

THE BEST PRACTICES/SHARING WORKSHOP

Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center
Burlington, Vermont
August 23, 2014

Those who did not attend the BPW/VT Best Practices Workshop in Burlington on Saturday, August 23, missed an opportunity. They missed learning about the legislative process, experiencing a bi-partisan campaign, working on a team, celebrating women's history, and understanding QuickBooks.

It was a full day workshop held next to beautiful Lake Champlain in the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center. St. Johnsbury BPW President, Alice Kitchel, and I attended. Ten to fifteen members from the various locals attended with some having to leave early or arrive late due to prior commitments on Saturday.

The talented presenters, all members of Vermont/New York BPW locals, each gave informative hour long presentations. Lindsay DesLauriers, Burlington BPW, explained in detail the Vermont legislative process and how a bill goes from being introduced to being passed into law. She was enthusiastic and informed and interactive with the audience.

Pat Nowak, Burlington BPW, gave a funny and serious account on how to run a bi-partisan campaign and allowed us to follow her journey from nominee to a South Burlington Council Member. If one is thinking of running for office, Pat Nowak's account of her experiences are not to be missed. She talked about putting a team together; limiting issues to five; fundraising; marketing one's self; and running for different positions with someone else even if from different parties.

Lou DiLorenzo, Westshire, presented the basics of QuickBooks beginning with Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet statements to Chart of Accounts to reports and how to monitor your business, especially the cash flow.

Alice Kitchel, St. Johnsbury, presented "Who am I on My Team." She presented a matrix for organizations or individuals to use to monitor the effectiveness of the organization or individual. The matrix was divided into two parts. Part one gave a rating from -5 to 5 for how an individual or organizations has the room to grow, learn, and experience a variety of work. Part two gave a rating from 0 to 10 for how the organization or individual experiences support, meaningfulness and future desires. The matrix created a good discussion and many thought it would be useful to use to gauge how an organization is meeting its goals.

BPW/VT State President Carolyn Frazier gave advice on how to celebrate Women's History. Carolyn has lots of books and information on women's history. She provided participants with a paper listing websites to use for researching information or activities to use to celebrate Women's History Month in March.

Carolyn presented the last workshop which was "BPW Leadership." She talked about public relations, financial guidelines, fundraising, bylaws, meetings, agendas, and membership strategies.

The workshop was a valuable resource for new members and longtime members who want to learn or refresh their knowledge of the mission of the Business and Professional Women/VT Inc. Thank you to President Frazier and the presenters for their talents and efforts in presenting the Best Practices Workshop.

Donna Rae Heath
St. Johnsbury BPW