



**Robin Balke, President
2021-2022**

Encourage. Inspire. Empower

I want to start off by thanking Debbie Ulmer for her leadership of this club over the past 12 months. Her term as president was challenging, to say the least. But she made the best of it, keeping the lines of communication open with the board, and making adjustments every step of the way.

In preparation for advancing into the role of club president, I studied the club ByLaws and gave some serious thought as to the direction of the Sedalia Business Women. I came to the conclusion that women join for one or more of the following reasons: to network, for personal

or professional development, to socialize, or to promote their business. Then I asked myself, “How are we, as a club, meeting those needs?” Then I reviewed our Mission Statement: “To achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information.”

I had some ideas but I met one-on-one with some members to bounce ideas off them and get input on various aspects of the club. Some ladies I met with had been members for many years, while others have been members a shorter amount of time. I also met with a couple previous members. As a result of those conversations, I came up with a list of topics for dinner meeting presentations, a list of ideas for socials, and some ideas for changes to our dinner meetings.

Over the next 12 months, I want to focus on having speakers who present on topics relevant to women, I’d like to try bi-monthly personal and professional development socials, and I’d like try some things to streamline our dinner meetings and promote networking. Within our membership, we have a vast array of life experiences and knowledge in a variety of industries. With the loss of three members this past year, I realized we also lost a wealth of knowledge and experience those ladies had. So I’d like to lay the groundwork for a mentoring program within our club. Whether it’s among our members or within our various committees, there is much to be shared, learned, and cultivated.

When trying to come up with a motto for my year as president, I looked up various quotes from famous women but when my thoughts kept taking me back to the initiatives I wanted to work on this year, it became apparent to me what my motto should be.... Encourage – Inspire – Empower

Although our chapter of the Business Women of Missouri is the largest in the state, I want to **Encourage** our members to engage with each other and the community by providing opportunities for networking and volunteering.

Our club has been in existence in Sedalia for 98 years and building on that legacy, I want to **Inspire** new members to want to join when they learn what SBW is doing in the community and for its members, as well as inspire existing members to serve on the board or get active within a committee.

And I want to **Empower** our members with information and hands-on experience in a variety of ways through personal and professional development opportunities.

So as you attend future dinner meetings and events, please know that some things will be different. And as the year progresses, I welcome your feedback on what you think as well as any ideas you may have. I look forward to serving with my board and working together to continue the success of the Sedalia Business Women.

Thank you.

Robin Balke
SBW 2021-2022 President



2021-2022 Sedalia Business Women Officers

SBW President Robin Balke, President Elect Amanda Davis, 1st Vice President Jada Weaver, 2nd Vice President Julie Slocum; Treasurer Della Schnakenberg, Secretary Katy Kirby, Director Debbie Ulmer

May 6, 2021
SBW Installation Committee Meeting



Debbie Ulmer, President, called the Sedalia Business Women's May dinner meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Joyce Grinstead, Chaplain, gave the invocation. Debbie Ulmer led the club in the Club Collect followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Lori Haney introduced the guests.

The May dinner meeting was under the direction of the Installation Committee. Guestbook was Lori Haney. Michelle Sparks was the hostess. Lori Haney and Diane Simon presented the program for the evening.

The program was the Installation of 2021-2022 officers. The installed officers are as follows: President - Robin Balke, President Elect - Amanda Davis, First Vice President - Jada Weaver, Second Vice President - Julie Slocum, Secretary - Katie Kirby, Treasurer - Della Schnakenberg, and Director - Debbie Ulmer.

The written spotlight was Robin Balke, incoming president.



Debbie Ulmer Presented a Check to Dennis Gerkin of the Shrine Club.



