

Debbie Ulmer
SBW President 2025-2026
Installation May 1, 2025



Debbie Ulmer, President
2025-2026

I have selected Support, Encourage and Compliment as my theme for my year as your 2025-2026 President.

If you look in the dictionary, the word “support” means to agree with, approve of, or encourage someone or something. As members, we support each other through agreement, approval and encouragement.

The word “encourage” means to:

1. Inspire with courage, spirit, or hope; hearten.
2. Make someone more determined, hopeful, or confident.
3. Make something more appealing or more likely to happen.

I see the encouragement of our members by our involvement in so many community activities and increase in membership our members sponsor throughout the year.

The word “compliment” is an expression of esteem, respect, affection, or admiration. It is a comment intended to express praise or admiration of someone. As members, we compliment each other by our involvement and input that has made and still makes our organization the success it has been since 1923.

The Organization has supported, encouraged, and complimented me to do more than I thought I ever could and I am humbled and proud to once again be installed as your president for the 2025-2026 year.

I would encourage you as members to support, encourage, and compliment each other, and let's increase our membership through those very same words.

Thank you,
Debbie Ulmer, 2025-2026 President

The 2025-2026 SBW Officers



Director Janice Cones, Treasurer Della Schnakenberg, Secretary (standing in for Donna Hirner-Gardner) Joyce Grinstead, VP Sara Bugg, President Elect Michelle Franklin, President Debbie Ulmer

The focus of the May 1 Dinner Meeting was the installation of the 2025-2026 President Debbie Ulmer and the officers.

This was Sedalia Business Women's first meeting as a separate entity having left Business Women of Missouri.

Presiding over her last dinner meeting during her term as 2024-2025 SBW President Janice Cones gave the welcome to the May dinner meeting.

The 2024-2025 BWM President Michelle Sparks presented membership awards to members who had recruited new members. The SBW Club received a member retention award.

Former SBW President Lori Haney was the presiding officer of the 91st SBW president, Debbie Ulmer and the officers.

In honor of May Day, Rhoda Moore had prepared a May Pole and beautiful table decorations.



President Debbie Ulmer





**SBW Finance Committee
June 1, 2025**



The June meeting was under the direction of the Finance Committee, Michelle Franklin, chair. President Debbie Ulmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 at the Shrine Multipurpose Building. Joyce Grinstead gave the invocation. Carolyn Green introduced the guests.

Jeff Wimann of the Lions Club spoke briefly concerning the opportunity for Sedalia Business Women to have their name on a sign being erected on the west side of town

on Highway 50. The City of Sedalia has donated land to the Lions Club for the “Welcome” sign with 12 service clubs listed. Sedalia Business Women can have their name on the sign for a one-time cost of \$1,000. The Board recommended having our club listed on the sign and the membership unanimously voted to approve the cost of the sign.

The guest speaker was Dr. Misty Todd who presented an interesting and informative program. Dr. Todd is the program director for implementing Missouri’s first Rural Training Track Residency in Family Medicine Program, now in its fourth year at Bothwell Regional Health Center. Lori Wightman, CEO Bothwell Regional Health Center, also spoke briefly.

Michelle Franklin, Finance Committee chair, proposed the SBW budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. After discussion, the membership voted to approve the budget.

New name tags have been ordered for the members with the new teal colored logo.

Jamie Anderson won the wreath donated by Krista Eschbacher. The \$66 raised will be donated to Community Café.

The SBW social will be at the Wildlife Ridge Winery on June 28. The New Theater outing will be on September 20th.



SBW Membership Meeting
July 3, 2025

Debbie Ulmer called the July meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Joyce Grinstead gave the invocation. Debbie Ulmer led the Club Collect, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Lori Haney introduced the guests.

The July membership was under the direction of the Executive Committee chaired by President Debbie Ulmer. The Executive Committee is charged with enforcing all duties and responsibilities previously prescribed, exhibit leadership, educate members on club activities, illicit a spirit of cooperation among members, and mentor future leaders within SBW.

