



Lori Haney
President 2019-2020
To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow

When I decided to assume the role of president again, I was tasked with creating a vision for my year as president, but also a vision that would carry our club forward past my time as president. As I searched for ideas I came across a quote from Audrey Hepburn that would become my theme for this year, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” As soon as I read this quote, I knew this would be the theme for my year that guides the vision I have for Sedalia Business Women. A garden is great metaphor for the future of our organization.

- **Have a vision for your garden.** You can’t just grab a bunch of random seeds and throw them around willy-nilly, and hope for the best. Instead you have to know what type of garden you want. Just as you must have a vision for your garden, we must have a vision for our club. What kind of organization do we want to be? What’s our mission? What do we hope to achieve?
- **You need to prioritize.** When planning a garden, you start with a wish list of everything you would like to grow. However, when planting a garden there are certain limitations like available space, climate, season, and your time. If you try to plant everything at once, you’ll end up with a huge mess that will soon be unmanageable. In much the same way, when planning for our club’s future, we must start by creating a list of everything we want to do, but then we must prioritize that list by determining what we want most. We must plant the seeds that will bear the fruit that are most important to us.
- **You need good soil.** Whatever it is you want to plant in your garden, it won’t grow well unless you have healthy soil. The soil is the very foundation that promotes vibrant growth. Fortunately for our organization, the very foundation that our club was built upon in 1923 is rich in history and tradition that bore the fruit of the organization that remains today. It is our duty as a club to nurture that foundation to ensure continued growth.
- **You reap what you sow.** If you want tomatoes, you plant tomato seeds. You don’t plant hemlock seeds and then wonder why there’s a poisonous plant growing in your garden instead of delicious, bright red tomatoes. We have to ask ourselves what kind of organization we want to be, and then make sure we are planting the seeds that will produce those results.
- **Assess your garden’s conditions.** Different plants need different environments to thrive. How well your garden grows depends upon climate, sunlight, water, etc. As a club, we must take into account our strengths, our weaknesses, and the varied personalities that make up our organization.
- **A garden needs constant tending.** After preparing the soil and planting seeds, there’s still a lot of work to do from watering to pulling weeds to pruning to fertilizing. Just as a garden needs tending, so does our club. We must devote time to tending to the needs of our organization to allow for healthy growth.

- **Reap your harvest.** After all your hard work, your garden should start producing a bountiful crop. Much like a garden, we have a strong foundation. We have planted seeds that have produced strong roots that have thrived season after season. We have planted new seeds that have changed the face of our organization, and with tending, guidance, and vision, we have produced, year after year, a crop of women ready to lead the organization into the future that can continue to nurture the growth of members to come.

As I consider this metaphor in reference to my presidency, I asked myself what seeds I wanted to plant to yield a harvest for the future of this club. These will be my goals as your president.

1. Restore organization, order, and communication

As your president, I am committed to enriching the soil, the very foundation that is Sedalia Business Women. My goal is to place emphasis on our mission, which is to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information. To do that I plan to ensure that our committees know what is expected of them and what deadlines they need to adhere to while promoting communication through weekly presidential updates to the membership.

2. Promoting women in business

What are the seeds we want to plant today for the garden we hope to grow in the future? My answer is to invest in the women in our community, the women that aren't members of Sedalia Business Women, but should be. When people think of women business leaders in our area, Sedalia Business Women is one of the first things that should come to their minds. It is my aim to build a speakers' list that highlights women business owners and/or community leaders. And I strongly encourage committees to use this list when selecting speakers for monthly meetings. This a great way for women in our community to get to know us and the benefits they would reap by being affiliated with Sedalia Business Women.

3. Member retention

As I previously said, a garden needs constant tending. It's not enough to just get women to join our organization. We must tend to that crop. It is our duty to introduce new members to all the activities and connections available to them through membership. We must help them find the places they feel most comfortable within our club. I am tasking the individuals on the membership committee to serve as mentors to our newly installed members. Reach out to newly installed members to introduce them to SBW and promote a greater understanding of their role within our organization.