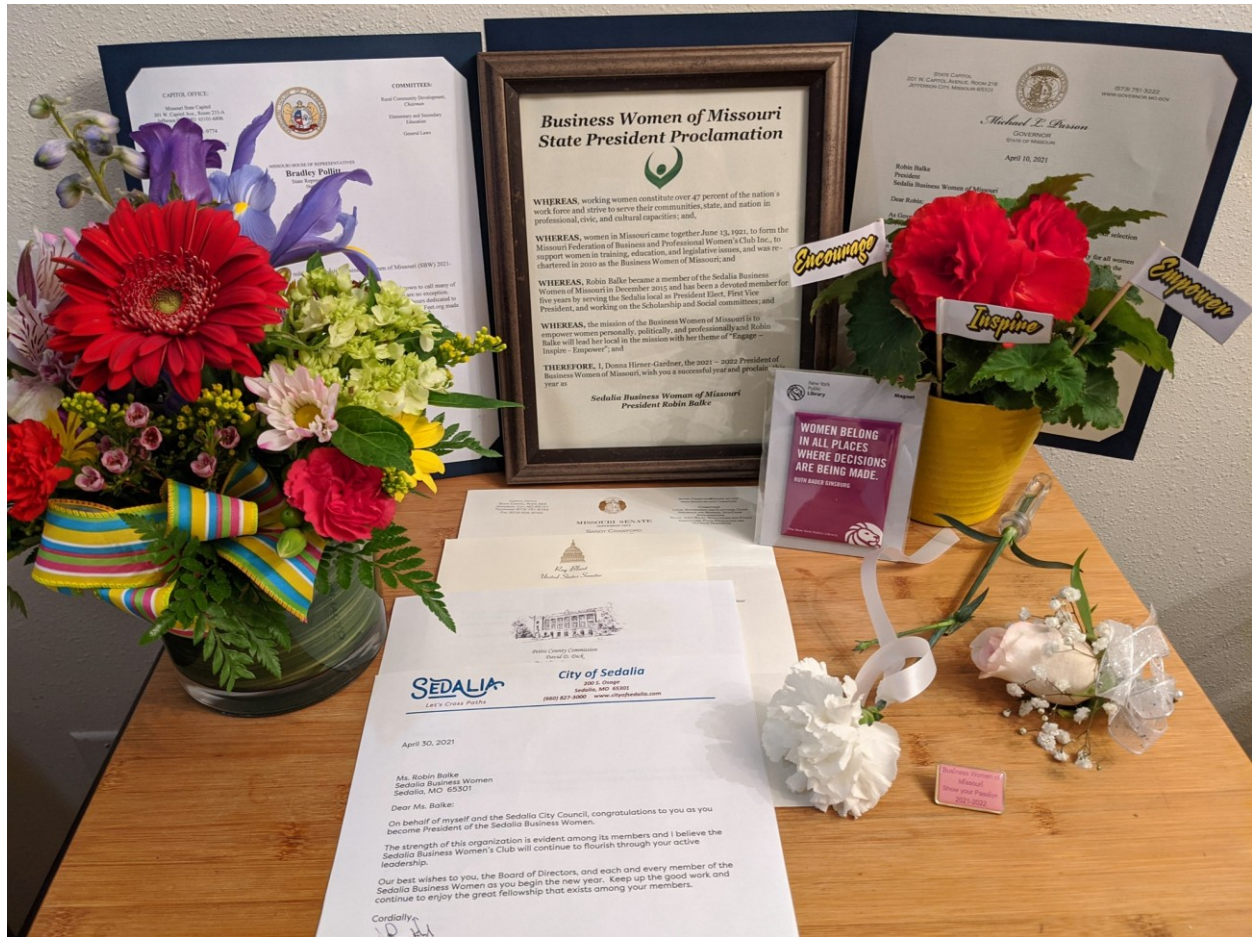
Shirley McCown thanked Rhoda Moore, Kay's Bridal, Gill Signs, Dennis Gerkin, Sue Parrish, and Krista Eschbacher for helping with the installation.



Linda Fisher Presenting Lori Haney's President Book







Robin received letters of congratulations from public officials and a proclamation from Business Women of Missouri.

June 3, 2021
SBW Finance Committee Meeting



President Robin Balke called the June SBW meeting to order. Debbie Ulmer gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Club Collect. Lori Haney introduced the guests. The meeting was under the direction of the Finance Committee, Amanda Davis, chair.

Jean Boston, SBW member and Assistant Financial Center Manager of Simmons Bank, and Tonja Hascall, Financial Center Manager of the bank's local location, gave an informative presentation about protecting personal information and finances from fraud and scammers.