The guest speakers were the Committee Chairs. This was an opportunity to pass on information and learn the expectations of the position held and to exchange ideas. They gave new members ideas as to how to hold meetings and how to prepare. It was very informative.

Lori Haney made a motion to get bids for our rebranding. Debbie Ulmer will speak to the three vendors for the bids.

The next dinner meeting will be under the direction of the Scholarship/Foundation Committees, Robin Balke and Valerie Dent co-chairs.

The meeting was adjourned with the Emblem Benediction at 7:50 p.m.

SBW Scholarship/Foundation Meeting
August 7, 2025



The August 7 Dinner Meeting of Sedalia Business Women was under the direction of the Scholarship/Foundation Committee, Robin Balke and Valerie Dent, co-chairs.

Valerie Dent introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Brent Bates who is in his fourth year as president of State Fair Community College and his 23rd year serving State Fair Community College. His career spans almost 40 years working as a community college faculty member and administrator.

Dr. Bates spoke about the educational opportunities for women. He said that 71% of the students were women. He said that the dental hygienist and health sciences were mostly women. The ROI (return on investment) on higher education is higher earning power for years of education. SFCC has a strong trades program. By 2030, 66% of jobs will require training beyond high school.

The Scholarship winners will be announced at the September 4 Communications Committee annual Paddle Party.



Career Advancement Chair Valerie Dent presents an honorarium to Dr. Brent Bates

**SBW Communications (Telephone) Committee Meeting
PADDLE PARTY!
September 4, 2025**

The September meeting of Sedalia Business Women was called to order by President Debbie Ulmer. Joyce Grinstead led the invocation.

After the Club Collect and the Pledge of Allegiance, Jamie Anderson introduced the guests.

Valerie Dent, chair of the Career Advancement Committee presented the SBW scholarships to Alyssa Fowler, Romina Sambilay, and Reginna Brennan.



The scholarship recipients were the guest speakers. Alyssa Fowler obtained her Associates Degree in Health Science from State Fair Community College. After passing her Boards, she obtained her Bachelor's in Health Science with Occupational Therapy Assistant from Belmont University. She is now juggling online classes with home life and travels to Nashville to complete labs and exams.

Romina Sambilay is a native of Guam and earning her Associates in Allied Health-Dental Hygiene from State Fair Community College. After obtaining her Bachelor's in biology or chemistry, she plans to transfer to dental school to become a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS).

Regina Brennan is a Smith-Cotton High School graduate and earned her BA in English Literature from Grand Canyon University. Her goal is to complete her post-graduate degree in teaching from Missouri State University.



Debbie Fillinger was presented with a 50-year membership award of a Lifetime Membership. Congratulations, Debbie!

The September Dinner Meeting was under the direction of the Telephone Committee. Lori Haney drew the numbers for the Annual Paddle Party. The members were used their paddles to place fifty-cent bids on great prizes.





The new logo was presented and passed around to the membership.



**Legislative Committee Meeting
October 2, 2025**



The October Sedalia Business Meeting was under the direction of the Legislative Committee, Sara Bugg, chair. The guest speaker was Megan Page, Pettis County Clerk.

Governor Kehoe appointed Megan as Pettis County Clerk. She gave an interesting and informative presentation about her duties as Pettis County Clerk. The clerk has a long list of duties, in addition to elections. Some of the responsibilities included to sign and certify

commission minutes, proclamations, monthly collector reports, school audit documentation, and many other duties that none of us suspected was a part of the tasks assigned to the office.

Megan donated her speaker's honorarium to the Boys & Girls Club.



Dr. Brent Bates from State Fair Community College spoke about the upcoming tax levy. The tax levy will help the college obtain their mission and meet their goals and objectives.

SFCC serves as a source of solutions, opportunities, and community enrichment. SFCC students enter the job field equipped with the technical and essential skills employers seek.

