

# TEN Great Reasons to be a BPW Member!

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## 1. Impact

Be part of a national movement and make a difference in the lives of workingwomen as we work together to create the changes needed for equitable work environments and supportive communities. Belong to a nationally recognized organization whose legacy of success opens doors to other leaders and opinion makers.

## 2. Networking

Exchange ideas, explore business opportunities, and share common goals with professional women at the community, state and national level. Connect with mentors, colleagues and friends who can assist you in advancing your career and making the right connection.

## 3. Advocacy

BPW/USA is headquartered in the Washington, DC metro area for a reason... to provide members effective national representation on issues critical to workingwomen. Stay informed and participate in the process through the weekly *Legislative Hotline* and the Contact Congress program. Learn how to be a successful advocate and lobby your representatives at the annual Policy & Action conference. Keep the workingwoman's agenda – equal pay, work-life balance, better child and elder care, strong social security pension programs and workplace equity – at the forefront. Through BPW/USA membership you have a powerful voice on small business issues, with corporations and on Capitol Hill, without doing all of the legwork yourself.

## 4. Education/Career Enhancement

Participate in BPW/USA programs that are specifically designed to provide personal and professional development, growth and opportunities. Through seminars, hands-on workshops and noted experts, BPW/USA members are given a vast array of opportunities to gain the skills they need to succeed and be successful. The BPW/USA Individual Development program has provided tens of thousands of women with the leadership, negotiation and professional skills necessary to reach their full potential. The Young Careerist program gives a leg up to young women new to the work force but full of potential.

## 5. Information

Have quick access to relevant up-to-date information about topics essential for workingwomen such as the entrepreneur center via the BPW website. Members are also kept on top of developing issues and organization activities through the weekly electronic *Legislative Hotline*, the e-newsletter *Headquarters News*, and our quarterly print publication *BusinessWoman*.

## 6. Leadership

Develop leadership skills at the Local, State and National level with mentors to help you along the way. Maximize the career-boosting value of your BPW/USA membership by identifying volunteer opportunities that match your professional goals or strengthen your existing skills. Become a recognized leader by getting involved in programs that benefit your community.

## 7. Visibility

Gain visibility and prominence in your community through involvement in BPW/USA events -- locally, regionally, statewide and nationally. Meetings, newsletters and websites provide opportunities to showcase and promote you and your business.

## 8. Helping Others

BPW/USA has a proud tradition of "women helping women." In 1956, the members of BPW/USA created the BPW Foundation to provide scholarships, research, information, and career development programs for workingwomen. Supporting the BPW Foundation allows you to help other women upgrade their skills or return to the workplace while furthering workplace equity and work-life balance. Since 1969, the BPW Foundation has awarded almost \$6 million in scholarships, research grants and loans. Involvement in the Individual Development, Young Careerist, and Mentoring programs allows you to aid in the personal and professional development of women while raising awareness of issue affecting workingwomen.

## 9. Member Benefits/Discounts

Gain access to special programs like the BPW/USA Career Center to find a new job or the Home Buyer's assistance program to obtain a mortgage or home equity loan. There are also discounts on telecommunications, car rentals, hotel rooms, gourmet foods and cruises! With BPW/USA benefits and discounts you can enjoy great products and save money too.

## 10. Friendships

Membership in BPW/USA brings many rewards but the most lasting and meaningful are the lifelong friendships. Through participation in the many BPW/USA activities and programs, you will form supportive friendships as well as important business relationships. There is nothing quite like the feeling you get in a roomful of powerful women all focused and energized on current issues and a common cause. Whether it is laughing together, working together, or lobbying together, BPW/USA members know how to have fun and to get the job done!

## Join BPW today!

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