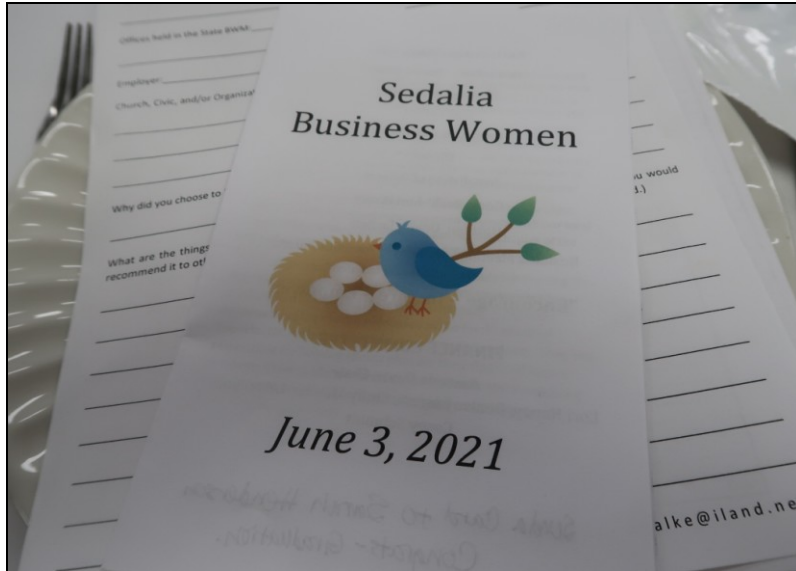
Tonja Hascall, Amanda Davis, Jean Boston

Amanda Davis, chair of the finance committee, presented the Club's budget for the next twelve months. The budget was approved by the membership.



Robin Balke Presented a Check to Dennis Gerken of the Shrine Club





July 1, 2021
SBW Issues Management Committee Meeting



Issues Management Chair, Jada Weaver, introduced the guest speaker for the July dinner meeting. Chaunta Foster, Regional HR Director for WireCo WorldGroup, gave an informative presentation about “Women’s Issues in the Workplace.”



Julie Slocum, Membership Chair, installed Catterina Riddle, Executive Director at United Way of Pettis County, as a member of the Sedalia Business Women at the August dinner meeting. Catterina’s sponsor was Della Schnakenberg.



This beautiful arrangement was made by Rhoda Moore, SBW member and owner of Moore's Greenhouse. It honors Mary Merritt, an SBW member who passed in January and was on display during our July dinner meeting, where several members of Mary's family were present.

A strong supporter of the right to vote, Mary's photo is included in the arrangement, along with women of historical significance: Corretta Scott King, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elizabeth "Betsy" Ross, Helen Keller, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Rosa Parks.

Debbie Ulmer gave a nice tribute to Mary and her work in the community, as well as SBW. The arrangement was then taken to Mary's funeral service the following day.