Business Women's Week will be celebrated October 19-26. The week will begin with the Annual Chicken Dinner Sunday October 19. Monday will be lunch with Rotary and the Mayor's Proclamation signing. The past presidents' dinner is on Tuesday. Wednesday is friendship lunch at Mazzio's. Thursday is a pumpkin painting party at the Garlich Activity Center. Friday donations for the president's chosen non-profits will be finalized. Saturday is a dinner social at the Sedalia Country Club. The week ends with church with President Debbie Ulmer at Broadway Presbyterian Church.

Photos from the Chicken Dinner and Business Women's Week can be found on their respective pages on the Sedalia Business Women's Website.

Public Relations Dinner November 6, 2025



The November 6, 2025 Sedalia Business Women's Meeting was under the direction of the Public Relations Committee, Lori Haney, chair. Public officials and the Sedalia Police Department were invited to this annual event.

Candace Fowler, pastor First United Methodist Church gave the invocation. Smith-Cotton JROTC presented the flags. Pastor Candace led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem.



The highlight of the evening is to award the Woman of the Year and the Employer of the Year. Donna Hirner-Gardner presented the Woman of the Year Award.



Carol Sawyer received the 2025-2026 Woman of the Year Award. Carol joined SBW in 2026 and has served on several committees. She currently serves on Special Projects, Membership, Business Women's Week, and co-chairs Bell Ringing.

During her work career Carol was the Director of Medical Records at Windsor Hospital for 10 years, a legal secretary for Cisel & Kopp, Attorneys at Law for 15 years, a licensed CSR for American Family Insurance, a Project Manager/Managed Care Auditor, Manager/Recertification Clerk for Windsor Senior Citizens Housing, Office Manager/AR for Trans Central Suppliers, Inc., and Office Administrator for Summit Truck Group until semi-retiring. She has been seasonally employed at Josten's for five years.

Carol has served on several Boards of Directors. Besides SBW, Carol is a member of Pettis County Pachyderms, Green Ridge Booster Club, and a former member of the Sedalia Shrine Ladies. She attends Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Carol and her husband have lived in Pettis County for over forty years. They have one son, Phillip, daughter-in-law Sara, and two grandchildren, Kiley and Trenton. She enjoys attending anything that includes her grandchildren, volunteering when needed, traveling, and the occasional "Sun In My Eyes" time with friends.





The Employer of the Year was awarded to the **Sedalia Police Department** who have 48 sworn officers and eight administrative staff with three women in managerial positions.

SPD's focus is to create a sense of family, ensuring their family's well-being. They provide flexible hours and benefits including personal time off, vacation time, comp time, and bereavement leave. SPD offers a retirement package with LAGRS, 457B deferred comp retirement, and life

insurance. Dependent care is supported by FMLA. New parents are given 12-weeks of maternity leave. Pregnant employees are placed on light duty so they are not injured in the field. An officers wives' group is in place and is an asset to assisting with child care. Employees are further permitted to work out for 30 minutes per day while on duty. SPD promotes a sense of cooperation in the department to ensure the public is protected and served while the needs of the police family is met.

Sworn officers receive training for certification including in-house training. Specialized training is provided for officers seeking professional development and career advancement. A 30-day internship program allows current employees to observe other opportunities within the department. SPD also has a job shadow program for high school students with a mini-academy and mock interviews for students.

SPD is involved in numerous community activities and organizations to build relationships within the community. Some of the activities include: Shop with Cops at Christmas, First Thursdays in Downtown, school resource officer at SCJHS, mock accidents, K-9 and drone demonstrations, and Citizens Police Academy Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE). SPD has been teaching the DARE program in local schools for thirty years and has over 400 graduates per year.





Lori Haney introduced the guest speaker, Gabby White, the executive director of the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce.

Gabby has spent the last nine years in the non-profit world focused on building stronger communities and now dedicates her energy to fostering a vibrant business environment for the entire Sedalia Area.

She spoke about the networking opportunities available through Chamber activities. She focused on unified community collaboration, enhanced

connection opportunities, and enhanced social presence. She also talked about the Whiteman Spirit Food needs during the government shutdown.