4. Sustainability

I want a garden that continues to flourish year after year. To do so, we have to plan for the future. We have to plan for the years to come, not just this year in front of us. From the presidency all the way to the 2nd Vice President, four years of the future of this club are represented in our Executive Committee. But who will take our places in the years to come? Who will help to ensure this club can continue to be a place for professional women to flourish? This starts with each Executive Committee officer installed this year. As an Executive

Committee, we must be looking to the future and your plans for your presidency, creating goals and agendas that can be built upon from year to year. As a club, we must start communicating openly and early to the membership about the importance of joining the Executive Committee. We must identify members that have exhibited leadership skills and encourage their participation on committees, at board meetings, and future Executive Committee officers' positions. Who are the leaders of our future? What changes would you like to make to promote growth? What impact do you want to have on this club?

I don't claim to be a master gardener, but I have found that when I set my mind to it, and plan for and tend to a garden, I'm pretty good at it. Each year, whether it be vegetables or flowers, I try to plant something. I get on my hands and knees, digging in the soil, planting seeds, hoping the fruits of my labor would produce a hearty, plentiful crop. It took time and patience and a lot of work to make those gardens grow, but as I sat back and enjoyed the beauty of the blooms in my flower beds and the sweetness of my cherry tomatoes, I knew all my hard work was worth it. So I ask of each of you to look at Sedalia Business Women as a garden and each of you as a gardener. Please help our club to grow. I promise you the fruits of our combined labor will yield a bountiful crop that will nurture our future members of tomorrow.

Lori Haney
SBW President 2019-20



Donna Hirner Gardner, director; Della Schnakenberg, treasurer; Lori Haney, president; Debra Andresen, president elect; Amanda Davis, 2nd VP; Debbi Ulmer, secretary; (not pictured Robin Balke, 1st VP).

Thank you, Lori Haney, Officers, Committee Chairs and Members for a great year!

SBW Officers 2019-2020

President, Lori Haney
President-Elect, Debra Andresen
First Vice President, Robin Balke
Second Vice President, Amanda Davis
Secretary, Debbie Ulmer
Treasurer, Della Schnackenberg
Director, Donna Hirner-Gardner

Committee Chairs 2019-2020

Finance, Debra Andresen
Issues Management, Robin Balke
Career Advancement, Linda Fox
Legislative, Dianne Simon
Public Relations, Amanda Herrick
Socials, Debra Andresen
Membership, Amanda Davis
Foundation, Linda Fisher, Amanda Herrick, Donna Hirner-Gardner
Individual Growth, Dianne Simon
Special Projects, Carolyn Green, Cindy Mueller-Lewellyn, Sue Parrish Cindy Weaver
Music, Heather Slagle
Business Women's Week, Debbie Fillinger
Employer of the Year, Carol Sawyer
Woman of the Year, Michelle Sparks
Holiday Baskets, Michelle Sparks, Krista Dicks

Presidential Appointments

Auditor, Casey Schmidt
Bell Ringers, Carolyn Green
Bylaws Chair, Lori Haney
Chaplain, Debbie Ulmer
Custodian, Debbie Fillinger
Historian, Linda Fisher
Hospitality, Michelle Sparks
Mentoring, Amanda Davis
Newsletters, Debbie Ulmer
Programs, Joyce Grinstead
Parliamentarian, Debbie Fillinger
Yearbook, Amanda Herrick
Social Media, Cindy Goalder/Amanda Herrick
Scrapbook, Linda Fisher

Donna Hirner-Gardner
President 2018-2019
Guardians of the Future



To my SBW sisters, I look forward to the upcoming year as President of the Sedalia Business Women. Thank you for placing your trust in me!

My goals for SBW for the year 2018-19 are in line with the State goals and they are as follows:

- Volunteer our time in the community to support the women who are trying to attain a better life. Empower women who are leaving these domestic relationships to be able to end the abusive situation their children have experienced.
- Raise awareness of human trafficking and do what we can to end it.
- Show our community that we are guardians of the future by being volunteers and making a difference. Continue to support worthy organizations with funds raised through special projects.
- Support women and the families of Women

in the Military.

