

July 2009

Well, it's time for a new year at Uptown Midland. I have some big shoes to fill following our past presidents from Uptown, but I know there is that limitless well of knowledge and experience that will be there for me to fall back on during this year. We have many decisions to make this year plus all of our usual responsibilities as Uptown members. We have witnessed history in watching what we are familiar with change into what we hope to be a new beginning for our organization. Moving from BPW/USA to BPW Foundation, we will soon be voting on whether to affiliate with BPW Foundation. There is also the change for our State Federation that has voted to stand apart from BPW Foundation and begin a whole new organization of career women. Our Texas sisters will be looking to us for support and that is a relationship that we will surely want to continue to nurture as we can. Our Region 6 will be changing too and again we should consider our long time friendship with our sisters when making these difficult decisions. I hope to help make this an extraordinary and upbeat year for all of us despite the seriousness of what is ahead of us.

I'm looking forward to continuing the excellence we surpass each year when we make our plans for National Business Women's Week and the Style Show during the 2009-2010 year. I am never surprised when I hear all of the praise we receive after these events. Each year since I joined Uptown we have always WOWed the attendees when we put on a party. And the generosity abounds at these events. There are also the BPW trademark programs featuring Young Careerist, Individual Development Program, Women Joining Forces, Legislative Hotline, Electronic Advocacy Brief, WOMENomics, Well-behaved Women Never Make History, Building Powerful Women, and Equal Pay Day which will be additional opportunities for all of us to develop our professionalism. And so we will proceed with business as usual until we can determine what the future holds for Uptown Midland BPW. I'm sure it will be a "BPW magnificent adventure".

Our next business meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2009, at noon at The Petroleum Club of Midland. I hope each of you can attend. Please RSVP to Jennifer Birkla, 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair at 262-6323 (jenniferbirkla@hotmail.com), or Shirley Harris, Webpage 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,

Very truly yours,

Debrah Gann

Uptown Midland BPW President 2009 - 2010

debbie.gann@arcadis-us.com

432-557-3465