Social's Committee Meeting December 11, 2025



The December meeting was under the direction of the Socials Committee, Michelle Abney, chair. The meal was from Bandanas.

The members in attendance enjoyed the Bingo games. Prizes were awarded for the first several games, but members wanted to keep on playing after they had all been awarded.

This great celebration was made better when Michelle Sparks reported that \$667 had been raised for the Christmas family.



Membership Committee
January 8, 2026



The January Dinner Meeting was under the direction of the Membership Committee, Sara Bugg, chair.

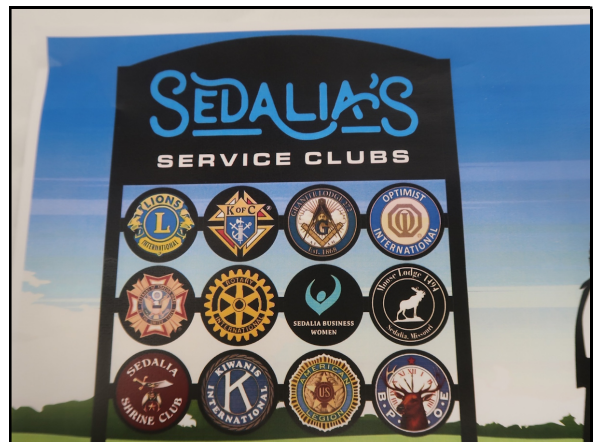
The guest speaker was Marilyn Kay who has written the book *Lord, Will You Do It*. Marilyn shared her story regarding the challenges of finding effective treatment for her daughter Julia who was born with cerebral palsy. Her delightful daughter joined her during her presentation interjecting humor into the story of their emotional journey. Marilyn's faith has sustained

her through the years of dedication to her family.



New members were installed: Angel Johnson was sponsored by Shawna Comfort and Brenda Tippie was sponsored by Sheri Matz.

Welcome to SBW!



President Debbie Ulmer showed the new Sedalia sign with service clubs listed (above). The club previously approved co-sponsoring the sign with other service clubs.

**Foundation Committee Meeting
February 5, 2026**



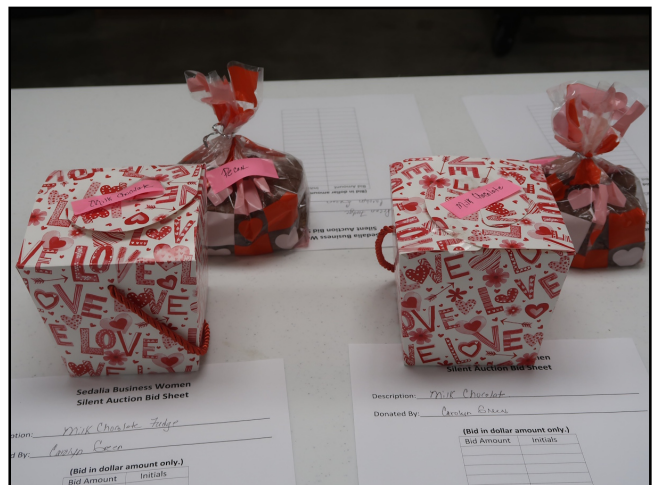
The February Meeting was under the direction of the Foundation Committee, Robin Balke and Valerie Dent co-chairs.

The guest speaker was Rachelle Simon, Executive Director of United Way of Pettis County. Rachelle spoke about the accomplishments of United Way and stressed the importance of community support. United Way of Pettis County served 12,346 individuals in 2024 (28 % of the

population in Pettis County. In 2025, they funded 20 local nonprofits, including 16 funded partners and 4 additional one-time grants. Another important accomplishment is that United Way were able to prevent 16 families from being homeless. As of September 2025, United Way's Needs Based Fund served 187 households with total assistance of \$59,000. A trusted platform for creating community solutions and collaborating on local areas of need, they joined others to assist Mercy Services United (MSU). MSU is a collaboration of resources to provide clients with programs, support and resources.