- Empower women through education by supporting local and state foundations.

SBW sponsors and empowers the women in our club. We need to show the community that we are the guardians of the future. You showed this to me when my husband passed away. I never had to worry about Sedalia Business Women when I was at the hospital with my husband.

All of you ladies took time out of your life, went above and beyond what was expected of you. Seriously, all of you are my angels on this earth. Therefore, I see everyone in our club as guardians of the future.

I would like to thank my family for their support. My family is an amazing family. They are the guardians of my future.

I also appreciate the help and support of Ronda Tull, the principal of St. Paul's Lutheran School. She is an angel to me and the guardian of my future.

Thank you again for allowing me the privilege to serve as your SBW president for the 2018-2019 year. Together we can be the Guardians of the Future.

Donna Hirner-Gardner
SBW President 2018-19

2018 – 2019 Sedalia Business Women Officers



Debbie Ulmer, secretary; Debra Andresen, director; Della Schnakenberg, treasurer; Donna Hirner-Gardner, president; Jessica Buesing, president-elect; Julie Slocum, 2nd Second VP, Amanda Herrick, 1st VP

Debra Andresen
President 2017-2018
Holding on to Our Heritage & Moving Forward



To my SBW sisters, it is my greatest delight for your trust and faith you bestowed in me as the incoming President of the Sedalia Business Women, and thank you!

I would also like to thank Dianne Simon for inviting me to join the Sedalia Business Women, and for being an exceptional mentor. I would also like to thank my family for all of their support in everything that I do: my husband Rick, my children Mickayla, Cody, and Chloe, as well as my son-in-law Derek.

I took several months to decide what I would like my theme to be this year. As I reflected upon the Sedalia Business Women and what this club means to me, I started looking to the history of women in the workplace and our rights that we hold dearly. As I started digging deeper, I came across a Youtube video about Suffragists, and their fight to vote. As I watched the video and saw their faces, and the imprisonment that they endured and the beatings that they took, it gave me a stronger desire to hold on to what they did for myself, my daughters, and granddaughter's rights. My theme for 2017-18 is "Holding on to Our Heritage & Moving Forward."

As your president, I have a strong, rich history that was established by my Great Grandmother Hazel F. Deckman Shockey. What you don't know is that my Grandmother Shockey felt her calling from God to be a minister, but in 1960 that was not such an easy task as it is today. She had to fight to get her minister's licenses, and ultimately became a pastor. I have an awesome example from her that we can accomplish anything if we put our mind to it, and not let anyone stand in our way of our calling. I am sure that each and every one of you have a heritage that you hold onto.

We owe it to our daughters, granddaughters, and all women to make sure that they remember all that was sacrificed for them. We need to educate, support, and move forward with Women's Rights-not backwards. It is my goal and heartbeat to work together with all women in our community to educate and learn from each other so that we all can be successful in life. I would like to share my goals with you this evening.

My goals for SBW for the year 2017-18 are in line with the State goals and they are as follows:

- Empower Women through education by using the scholarships that the Sedalia Business Women award each year to help them attend college. Also keep promoting our scholarships on social media as well as in the newspaper.
- Raise awareness of the increase in Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Child Abuse.
- Get involved in our community; make our club visible.
- Continue to support women and the families of Women in the Military.
- Support both local and state Foundations. We also need to continue to support our non-profit organizations in our community through special projects.
- I would like to keep “Pay it Forward.” Instead of just sponsoring one non-profit organization, each month, I would like for us to bring items for the non-profit that is designated for that month. The non-profits that I would like to support are Child Safe, CASA, Literacy Counsel, Open Door, Show-Me Christian Youth Home, Meals on Wheels, and Activity Builders for Children.
- Mentoring Goals: I would like our seasoned members to mentor our new members and help them achieve growth in our club, but also in the work place. We all have life experiences that we can share with each other. I would like for us to share information on new and upcoming technology that can help our business, or the business that we work for. Also I would like to reach out to our local high schools to start a mentoring program for the young ladies in our community.
- Membership Goals: I don’t want us to just retain our current membership, but build upon it. Invite your friends, coworkers, the lady that you meet in a doctor’s office, or your waitress who is working her way through college. Invite them to become part of our club.
- Finally, I would like to keep promoting our SBW scholarships and activities on social media (i.e. Facebook) and in the local newspaper while focusing on promoting who we are and our mission within our community.