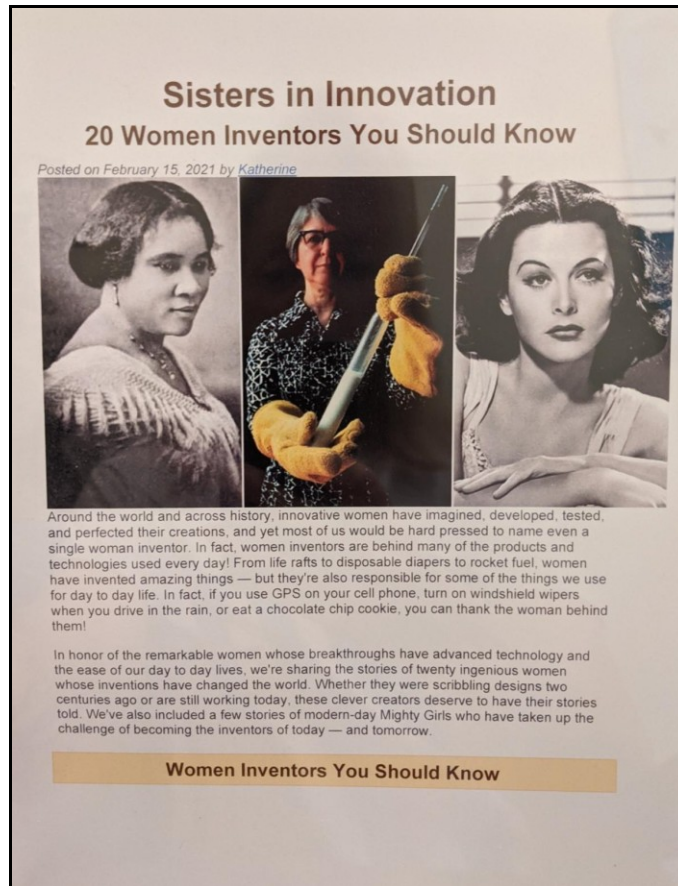
Leadership Conference August 7, 2021



The Business Women of Missouri 2021 Leadership Conference was held Saturday, August 7, at the Holiday Inn-East, in Columbia. The State Board meeting was held Friday evening, August 6. Sedalia Business Women had five members attend the board meeting and Leadership Conference: Donna Hirner-Gardner (who also serves as BWM President), Michelle Sparks (who also serves as BWM Recording Secretary), Della Schnakenberg, Stormy Allen, and Robin Balke.



The Business Women of Missouri State Board meeting was held Friday evening, August 6. Pictured are the state board members: Michelle Sparks, Recording Secretary; Jane Miller, Parliamentarian; Donna Hirner-Gardner, President; Ann Moyers, Vice-President; and Charleen Presley, Treasurer.



SBW member and BWM President, Donna Hirner-Gardner, gave a presentation on “Sisters in Innovation - 20 Women Inventors You Should Know,” which engaged the conference attendees by taking turns reading out loud about the inventors.



BWM Past State President, Carol Parsons, gave a presentation about BWM Bylaws versus local club Bylaws. SBW member and BWM President, Donna Hirner-Gardner, and BWM Vice-President, Ann Moyers, are also pictured.



Deborah Biggs and Past State President, Sandra Majchrzak, gave a presentation on how to make your meetings successful.



Collections of \$350 worth of items and monetary donations for True North of Columbia were made at the conference.

August 5, 2021 Telephone Committee Meeting



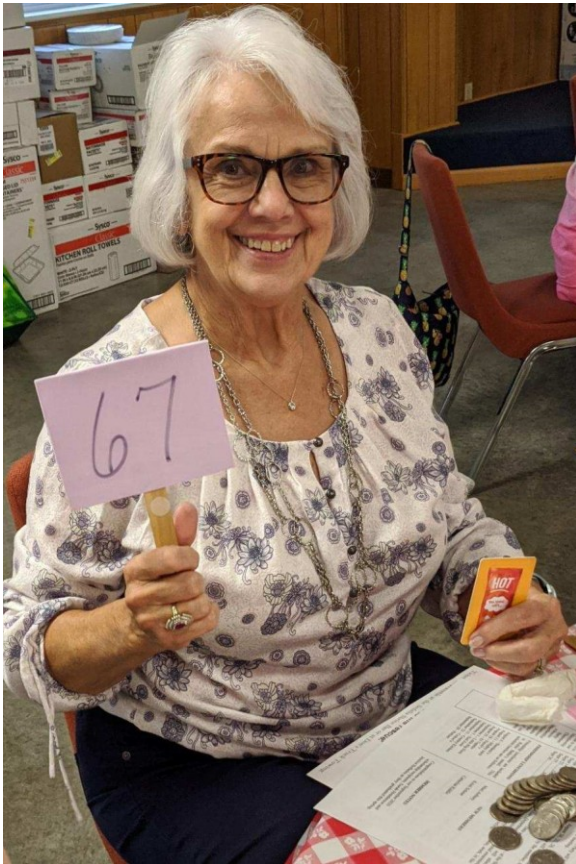
The August dinner meeting was under the direction of the Telephone Committee, chaired by Debbie Ulmer. Joyce Grinstead announced the guests. Donna Hirner-Gardner was the hostess.

Robin Balke, President, presented the Paddle Party as the program for the evening. Lori Haney served as the auctioneer for the event.

Below: Tonya Weaver and Diana Eckhoff presented SBW with a donation in honor of the late Cindy Weaver, a long-time SBW member. The donation was from proceeds of a garage sale held. Pictured: Sue Parrish, Tonya Weaver, Diana Eckhoff, Debbie Fillinger, and Carol Sawyer.



