

**ANNUAL REPORT
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN OF BUFFALO
LINDA PRZEPASNIAK, PRESIDENT
MARCH 21, 1994**

Dear Members:

I am pleased to report the following activities and accomplishments of Business and Professional Women of Buffalo for the Year 1993-94:

May, 1993

We began the year with a needs assessment of our organization and a roundtable discussion of BPW/Buffalo asking ourselves who we were, why we were here and what we stood for. Community Project held a silent auction which netted \$230 for Haven House. BPW/Buffalo joined forces with the Women's Action Coalition to present "The Next Step: Western New York Women Leading in the 90's...Community, Government, Politics" on May 27th. Members of BPW/Buffalo organized a display of brochures and membership materials.

June, 1993

A membership reception was held at the home of Second Vice President Mary Bartley which attracted 41 guests interested in BPW/Buffalo. BPW/Buffalo became a member of the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence. The Legislation Committee, headed by Sandy Mazur, distributed for signature a petition increasing the need for cancer research. At the monthly meeting, Ms. Myrna Young, Executive Director of Everywoman's Opportunity Center presented a program on "Creating Your Own Success".

July, 1993

BPW members joined together in a fundraising effort at the World University Games netting \$678.05 towards scholarship, community project and public relations. Our summer social was held at the Park Country Club with Susan K. Smith, Regional Director of Liz Claiborne, Inc. speaking.

August, 1993

Although there was no general meeting in August, on August 31st, BPW/Buffalo co-sponsored a Candidate's Forum with the East Clinton Professional and Businessmen's Association. Candidates running for the Lovejoy District Council seat were invited to attend. Past President Patricia Pfleger and I attended the NOVA luncheon in Rochester where U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno spoke to the crime victims assistance network. We were joined by BPW/NYS President Elect Betsey Wheeler and an entourage of BPW statewide members. A "hotsheet" newsletter was instituted and mailed to all members to keep them informed of events over the summer break.

September, 1993

Together with other local women's organizations making up the Women's Action Coalition, on September 9th, we held a Candidates' Forum at Erie Community College for all candidates running for City of Buffalo offices, the most important being the office of Mayor of the City of Buffalo. Geraldine Ferraro highlighted the evening's activities. The speaker at our general meeting was Helen Cullinan Szvoren from the NYS Department of Labor speaking on "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace."

October, 1993

Starting off the month, Past President Patricia Pflieger and I attended the National Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies in Seneca Falls, New York. It was a very moving experience that drew inspiration for both of us. BPW member and Executive Director of the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women, Lynn Marinelli, received the Business First Forty Under Forty Award. The YWCA Public Policy Committee invited me to participate as a member of the committee. The Public Policy Committee's focus is the Economic Equity Act pending before Congress. Members of BPW/Buffalo participated in the "Walk Against Family Violence" held October 20th on the steps of City Hall in downtown Buffalo. Ramona Gallagher's National Business Women's Week Committee organized a luncheon in celebration of NBWW which was held on October 23rd. Prior to the luncheon, we partook in a "walk across the Peace Bridge" with members of the Canadian BPW federation. Ms. Loretta Kaminski, owner of Lou-Retta's Chocolates spoke to the gathering at Court Street Courier. In conjunction with NBWW, BPW/Buffalo put together a display in the window of the older Berger's store on Main Street. This display remained in the window during celebration of National Business Women's Week. Legislative Chair, Sandy Mazur, presented UB Professor Georgiana Jungles who spoke on the issue of pay equity at our October general meeting. On October 27th, BPW/Buffalo together with the Women's Action Coalition held its second Candidate's Forum for County-wide candidates. Both forums were televised on the local cable networks.

November, 1993

BPW member and President of Aicha Construction Co., Rita Smith, joined me on the public affairs program PULSE aired by Channel 29 to discuss the role of women in business. Most of the 15 minute program was devoted to the benefits of membership in BPW. Our annual trade fair, organized by First Vice President, Mary Jane Zak, drew 25 vendors. Judy Nevins, Chair of IDP, presented a proposal for engraved name tags for BPW/Buffalo members. The proposal was well-received and orders taken.

December, 1993

In December, we honored member and Erie County Comptroller Alfreda Slominski on her retirement from public service. Past President Dr. Joan Sulewski was appointed to the Buffalo Foundation. Utilizing the talents of our members, Teena Garas, humor consultant, entertained us at our Christmas social. We presented Haven House with a donation of \$500 and gifts donated by our members. To assist in our fundraising efforts for publicity, 1994 Entertainment Books were available for sale, for which we netted \$110.