Thank you again for allowing me the privilege to serve as your SBW president for the 2017-2018 year. Together we can keep “Holding onto Our Heritage and Moving Forward,” with educating and giving strength one to another.

Debra Andresen
SBW President 2017-18

2017– 2018 Sedalia Business Women Officers



Michelle Sparks, director; Debbie Ulmer, secretary; Della Schnakenberg, treasurer; Mickalya Peters, 2nd VP; Jessica Buesing, 1st VP; Donna Hirner-Gardner, president elect; Debra Andresen, president

May 4, 2017—Installation of Officers!

The May 2017 meeting was a time of change for Sedalia Business Women! We installed our new officers at a new meeting location. This was the club's first meeting at Sedalia Country Club. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

Donna Hirner-Gardner opened the meeting. Music was provided by four talented members of Smith-Cotton Junior High Sound Effects.

Dianne Simon installed the new officers: Debra Andresen, president; Donna Hirner-Gardner, president-elect; Jessica Buesing, 1st VP, Mickalya Peters, 2nd VP; Della Schnakenberg, treasurer; Debbie Ulmer, secretary; and Michelle Sparks, director.

Debra received proclamations and congratulations from officials. Her family presented her with a lovely floral bouquet.

Debra chose “Holding on to Our Heritage & Moving Forward” as her theme. Her acceptance speech outlined her goals for her term and is published on the SBW home page.

Donna Hirner-Gardner closed the meeting by announcing the awards Sedalia Business Women received at the State Conference. She distributed individual awards to the recipients.

[Click here for Sedalia Business Women Committees 2017-18](#)

Donna Hirner-Gardner
President 2016-2017
Shoot for the Moon and Land in the Stars



First of all I would like to say thank you for having the confidence in me to be elected as your president of the Sedalia Business Women club. I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for Lori Haney and all the SBW ladies giving me so much support.

My theme this year is "Shoot for the moon and land in the stars." To me you are all stars!

The goals I would like to see our club accomplish for 2016-2017 are the following:

- To retain our current membership and build onto our membership. I want to invite you to take your time and encourage your friends, and coworkers to become part of our club.
- To be involved with Domestic Violence Awareness and that is one reason I chose the color purple. We also need to

be involved with the Sexual Assault Awareness that is one reason why I chose the color blue. Teal blue is the Sexual Assault Awareness color.

- To help women going back to college through the use of our scholarships that Sedalia Business Women award to women who apply for the scholarships and win them. To keep promoting our scholarships on social media and in the newspaper.
- Support both local and state Foundation. We also need to continue to support our non-for profit organizations in our community through special projects.

Lastly to keep "Pay it forward" ongoing. I selected CASA as the organization to support. This organization exists to house, educate, advocate and give services to those who need them. It does this by developing goals and objectives when the victims first come into the shelter. The residents receiving counseling, case management, crisis care, and are referred to organizations to exist in our community to help those who are less fortunate

Our BWM objectives were defined in 1938 and have remained constant through the years. Our goal should be to achieve equality for all women in the workplace, continue opportunities for women through education and fellowship. We will advocate for educate end information, elevate standards for all women wherever they may be employed, and bring about a spirit of cooperation among all working women in Missouri.

Again let me thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your SBW president for the 2016-2017 year. With your support we can shoot for the moon and land in the stars. I chose the colors purple blue and silver because they are the colors of the universe. As we shoot for the moon and land in the stars we are reminded that each of us is a star.

