and citizen-centric
- Partner with creatives
- Start small
- Focus on a long-term strategy
- Build diverse teams

The session concluded with a special treat from St. Martin Sweetness: Ms. Groeneveldt graciously presented attendees with locally made tarts, offering everyone a delicious and tangible taste of her own cultural heritage; a living example of how cultural currency can be shared and celebrated.

Looking Forward

For Soshina Stephen, "a true daughter of the soil," the event represented her commitment to preserving St. Martin's cultural heritage and strengthening regional connections. The overwhelming success has inspired plans for future Cultural Game Night editions.

The evening successfully accomplished its mission of celebrating BPW International's anniversary while strengthening community bonds through innovative programming that balanced education with entertainment.



President's Report

Club/Federation: BPW Concordia Saint Martin
(continued from page 5)

This energizing event is one of many through BPW Concordia's Members in Motion initiative, designed to spark growth, advocacy, and collective action among professional women across the region.

The series continues with an insightful session on 3rd September 2025, led by our matriarch and Treasurer, Ms. Emelinda Lake, on "First Impressions and Lasting Success: Business Etiquette for the 21st Century." Hosted at the Simpson Bay Conference Room, Beth's Aida Boutik Hotel, participants from diverse walks of life came together for a collaborative learning experience.

The workshop covered three vital modules:

- ▣ Introductions & business meeting etiquette
 - ▣ Professional conduct at business meals
 - ▣ Navigating today's wired world with digital, cellphone & email etiquette
- Through role-play, small group discussions, and real-life sharing, members gained not just knowledge, but practical tools for professional growth and success.

BPW Concordia Celebrates Cultural Heritage with Successful Game Night
Marigot, St. Martin – BPW Concordia (BPWC) hosted a Cultural Game Night on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at KES Fusion Pizza Lounge, celebrating BPW International's 95th anniversary while showcasing local culture. The event, chaired by founding BPWC member Soshina Stephen, was designed to create "a fun, educational, learning and engaging environment" for members and community guests.

★Two-Part Format★

The evening featured two distinct segments. The first focused on St. Martin's cultural heritage through interactive trivia covering traditional foods, national symbols, local heroes, and island slang. This format proved valuable for visitors while challenging locals to deepen their cultural knowledge. The second segment included BPW-themed board games and bingo rounds that educated participants about the organization's history and mission to empower women and girls through advocacy, mentorship, and leadership development.



President's Report

Community Participation

The event brought together multiple generations, with BPWC matriarchs Ms. Linda Lake, Maria Chemont, and Aida Hilaman sharing their wisdom and experience. Young Maïa served as both participant and bingo caller, demonstrating BPW's commitment to nurturing young female leaders. Prizes were sourced from local merchants and vendors, reinforcing the emphasis on community partnership.

Perfect Venue Partnership

KES Fusion Pizza Lounge, owned by young entrepreneur Kevin Stephen, proved ideal for the cultural celebration. The restaurant specializes in fusing classic pizza with local Caribbean flavors, offering unique toppings like oxtail pizza, saltfish pizza, and smoked herring pizza. This concept perfectly complemented an event celebrating both international heritage and local identity.



Message from Karin Gorgerat R.C. for BPW North America and Caribbean (NAC)

I would like to express my deep appreciation to our NAC Advocacy Coordinator Colleen Babiuk-Ilkiw and her co-facilitator Sheila Crook for an excellent webinar on Monday, September 15th – “Advocacy on the Line – Crafting Position Papers to Spark Change”.

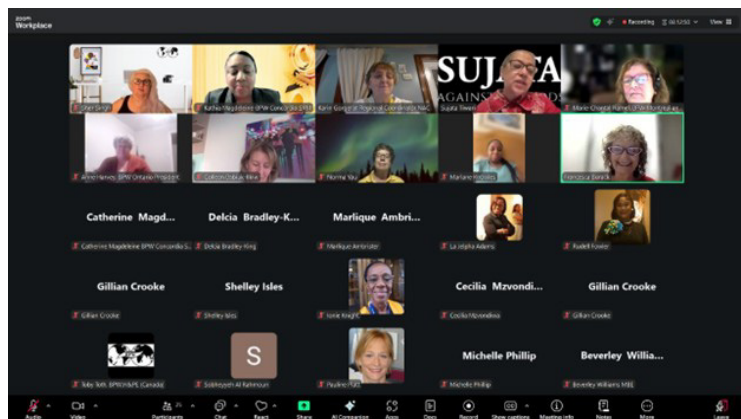
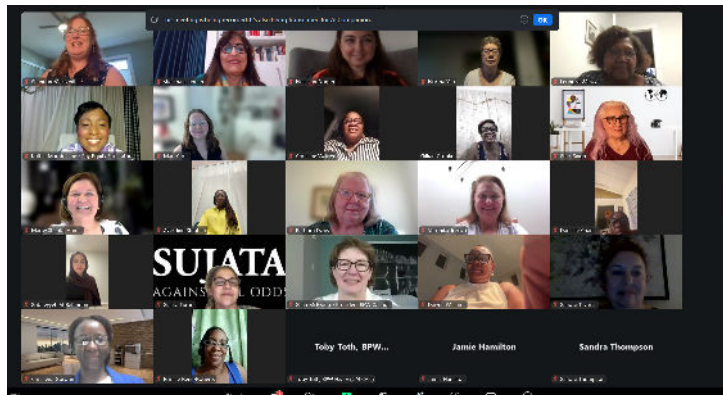
There were a great group of engaged participants, and I know they got a lot of information to take with them to help Spark Change in their Affiliates. The recording has been shared with the Presidents and I hope many of you will take the time to watch and learn as well. Thanks also to President Barbara and President Shan for their support.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our NAC Training Coordinator Sujata Tiwari for facilitating the webinar “Empowering BPW Leaders” on September 29th. There was a lot of valuable information shared and great participation with the attendees. The recording will be made available when it’s ready along with the presentation.

These are the 1st of the webinars that will be offered within NAC, which will help all of us grow as leaders and make a difference in the lives of women worldwide. Stay tuned for news on the next webinars as they become available.

Warm wishes

Karin Gorgerat
Regional Coordinator North America and the Caribbean.



In Pictures

RC Karin installed the new BPW Ontario, Canada Board at their AGM September 13.



BPW ONTARIO BOARD OFFICERS 2025-2027 (left to right):

Joanne LeBreton, Treasurer, Kyla Wynia, Secretary, Heather Ellis, VP & Resolutions/By-Laws Chair, Cecilia Omole VP & Public Affairs Chair, Sharon Doran First Vice-President & Membership Chair, Marlene McKinnon, Immediate Past-President & Emblems Chair, Anne Harvey, PRESIDENT and special guest star... Karin Gorgerat, Regional Coordinator, BPW North America & the Caribbean



In Pictures



Lenora Walwyn from BPW St Kitts with R.C. Karin Gorgerat at the BPW Ontario Conference in Toronto