

NFBPWC Board of Directors Meeting
April 25, 2023
Virtual

Attendance

Executive Committee

President, Megan Shellman-Rickard
VP Membership, Kathy Kelly
VP Advocacy, Daneene Monroe Rusnak
Secretary, Sondra Nunez
Acting Treasurer, Deborah Fischer-**Excused**
Young BPW Chair, Emily VanVleck
Immediate Past President, Sandra Thompson

Past National Presidents

Sandra Thompson , CA

Committee Chairs

Bylaws and Resolutions, Trudy Waldroop, CA
Environmental and Sustainable Development, Marikay Shellman, CO
Finance-**Open**
Health, Keri Hess Laursen, CA
International Liaison, Sandra Thompson, CA
Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Sher Singh, CA-
Lifelong Leadership & Learning, Jane Taff, CA - **Excused**
Legacy Fund, Deborah Fischer, - CO
Mentoring, Valentina Solarin, Virtual
Public Relations, Suzette Cotto, Virtual-**Absent**
Rapid Response, Susan Oser, MI
Small Business, Marsha Riibner-Cady , NC
Women on the Move, Nermin Ahmad, NYC

State and Federation Affiliate Presidents

Arizona, Theresa Dolan - **Absent**
California, Bessie Hironimus- **Absent**
Colorado, Evie Hudak
Michigan, Shirley Zeller
North Carolina, Marsha Riibner-Cady
New York City, Nermin Ahmad
Pennsylvania, Catherine Collins
South Florida, Elizabeth Benham

Texas, Paso del Norte, Lourdes Reyna, **Absent**
Virtual, Barbara Bozeman

Special Committees/Task Force/Projects

2024 NFBPWC Conference and General Assembly Chair-**Open**

Committee to End Gender Based Violence-**Open**

Commission on the Status of Women-CSW68-**Open**

Digital Training-**Open**

E-Magazine/Newsletter, Michele Guarino CO-**Excused**

Member Outreach-**Open**

Military Affiliated Women, Alice Gallop West , NC

Nominating Committee, Manjul Batra, CA United Nations-Susan O'Malley-**Excused**

Website-**Open**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Megan Shellman-Rickard at 6:11 pm MT.

Presentation: The Power of Kindness by Dana Morgan Barnes

Recognition and Moment of Silence to Recognize the Contributions of Jean Pucher

Moment of Silence: There was a moment of silence in recognition of victims of gun violence throughout our country.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken by Secretary Sondra Nunez.

Quorum: Parliamentarian, Immediate Past President, Sandra Thompson confirmed the quorum.

Minutes:

The minutes of the August 6, 2022 General Assembly meeting were presented by the Minutes Review Committee Chair, Trudy Waldroop.

The minutes from the January 24, 2023 NFBPWC Board meeting were approved as presented.

Business:

President's Report-President Megan Shellman-Rickard

Each delegate will report their thoughts on the following two questions:

- **How do you inspire participation and leadership in your committee or affiliate organization through kindness?** I like to cultivate relationships through one-on-one meetings with members to find out what extraordinary things they can accomplish with the support of our organization and its networks.

- **What advice would you give other NFBPWC leaders on how to harness the power of kindness in leadership?** Leaders need a support system and creating that system requires authenticity, communication, and compassion. Grace and gratitude are
- Recognition of organization events as of January 2023:
 - JDEI Webinar: Women & Resilience: A Conflict Resolution, Financial Security and Life Necessity
 - Heart of a Woman Conference in Houston and Virtually, thank you to Health Chair Keri Hess, IPP Sandy Thompson, PR Chair Suzette Cotto, VP of Advocacy Daneene Monroe Rusnak, and congratulations to one of the keynote speakers at the event, Jacqueline Delibes.
 - NFBPWC Entrepreneur & Small Bus Committee Meeting "Your Business Season", "Business Cards, do we STILL need them?", "Surviving the Email Avalanche" Thank you to co-chairs Marsha Riibner-Cady and Barbara Bozeman.
 - Period Poverty Meetings, spearheaded by Emily VanVleck.
 - Meet Our New Members thank you to Kathy Kelly.
 - Connecting Committees thank you to Emily VanVleck for this incredible idea of connecting informally.
 - Young BPW Meetings hosted by Emily VanVleck.
 - CSW67 Parallel Event: From Second Grade to Second Act: Cybersecurity Promotes Gender Equality a huge thanks to Teresa Gehrke from BPW Denver/Virtual, Colorado. Additional thanks to BPW Colorado for the watch party and NYC for onsite support.
 - Big Apple CSW67 Debrief NFBPWC NYC.
 - Military Affiliated Women Committee Kick-Off, thank you to Chair Alice Gallop West.
 - Human Trafficking Panel Discussion hosted by NFBPWC NYC - thank you to Nermin Ahmad and Emily VanVleck.
 - Environment and Sustainable Development Committee for the Earth Day 2023: Fireflies: Jewels of the Night which brought in over 250 registrants and at least 120 participants! Congratulations Marikay Shellman and the ESD Committee!

New Business

National Calendar and Events Process

- President Megan Shellman-Rickard presented a review of the process to add new events to the national calendar.