Donna Hirner-Gardner
SBW President 2016-17

2016– 2017 Sedalia Business Women Officers



2016-17 SBW Officers: Debbie Ulmer, Debra Andresen, Michelle Sparks, Donna Hirner, and Della Schnakenberg. Not pictured: Dena Stockstill

Former SBW President Lori Haney installed the new officers. The 2016-17 SBW officers were installed during a candle ceremony with each color symbolizing the duties of the office. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Lori Haney read congratulatory letters from prominent persons in the community. She also presented President Donna Hirner-Gardner with a resolution from Representative Beard.

President Donna Hirner-Gardner outlined her goals for the coming year during her acceptance speech. Her theme for the coming year is “Shoot for the moon and land in the stars.”

Shirley McCown, chair, and the Music Committee along with volunteers created a festive location for the installation. The room sparkled with silver and blue stars. Rhoda Moore provided flowers for the tables and Kay Shull provided the lattice and tulle for the backdrop. SBW appreciates Rhoda and Kay’s contributions considering how busy their businesses are this time of year.

Many thanks to Shirley and her committee for once again making the president’s installation a night to remember!

[Click here for Sedalia Business Women Committees 2016-17](#)

Michelle Sparks
President 2015-2016



Embrace Our Past – Empower Our Future

I am honored to serve as your 2015-2016 president. My theme this year is “Embrace Our Past, Empower Our Future.”

Let’s start with the past when I served my first term as president two years ago. My theme was “Building a Strong Foundation... Pay It Forward.” I gained a lot of knowledge during the year I served as your president.

My goals for the upcoming year:

- Recognize the importance of maintaining a strong membership through retention and to be “empowered” enough to reach out to prospective members for our future growth.

- Help women who are trying to get their degree through our scholarships. I would like to see us promote our scholarship information on social networking sites and be more accessible in advertising the availability of our local scholarships.
- Embrace our past and keep our legacy strong through continuing support of our Foundation, both State and Local, and continue supporting our community non-profit organizations through Special Projects.
- To keep “Pay it Forward” ongoing, I have selected PROP’S. PROP exists to provide assistance to the homeless. It does this by assessing needs, developing a plan of action, providing case management, and referring/coordinating existing community resources and services. We will be collecting monthly supply donations to help those who are less fortunate.

I think now is the time we need to ask ourselves, “What can I do for SBW?” Then, consider what SBW can do for you: Networking, Contacts, Friendships, Mentoring others. Ask yourself, “Why do I stay in this organization?” Many of us have been in this organization thirty-plus years. We are the largest club in the state of Missouri. Five past state presidents came from our club first before going on to state accomplishments.

Our BWM objectives were defined in 1938 and have remained constant through the years. Our goals should be to achieve equality for all women in the workplace. We should advocate for education and information, elevate standards for all women where ever they may be employed, bring about the spirit of cooperation among all working women in Missouri, and continue opportunities for women through education and fellowship.

Again, I thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve another term as your 2015-2016 SBW president. Many ladies before me have served in this position, some even twice. I hope together, with your support, we can “Embrace Our Past and Empower Our Future.”

Michelle Sparks
SBW President 2015-16

Sedalia Business Women's 2015-16 Officers



**Front: Lori Haney, director; Michelle Sparks, president; Debbie Ulmer, secretary
Back: Amanda Davis (standing in for Donna Hirner-Gardner, president-elect); Kayla Clutter, first vice-president; Debra Andresen, second vice-president; Della Schnakenberg, treasurer.**

Sedalia Business Women installed new officers at the May Meeting. Incoming President Michelle Sparks chose “Embrace our past, Empower our future” as her theme for her second term as SBW President.

The installation ceremony was conducted by former club president, Arlene Wischmeier. Arlene instructed each officer in her duties. Each officer lit a candle from the unity candle to signify the board’s efforts to work together to accomplish their goals.

The Sedalia Club looks forward to a great year with our new board of directors, but in the spirit of embracing the past, we appreciate the foundation of past presidents and boards who have kept our club strong. We remain the largest club in the state!

Immediate past president, Lori Haney, expressed her appreciation of the Club’s support during her tenure as president. Lori has served the Club with distinction and promoted excellent communication with her weekly updates.

Congratulations, Michelle, executive board, and committee chairs!