Candid Shots of Paddle Party Winners





September 2, 2021 Career Advancement Committee Meeting

Robin Balke, President, called the Sedalia Business Women's September dinner meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Debbie Ulmer gave the invocation. Robin Balke led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Club Collect. Katie Kirby introduced the guests.

The September dinner meeting was under the direction of the Career Advancement Committee, chaired by Linda Fox. President Robin Balke presented the scholarship recipient speakers as the program for the evening. Linda Fox presented a check and free club membership to Scholarship Recipients and speakers, Patrice Sims and Michelle Hotsenpillar. Laura Taylor purchased and provided the scholarship recipients with Starbucks gift cards. The third scholarship recipient, Jenna Goff, and her guest were unable to attend the meeting.



Michelle Hotsenpillar and Patrice Sims (above) are two of the three SBW scholarship recipients for 2021. Along with the monetary scholarship, they each receive a one-year membership with the Sedalia Business Women.

The SBW By-laws have been updated to reflect a change in membership dues to be paid in a timely manner. A copy of the amended by-laws will be sent to the club, and the membership will vote on the changes.



Congratulations to Jenna Goff, the third recipient of a SBW Scholarship. Along with the monetary scholarship, Jenna received a one-year membership with the Sedalia Business Women. We wish our recipients the best with their educational and professional pursuits.

Julie Slocum installed Tanya Martin as a new member at the dinner meeting. Her sponsor is Robin Balke.

Nominations for “Woman of the Year” and “Employer/Business of the Year” are due in October.

October 7, 2021
Legislative Committee Meeting

The October meeting was under the direction of the legislative committee, Dianne Simon, chair.



Sedalia Mayor, John Kehde, read and signed a proclamation designating October 17-24, 2021, as Sedalia Business Women's Week.

Pettis County Eastern Commissioner, Israel Baeza, gave a presentation about United WE, a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Kansas City, that has created a first-of-its-kind Women's Economic Development Task Force to study issues, gather feedback surrounding women's participation and advancement in the workforce, and to generate solutions to better empower women.



November 4, 2021
Public Relations Committee



Robin Balke talked about the club's recent service project, a collection of needed items for the United Way, and presented them to United Way's director, Catterina Riddle.



Betty Albrecht presented the Co-Women of the Year award to Joanna Anderson and Lori Wightman. Lori Haney introduced the guest speakers, Joanna Anderson and Lori Wightman. The award recipients each gave a short speech.



Shirley McCown and Janice Cones presented the Employer of the Year to McCarthy Toyota. Karl Kramer accepted the award and gave a speech.

Robin Balke thanked members and the Shrine Club for their contributions towards the night's dinner. She also thanked two Smith Cotton Nation Honor Society students for attending the meeting to assist members with drinks and meals.

Robin Balke read a written excerpt about BPW/SBW club information that she presented to Rotary during Business Women's Week.

Business Women of Missouri State President Donna Hirner-Gardner presented information on the State meeting that will held on December 3rd and 4th, Best Western, Sedalia.

More than seventy people were in attendance, including thirty-one guests.

Photos courtesy of Randy Kirby

December 2, 2021
Socials Committee

The Sedalia Business Women held their monthly dinner meeting, Thursday, December 2. Membership chair, Julie Slocum, installed nine new members.



Members exchanged holiday gifts following the directions of a story that President Robin Balke read.





**Business Women of Missouri
Winter Board Meeting
December 4 & 5**

The Business Women of Missouri held their winter board meeting December 4 and 5, at Best Western in Sedalia. Friday night the BWM Foundation held an auction that raised over \$3,000 for BWM scholarships.

Saturday's board meeting, led by BWM President Donna Hirner-Gardner, included guest speaker Joleigh Cornine, Director of Downtown Sedalia Alliance.



Sedalia Local Group Photo--Linda Fisher, Stormey Allen, Rachel Monaghan, Donna Hirner-Gardner, Michelle Sparks, Robin Balke



Group Photo – BWM Winter Board Meeting 2021



The Executive Board—Michelle, Charlene, Donna and Ann

SBW Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army



We didn't have photos of everyone who volunteered to ring the bells for the Salvation Army. Thank you to the following SBW members for ringing the bell, raising \$312.58 December 4, 2021: Debbie Ulmer, Bobbie Wilson, Katie Kirby, Janice Cones, Carolyn Green (and granddaughter Hadley), Robin Balke, Amanda Davis, Rachel Monaghan, and Stormy Allen.