Website Manager

- The Website Manager position has been filled by Kemi Oyebade

Bookkeeper-Contract position interviews upcoming, position to be filled in May (applications closed)

Mentoring Chair - Valentina Solarin, Virtual was appointed and ratified

Open Leadership Positions

- 2024 NFBPWC Conference and General Assembly Special Chair
- Commission on the Status of Women 68
- Digital Training Special Chair
- Finance Chair
- Gender Based Violence Chair
- Website Special Chair

2024 NFBPWC Biennial Conference and General Assembly, July 19-21, 2024, Location TBD

31st BPW International Congress, November 17-21, 2024 in Mar de Plata Argentina

National Officers Reports

All board and committee chairs were invited to share responses for the following two questions:

1. How do you inspire participation and leadership in your committee or affiliate organization through kindness?
2. What advice would you give other NFBPWC leaders on how to harness the power of kindness in leadership?

VP Membership-Kathy Kelly

1. Reiterated how much kindness and compassion we have toward our Heritage and renewing NFBPWC sisters.

VP Advocacy-Daneene Monroe Rusnak

- As the committee chair I consider myself an equal member of the committee who is open to feedback and constructive criticism.
- Live the Golden Rule. Put ourselves in other people's shoes as much as possible. Be accountable and authentic.

Secretary-Sondra Nunez

- Show grace.

- Young BPW Chair-Emily VanVleck
 - Lead through kindness. Be collaborative. Encourage everyone to participate.
 - Meet everyone where they are at. Show understanding.
- Immediate Past President-Sandra Thompson
 - Be a good listener. Listen without judgment. Kindness is free.

Standing Committee Reports

- Bylaws and Resolutions, Trudy Waldroop, California
 - Be kind and show kindness. Serve as a role model for others. Listen with respect.
- Environment and Sustainable Development, Marikay Shellman, Colorado

- Be a good listener. Encourage new members by asking for their ideas and work to evolve them.
- Health, Keri Hess Laursen, California
 - Strive to create a safe space for committee members to ask questions.
- International Liaison, Sandra Thompson, California
 - Focus on listening. Be aware of cultural differences.
- Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Sher Singh, California
 - Listen to each other and have patience with each other.
- Mentoring, Valentina Solarin, Virtual
 - Recognize that everyone has a skill and something to share with others. Be willing to share our skills with others.
- Entrepreneur and Small Business, Marsha Riibner-Cady, North Carolina
 - Be open and supportive to committee members.
- Rapid Response, Susan Oser, Michigan
 - Recognize when kindness is shown to you and to others. Be willing to thank people or compliment them on a job well done this bridges communication gaps.
- Women on the Move, Nermin Ahmad
 - Learn to be patient and learn to listen to each woman. Believe in each woman on the move as they face immeasurable challenges.

Special Committee Report

- Military Affiliated Women, Alice Gallop West
 - Always be mindful that people do not need to be kind to you, so when they are, respond with an attitude of gratitude.

Affiliate and Federation Presidents

- California, Sandra Thompson reported: The CA Federation Annual Business Meeting will be held May 19 and 20, 2023. This will be a hybrid format. All are welcome to attend.
- Colorado, Evie Hudak
 - Accept anything someone can do. Take any contribution a person can make and try to provide positive feedback.
 - The annual CO meeting will be hybrid, Saturday, Jun 17, 2023
- Michigan, Shirley Zeller
 - Show patience as much as possible. Help each other gain members.
 - Michigan State Federation conference is May 6, 2023
- North Carolina, Marsha Riibner-Cady
 - North Carolina meeting is May 18, 2023 and they will be celebrating a long-time member. All are welcome to attend.
- New York City, Nermin Ahmad
 - Have grace, smile and recognize each woman you meet. Try to be available to each woman.
- Pennsylvania, Catherine Collins
 - Communication with kindness and patience is key. Not only listen, but hear what people are saying. Work for effective communication.

- The Pennsylvania Heritage organization hosting a conference June 8-11, 2023 in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania will have a vendor table at this event.
- South Florida, Elizabeth Benham
 - Never be judgemental combined with humility, respect and empathy.
 - Always smile because smiling generates warmth and kindness.
 - Leadership is strong in the roots and fresh in bloom.
- Virtual, Barbara Bozeman
 - Listen. Be yourself. Work to ensure the needs of the members are taken care of. As the leader, work to fulfill the needs and wishes of the members.

Announcements

Our next Board of Directors meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 6PM Mountain.

April 27th, 7PM EDT, Connecting NFBPWC Committees

April 27th, 8PM EDT, Veterans Benefits & You! (Part 1)

May 2nd, 7PM EDT, Period Poverty meeting

May 4th, 8PM EDT, JDEI Workshop: Violence Against Women Under the Light of Justice

May 9th, 7PM EDT, Young BPW meeting

June 30th, 8:30 PM EDT, Meet Our New Members

All affiliates and federations are encouraged to add their events to the national website.

Adjournment: 8:05 PM Mountain.

File by:

Sondra Nunez

2022-2024 NFBPWC Secretary