Highlights of the evening included the Red Purse Raffle, Member Clutch, and a silent auction to fund scholarships. The Red Purse and clutch brought in \$1387 and the silent auction \$494. The winner of the red purse was **Peggy Blakemore**. Cindy Mueller-Lewellyn accepted the purse on her behalf and provided a photo when she delivered the purse. **Michelle Abney** was the winner of the member's only clutch. Congratulations!



**Community Outreach/Community Café Committee Meeting
March 5, 2026**



The March SBW meeting was under the direction of the Community Outreach/Community Café Committee, Shawna Comfort and Jamie Anderson, co-chairs. President Debbie Ulmer called the meeting to order. Joyce Grinstead gave the invocation.

The guest speaker was Mari Asbury, executive director of the Pettis County Community Partnership. PCCP is dedicated to building strong communities, neighborhoods, promoting resilient children and

families through education, health, and economic stability. They plan to expand their youth program to include a fatherhood program, financial education, and mentoring. They also want to expand efforts to create a positive impact on mental health awareness, violence, and suicide prevention.

Mari talked about their program that helps homeless veterans find temporary housing, as well as providing personal sized toiletries and food that can be eaten without cooking. They also provide 600 OATS bus passes a year. PCCP will need to fundraise because their funds will be cut by \$1.6 million. PCCP is a 501(c) (3) and donations can be made to a particular program.



Mari Asbury receiving honorarium from Jamie Anderson



Following the speaker, Debbie Ulmer led the Business Meeting.

Due to the upcoming election of officers, she asked for volunteers for the nominating committee. Positions that will be vacant include secretary, vice president, and president elect.

The president also reminded members that they needed to sign up for committees.

The president made several announcements that she will email to the SBW members.

The beautiful table centerpieces from Moore's Greenhouse and Flower Shop were awarded to the person sitting in the chair with a sticker on the bottom. Included were fun sunglasses and head bands.



Linda Fisher was one of the winners.

Special Projects Committee April 2, 2026

The April Meeting was under the direction of the Special Projects Committee, Shawna Comfort and Jamie Anderson, co-chairs. Representatives from several charities were on hand to accept checks provided from the funds raised at the Annual Chicken Dinner.

President Debbie Ulmer and the committee chairs expressed appreciation to the chicken cookers who were special guests and to the club members who worked at the dinner.



Proceeds from the Chicken Dinner were distributed to several local charities. Representatives were on hand to accept the checks.



Shawna Comfort, presents a check to Senior Center representatives, Machele Theirfelder and Liz Rooks



Shawna Comfort presents a check to Mercy Services United representatives Charli Ackerman and Linda Alcorn



Shawna Comfort presents a check to Meals on Wheels representative Rene Vance



Jamie Anderson presents a check for Community Café to Shawna Comfort



Shawna Comfort presents a check to PCCP (Full Potential Program) to representative Julie Slocum



Keisha Loughman, Feeding Sedalia, was the guest speaker for the evening. Keisha founded the organization out of a powerful desire to make sure that on one in our community goes hungry. What started as a small grassroots effort to help neighbors in need has grown into a meaningful and consistent outreach serving our community.

Keisha recognized early on the gaps that many people face when it comes to access to food and support. She stepped in to be part of the solution. She began to organize meals, gather donations, and rally volunteers to meet those needs head-on.

Over time, Feeding Sedalia has expanded into a trusted local resource while bringing people together. She has built partnerships with local businesses and organizations while creating a network of care that continues to grow.

Keisha's leadership is grounded in compassion and consistency, showing up week after week to serve others with dignity and kindness. Her story is a reminder that real change often starts small with one person willing to take action, but can grow into something that impacts an entire community.

Shawna Comfort and Jamie Anderson, co-chairs of the Special Projects Committee presented a donation to Feeding Sedalia in appreciation of Keisha sharing her mission with SBW.





President Debbie Ulmer announced that the in the Best Civic Club, Sedalia Business Women had won a Silver Business Award. Congratulations to the Club members!



Debbie Ulmer shows off the hand crafted Easter wreath that was raffled off to raise funds for a worthy cause.