Christmas Basket

With the \$700 donated by SBW members, the Holiday Basket committee co-chairs, Krista Eschbacher and Michelle Sparks, shopped for the family adopted for the holiday. Thanks to SBW member and Open Door Executive Director, Amanda Davis, some food items, personal toiletries, and household needs were also given to the family. The committee reports the parents of the adopted family were deeply moved by the generosity. SBW appreciates Debra Andresen, Executive Director of the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce, allowing the committee to use the Chamber boardroom again this year to organize and prepare the items for presentation to the family.



Sedalia Business Women Awarded Star Business 2021!
December 16, 2021



Julie White, of the Sedalia Democrat, presented a certificate to the Sedalia Business Women for being named a “Star Business” in the category of Civic Club in the 2021 Best of Sedalia public survey held by the newspaper. As the second oldest civic organization in Sedalia, SBW appreciates the recognition from the community. Accepting the Certificate are SBW Director and Immediate Past President Debbie Ulmer and current SBW President Robin Balke.





Sedalia Democrat clipping

Sedalia Business Women appreciates those who nominated and voted for SBW as “Best of Sedalia” in the Civic Club category. Congratulations to the Sedalia Moose Lodge for being voted “Best of Sedalia” and Sedalia Rotary Club for their nomination in the category.

January 6, 2022 Membership Committee



The January 6 SBW meeting was under the direction of the Membership Committee.

India McCullough, Mickey Pulliam, and Nikki Smith, from the Center for Human Services were the guest speakers. They gave an informative presentation about “Disability Etiquette,” which included the do’s and don’ts when interacting with people who may have a visible or invisible disability.

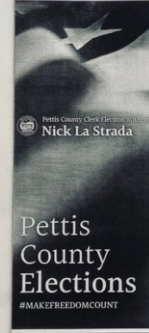
Chief of Staff Merari Pena, Election Administrator Magaly Pena, and Election Communications Samantha Candelas from the Pettis County Clerk’s office, were at our January dinner meeting to

assist our members and guests with updating their voter records. They also provided information about the 2022 election cycles.





REGISTER TO
VOTE HERE



The Sedalia Business Women welcomed two new members. Lindsey Benbrook was sponsored by Betty Albrecht, and Amber Stephens was sponsored by Della Schnakenberg.



The member exclusive event for January was a tour of the Heckart Community Center on Thursday January 20 and January 25.





March 3, 2022
Individual Growth Committee



At the SBW March dinner meeting, Katie Kirby introduced the guests: Cherly Hicks, Alona Boggess-Reid, Kali Oldham, Larrie Kozko, Tammy Jenkins, and Connie Kibbers.

President Robin Balke introduced the guest speaker, Alona Boggess-Reid, former police officer and CSI technician supervisor.

Due to the cancellation of the February Foundation Meeting, the Red Purse Raffle and Silent Auction were held to raise funds for scholarships. Laura Taylor won the Red Purse and Linda Alcorn won the Members Only Clutch. Congratulations!

The Red Purse Raffle raised \$1,149.00 and the silent auction raised \$825.00 with proceeds going to the scholarship fund. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, sold tickets, and/or donated items to the purse, clutch, or silent auction.

SBW members, Donna Hirner-Gardner (BWM State President), Michelle Sparks (BWM Recording Secretary), and Stormy Allen, attended the Business Women of Missouri Legislative Conference. The conference included presentations by MO State Representative, Lane Roberts (Dist. 161), MO State Representative Bob Bromley, (Dist. 162), and Aryn Crawford, Director of Development for Rapha



House International of Joplin, which primarily provides aftercare for survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Shown in the photos with the State Representatives is Past State President Sharon Whittington.

Congratulations to the following organizations who were chosen to receive the proceeds from our 2021 chicken dinner, fundraiser: Meals on Wheels, Community Café, Sedalia Senior Center, Community Santa, Pettis County Children's Fund for Foster Children, Operation Back-To-School (provides feminine hygiene products to teens in need via Pettis County schools). Checks will be presented at the April meeting.