[Click here for Sedalia Business Women Committees 2015-2016](#)

Lori Haney
President 2014-2015

Building on Our Legacy – Keep the Flame Alive



To my fellow SBW sisters – thank you for giving me this privilege. Thank you for entrusting me to be your president this year. My theme, my goal for this year is to continue “Building on our Legacy” and “to keep the flame alive.” As your president, I inherit a strong, rich history that was established by many women before my time. It is my goal to add to and learn from their work so that we can sustain our efforts to empower future generations of women. My goals this year include:

- Facilitating a cross-generational mentoring program through Individual Growth and Generations Taking Charge. I want our generations of traditionalists and baby boomers to share with our Gen-Xers and Millennials their

knowledge and expertise of the professional realm. To teach the tried and true business practices that can only come with years of work or through the guidance of mentoring. I want our Gen-Xers and Millennials to then mentor our Traditionalists and Baby Boomers on how to better incorporate technology into our business practices and into our club, and help us all learn the skills to keep up with a fast changing professional world.

- From this, I hope to create a social media committee whose focus is to promote who we are and share our mission with our community. I want this entire community to know the great work we are doing in this area so that it will draw new members to invest in this club and themselves.
- Finally, I want to continue this club’s tradition of supporting the work to rape and abuse of women and children in our community by continuing our support of “Operation Sweatsuit” for our sexual assault survivors and also host another “Panty Raid” to support rape and abuse survivors at CASA. I further want to honor our past president, Michelle Sparks, by continuing to “Pay It Forward.” CASA benefited greatly from all of the wonderful donations we received from this club during her year. As the director of CASA, I thank each of you. And my gesture to “Pay It Forward” is to encourage each of you to contribute monthly to

Child Safe, a wonderful agency in our community working to end the abuse and sexual assault of children.

It is my hope that these goals will help to promote the longevity of this organization and continue to empower a community of strong business women to lead us for generations to come. Throughout history, women have changed the cultural and political landscape of our world. Generations before us fought for women's rights to be landowners and to vote; for the right to work and expect equal pay for our work; for the right to make choices about our own bodies; and for the right to be defined as our own autonomous beings.

With each of these hard fought fights, it took the collaboration of many women to bring about change, and the change they yielded has bettered the circumstances for the next generation of women in this world.

It is my challenge to my fellow SBW sisters to recognize the strengths, capabilities, and accomplishments of the various generations that make up our club and the whole history of the women's movement.

There is a legacy that was left to every generation that preserved our history and made the next generations' circumstances better. My overarching goal for this year is to learn from one another, across generational lines, so that we may continue to build on that legacy left by the women before us. May our passion for equality and our passion to leave this world better than we found it, burn bright in each of us. I'm not asking that we pass the torch or flame on to the next generation of women to come, but that we share and help ignite that flame in each of them so that it burns eternally. Please help Keep the Flame Alive. We owe this to ourselves and to our fellow sisters. We've proven we can make lasting cultural, professional, and political change in this world. As women, we are fierce! We're amazing! Just look at Ginger Rogers, "She did everything Fred Astaire could do, but she did backwards and in high heels!"

I am honored to be your President, and look to each of you for your support and guidance to lead this club through my year as your President. I look forward to serving each of you and the legacy of Sedalia Business Women.

Lori Haney

SBW President 2014-15



Sedalia Business Women's 2014-15 Officers: Debbie Ulmer, secretary; Lori Haney, president; Michelle Sparks, president elect; Donna Hirner-Gardner, 1st vice president. Back row: Linda Fisher, director; Della Schnakenberg, treasurer. Not pictured: Katy Albrecht, 2nd vice president.

Sedalia Business Women Install Officers at May 8, 2014 Dinner Meeting

Past State President Nancy Grey installed Lori Haney as the 2014-2015 Sedalia Business Women's president at the May 8 dinner meeting. A Power Point slide show of Sedalia Business Women and upbeat music reinforced Lori's theme of "Building on Our Legacy, Keep the Flame Alive."

Lori said, "It is my challenge to my fellow SBW sisters to recognize the strengths, capabilities, and accomplishments of the various generations that make up our club and the whole history of the women's movement.

