

President's Message 6 September 2009

We started the month of September 2009 with a program meeting on the 9th with our guest speaker Judy James-Villalva, the Director of Crisis Intervention Services at Midland Rape Crisis and Children's Advocacy Center. Judy's presentation was very moving and motivating at the same time. We all seemed to have our eyes opened to the importance of this service with an understanding of what help this can be for victims of rape. Judy brought a young lady with her that told her story. What a brave young woman! She is a prime example of how significantly the Crisis Center helps victims overcome the effects of rape and move on with their lives. Thank you, Madam 1st VP, Stacy, for a great program!

During our Board Meeting on September 16, 2009, Stacy, Evie, Jerri, Mona, Shirley and I, discussed the budget to clarify past and present needs. Shirley presented a membership form to use going forward. The Board reviewed and agreed this form will be our official application for membership with Uptown Midland BPW. Our Membership Committee will reinstate the guest form at the meetings so if you bring a guest please be sure they fill out our form with their contact information to receive a thank you for attending. Jerri was appointed the task of determining if the luncheon costs are being covered by the \$17 charge per attendee. Please be sure to check our website periodically for any updates. Our Board Meetings are opened to all Uptown members so join us when you can.

Our business meeting on September 23, 2009, I was absent and our 1st VP, Stacy, was also absent and the next in line, Madam 2nd Vice President, Evie Adams, led the meeting. Our Treasurer, Jerri, presented a draft budget for review and also brought up a discussion on increasing the local dues to \$20 annually and increasing the luncheon cost to \$20 each. These items will be finally determined via email to the membership. Our National Business Women's Week (NBWW) Chair, Glenda Knox, gave us an update on the committee meetings. The invitations have been sent and the flyers prepared for NBWW to honor Jane Wolf, a prominent real estate agent in our community. Already tables and tickets are being sold. NBWW certainly looks like it will surpass previous events as we usually do. The flyer and invitations are available on our website if you need to make more. A raffle item(s) is still being determined so if anyone has some ideas, please contact Glenda (r_knox@suddenlink.net). **SAVE THE DATE, NOVEMBER 5, 2009.** Our Community Project Committee co-chairs, Tiffany Blakely and Angie Wilson reported on current projects and are asking the membership for new project ideas. A plea went out to our members to get ready for a face to face involvement as a group at selected volunteer events to be announced. Thank you, Madam 2nd VP, Evie, for an outstanding meeting!

Presently we have guests that are interested in joining Uptown Midland and the membership application will be available through Evie or Shirley, soon to be on the website. The annual dues are currently \$13 for the local organization and \$40 for the affiliation with BPWF, for a total of \$53. New membership or renewal of membership will soon be available on the website (www.midlandbpw.com). If you have any questions, just send them in to the Board and we will try to answer them or we will find someone who can.

For October, we will only have a business meeting, October 28, 2009. I hope each of you can attend. Please RSVP to Evie Adams, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair at 570-5233 (evie.adams@bosworthco.com), or Shirley Harris, Webpage and Telephone/Email Chair at 684-4692 (shirley@tbobamthor.com). The cost of the luncheon is \$17.00 unless otherwise noted for special events. Please connect with us as we trek through this new adventure for Uptown and continue the spirit of BPW for others in our futures.

Building Powerful Women,

Debrah Gann

Uptown Midland BPW President 2009 - 2010

Focused on the Future - Honoring the Past

debbie.gann@arcadis-us.com
432-557-3465