Julie Slocum installed new members of the club. Welcome to SBW, Faith Bemiss, Julie Hoffert, and Autumn Porter.



February and March birthdays were recognized. Each month, anyone in attendance at a SBW dinner meeting who has a birthday within that month is able to choose an envelope from our birthday basket while the group sings "Happy Birthday." In our effort to support member businesses, the envelopes contain gift cards or gift certificates from SBW member businesses. It's a win-win situation!

The Club showed appreciation to SBW member Rhoda Moore for sharing her purse collection for table decorations. Thank you, Rhoda!



April 7, 2022
Special Projects Committee



Deputy Jimmy Moore of the Pettis County Sheriff's Office and Officer Shania Fox of the Sedalia Police Department, both K9 handlers at their agencies, gave an informative and entertaining presentation about canines in law enforcement and what to do if you suspect illegal activity in your neighborhood.

Officer Shania Fox of the Sedalia Police Department was recognized at SBW's April 7 dinner meeting with a Certificate of Appreciation which read, "For breaking the glass ceiling by being the first female K-9 handler at the Sedalia Police Department, the Sedalia Business Women acknowledges Officer Shania Fox. May you continue to 'Encourage ~ Inspire ~ Empower' in law enforcement and other areas of your life."



The proceeds from the SBW annual chicken dinner were disbursed at the dinner meeting to six different local non-profits. The following organizations received \$600 each:

Meals on Wheels - The Meals on Wheels program provides nutritious home-delivered meals to homebound individuals regardless of age so they can maintain independence and quality of life. Meals are delivered in Sedalia City Limits only.

Pettis County Children's Fund - The Pettis County Children's Fund is utilized to help foster children from Pettis and Cooper Counties participate in extra-curricular activities. This fund helps to provide equipment, instruments, prom and graduation costs, camp fees, etc so foster children can enjoy the same activities as other children their age.

Community Cafe - The Community Café strives to improve the food security of the Sedalia and Pettis County communities by providing nutritious meals to combat hunger and malnutrition through community partnerships.

Sedalia Senior Center - Now located in the new Heckert Community Center, the Sedalia Senior Center is under the umbrella of Care Connection for Aging Services. The meals program at the Sedalia Senior Center cooks and serves nutritious, delicious meals for people 60 and older. Contributions are encouraged; however, people 60 and older may enjoy lunch regardless of their ability to contribute. Meals are available on site and home-delivered to older adults.
Open Door's "Go with the Flow"

Mission - This new program helps keep women and teens in Pettis County women and teens supplied with free menstrual products so they can attend school or college without missing class due to the inability to afford necessary feminine products.

Community Santa - Community Santa is a charitable organization whose prime focus is making Christmas wishes come true. The process starts with families filling out applications and ensuring that those who truly need help are in fact the ones who get it, as well as communicating with other local charities to ensure there is no overlapping. Volunteer workers will acquire children's wish lists for Christmas. Each child will receive two toys off their list as well as a new book, a family game and a 'lovey' (stuffed animal). Items are black bagged and given to parents who are then able to wrap the gifts.





Michelle Sparks read the Slate of Officers for the 2022 - 2023 term to be installed at May's dinner meeting: President - Robin Balke, President Elect - Julie Slocum, First Vice President - Janice Cones, Second Vice President - Tanya Martin, Secretary - Katie Kirby, Treasurer - Della Schnakenberg, and Director - Debbie Ulmer.

Membership dues of \$62 will be collected in May.

**Business Women of Missouri Annual Conference
Best Western, Sedalia, MO
Date April 23 & 24**

The Business Women of Missouri 2022 State Conference was held April 23 & 24, in Sedalia. In attendance representing Sedalia Business Women were: Donna Hirner, Michelle Sparks, Rachel Monaghan, Debbie Ulmer, and Robin Balke. Sedalia Mayor, Andrew Dawson, gave the welcome and guest speaker was Beth Felski, Appointments Project Director for United WE.



Past State Presidents



State Officers “Striking for Success”

Charlene Presley, Treasurer; Linda Breckle, VP, Michelle Sparks, President-Elect; Ann Moyers, President



Link to [2022 Summer Newsletter](#) to see the conference recap and much more!