"There is a legacy that was left to each generation that preserved our history and made the next generations' circumstances better. My overarching goal for this year is to learn from one

another, across generational lines, so that we may continue to build on that legacy left by the women before us.”

The 2014-2015 slate of officers: Lori Haney, president; Michelle Sparks, president elect; Donna Hirner-Gardner, 1st vice president; Katie Albrecht, 2nd vice president; Debbie Ulmer, secretary; Della Schnakenberg, treasurer; and Linda Fisher, director.

Sedalia Business Women support the officers and look forward to a successful year.

[Click here for Sedalia Business Women Committees 2014-2015](#)

Michelle Sparks
President 2013-2014
Building a Strong Foundation: Pay It Forward



I am very honored to serve as your president. I chose my theme “Building a Strong Foundation...Pay it Forward” because it defines who I am.

I have been building my foundation for the past ten years. I joined this organization by way of Nancy Grey, who was my boss at the time at Applebee’s at the time, and is currently Business Women of Missouri state president. Nancy invited me to come check out this organization and see what it had to offer for women who were striving to be their best by doing their best.

Arlene Wischmeier, past president and past woman of the year, took me under her wing and began mentoring me. She encouraged me to apply for the scholarships Sedalia Business Women offers to women who are going back to school to further their education. Arlene also showed me what this club is so gracious about doing—giving back to our community. I became involved in Special Projects Committee and Foundation

Committee. At that time in my life, I was a full time student, mother, and wife, but also worked outside the home thirty-plus hours weekly.

I found time for other outside interests and was a supervisor judge at the local election polls. I met another person there who I call my encourager, Anne Hamilton. She is a past local president and active long time member of this club. Anne is one of the club members who encouraged me to take an active interest in this organization, first as a member and now as an officer. She has encouraged me to do my best to “go set the world on fire.”

I want to give special recognition to another woman who was a friend when I needed it the most and meant a lot to me and my family. She was a past president and woman of the year—Doris Tippie. Her enthusiasm was such a delight to my life, and I will always cherish her friendship.

Where I would like to see this organization go this year? I have a few goals I would like to see our group accomplish:

- To retain our current membership, but also build onto our membership. I encourage you to invite friends and co-workers to come be part of our club. To continue “Building a Strong Foundation.”
- To be involved with Domestic Violence Awareness. That is why I chose the passionate, vibrant royal color, purple. It stands on its own accord by saying “I am a survivor.” I would like to see our club give support to the local community shelter, whether by volunteering time, donations of needed items, or through monetary donations.
- Vote to let your voice be heard. Be active in letting our legislators know how you feel about women issues and the Equal Rights Amendment. As the saying goes “Vote early and vote often.” We have a voice; we need to be heard. I have been a supervisor judge for ten-plus years, at voting polls. I feel that it is important to keep ourselves informed on the voting issues at hand.

I have seen many changes over the past decade as this group of women continues to embrace the old and yet remain flexible enough to embrace the name change from BPW to SBW. The women before me who served as president laid the groundwork of a strong foundation that we can continue building on.

When I told past state president, Betty Beason, that I was the next local president for Sedalia, she said, “You have some big shoes to fill.” I hope I am up to the challenge ahead of me, and with your support, I know I can be.

I especially like “Pay it Forward” as the best way to give back what has been given to you. By paying it forward, I have been involved in a woman-to-woman mentoring program. I’ve mentored several different individuals over the past several years. Watching them grow and give back to their community gives me joy to know I had a hand in their growth. They are stronger for participating in this program. To know that someone cares and supports you means a lot. My challenge to you is to become a mentor to someone you may not know very well and give them your support without expecting anything in return. I promise you, you will be rewarded, and it will come back to you in other ways.

Lastly, I would like to thank those that got me here to this point in my life: my family. To my husband Chris—your support means a lot to me. Thank you for allowing me to pursue my dreams. I know it has been a sacrifice on your behalf with me gone a lot, involved in many different organizations. I thank you for putting up with me and always loving me for the past twenty-three years.