January, 1994

Laura Smith, Chair of the Scholarship/Foundation Committee, presented 2 scholarship awards in the amount of \$500 each to Ann Thompson Crinzi and Karen Violanti, both pursuing masters in education. A total of 24 scholarship applications were received. Three Western New York women received scholarship awards from the BPW National Foundation. Judy Nevins and Kathy Donoghue facilitated the 7-week BPW Individual Development Program which drew 32 participants, majority of which were non-members. The BPW/Buffalo Woman of the Year award was granted to BPW member and NYS Assistant Labor Commissioner, Ramona Gallagher. Past President and Recipient of last year's Woman of the Year award, Chair Lucy Mysiak, organized a reception in her honor at Pettibones Restaurant which attracted 109 friends and colleagues of Ramona's. A guest editorial in Business First criticizing women's organizations was challenged by a letter-writing campaign undertaken by member and owner of Another Alternative, Kathy Donoghue, Clarence BPW President, Sandra Courrie, and myself. On a sad note, a memorial service was held for BPW member, Adah Stinson. Kae Dutcher commemorated her passing away.

February, 1994

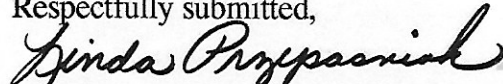
Krista Van Wagner, BPW member and owner of Curley's Restaurant, received the Lackawanna Citizen of the Year Award. At the awards dinner, Recording/Corresponding Secretary Sue Mager presented a resolution on behalf of BPW/Buffalo in congratulations for her achievement. Attorney and BPW member, Gayle Eagan, received the Everywoman's Award of Excellence which will be presented in May of 1994 by Everywoman's Opportunity Center. The BPW/Buffalo bylaws were overhauled by Kathy Donoghue and the Bylaws Committee. Amendments were submitted to BPW/NYS and approved at its Winter Board meeting. Several of us attended the St. Catherine's BPW International Night festivities in Niagara Falls...continuing to foster relationships with BPW Canadian organizations. Past President Dewey Dobson began organizing founding memberships for a New York State Charter membership in the International Federation of BPW. Community Project Judy Bratty reported that a \$500 donation will be made to the Women's Law Center in May of 1994. The Women's Law Center provides legal services at a reduced rate to economically disadvantaged women. The Grace LeGendre scholarship fund will receive \$100 raised by BPW/Buffalo's Scholarship/Foundation Committee. At our monthly meeting, an entertaining skit on parliamentary procedure was organized by IDP Chair Judy Nevins. Members of the cast were IDP participants.

March, 1994

We have equalized...plus! Co-Chairs and Past Presidents Lucy Mysiak and Vel Szczesny coordinated the BPW/Buffalo 60th Anniversary Luncheon on March 19th which was the culmination of a week-long celebration of Women's History. Newly elected Erie County Comptroller Nancy Naples was the key-note speaker. The event was well-attended with visitors from the Canadian BPW locals, as well as BPW/NYS State President Audrey MacDougall and District VIII Director Mary Stelley. Legislative dignitaries included Congressman Jack Quinn and Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski. Professor Geraldine Bard and member of BPW/Buffalo spearheaded "In Honor of Women and their Dreams" with the support of 140 Western New York women's organizations. The events were held at Buffalo State College. Women of achievement, including our own Women of the Year were honored at a reception. BPW/Buffalo will make a contribution of BPW memorabilia for inclusion in the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women time capsule to be dedicated this summer. Our 1993-94 assessment to the BPW Foundation of \$312 will be paid thanks to contributions from Laura Smith's Scholarship Committee and Lucy Mysiak's Woman of the Year Committee. Nancy Hanavan, chair of the Youth Leadership Committee, is actively working to organize a "shadowing" program on April 28th in conjunction with the Ms. Foundation's "Take Your Daughter to Work Day". Her committee is also working hard to establish a college outreach program and Judy Bratty will attend Daemen College's career day this month speaking on the benefits of BPW. Election of officers is held at the March meeting and the Individual Development Program speakoff will take place.

Conclusion: We have seen the value of our collective effort and commitment. One of my top priorities was to increase visibility of BPW/Buffalo. I believe we have. We spoke of BPW/Buffalo as a catalyst for positive change. Taking a leadership role in our community has proven that we can be the leading advocate for working women. I gratefully appreciate the hard work and dedication of each and every member of the Board of Directors, the support and encouragement of the past presidents and the assistance and cooperation of all of our members. Now we must take our commitment on to the next level and work to institute positive change to improve the status of working women in our organization and the community at large.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Przepasniak, President