To my daughter Ashley, I hope you will always pursue your heart’s desire. Don’t settle for anything less. I hope I have helped you become a strong, independent individual who will always seek to strive the best life has to offer. I want you to know how proud I am of you. You amaze me every day by how much you are growing up from a child to young adult. I know with my determination and your dad’s stubbornness, you are going to go far in life. I hope someday if you

get the chance, you will be able to “Pay It Forward.” I love you both. Sometimes I take that for granted and don’t say it often enough.

To my grandma: thank you for being a positive role model in my life. You are always giving from your heart and wanting only the best for others. Love you.

To my friends who support me. I have had a lot of wonderful memories with you. Many of you have been a rock, a steady constant, and always there in my corner during the good times and bad. You have had my back, and I have yours. You are a solid piece of my foundation. I can count on you to be there to encourage me along the way.

To Linda Fisher: Thank you for taking me under your supervision wing. I hope I can “fill those big shoes” you are leaving behind and carry on where you are leaving off. You helped our organization out when we were experiencing some difficult changes. You did it with class, grace and made it look so effortless. Your encouraging words over this past year have meant a lot to me.

I hope this year holds a lot of promise and surprises. Expect the unexpected. I know it will be a challenging and a fun year. With my officers and club support, we can “Build a Strong Foundation by Paying it Forward” together.

Michelle Sparks

SBW President 2013-14



Julia Bowers, 1st Vice President; Donna Hirner, Secretary; Della Schnakenberg, Treasurer; Michelle Sparks, President; Linda Fisher, Director; Lori Haney, President Elect. Brenda Tippie, 2nd Vice President not pictured.

SBW May 2013 Dinner Meeting – Installation

Posted on [June 8, 2013](#) by [Lfisher](#)

President Linda Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Debbie Ulmer gave the invocation. After the club collect and the Pledge of Allegiance, Linda announced there would be no business meeting. The program was installation of new officers.

Michelle Sparks was installed as president 2013-14. Her theme is Building a Strong Foundation-Pay it Forward. Her goals are to build membership, promote domestic violence awareness, and encourage members to vote to let legislators know we support women's issues and the ERA. Michelle's speech is on SBW's homepage at www.sedaliabwm.org.

Other officers installed: Lori Haney, president-elect; Julia Bowers, first vice president; Brenda Tippie, second vice president; Della Schnakenberg, treasurer; Donna Hirner, secretary; and Linda Fisher, Director.

[Click here for Sedalia Business Women Committees 2013-2014](#)

Linda Fisher
President 2012-2013
Connect the Dots



A short year ago, I talked to you about Brighter Tomorrows, and the symbolism of the feminine surface. It certainly seems that the past year just flew by, and yet, looking back, it was a year jam-packed with events and accomplishments.

I've had the opportunity to work closely with many of you, and that allowed me to learn from you. I learned from my board that when I ask for "ayes", I should ask if anyone is opposed. I learned that sometimes there really are friends at a silent auction, and they are outbidding you because they've figured out what you really want and then they surprise you with it.

I am awed by the creativity and resourcefulness of the talented and dedicated SBW members. I was blessed with a board that supported me and pitched in time after time to go

above and beyond their job descriptions.

The standing committees planned outstanding programs ranging from personal finance to historical women of Sedalia. We had a successful chicken dinner, and donated the proceeds to CASA, Child Safe, Meals on Wheels, and Open Door "Buddy Packs." Last year we gave three – \$700 scholarships and with another successful Red Purse raffle, we are in good shape to award scholarships again this year.

Now is not the time to stand back and reflect on the past—it is time to connect the dots in order to focus on the future.

My goals, or dots, to connect for 2012-2013 are:

- **Increase our club's visibility in the community:** The time for humility has passed! When we have an excellent program, award scholarships, or support our community—it should be in the newspaper. Our chicken dinner and red purse raffle are newsworthy events. We should throw the spotlight on our members when they win awards or accomplish great things.
- **Encourage networking within our club and on a state level:** Locally, we've had socials, friendship lunches, and several of us communicate on Facebook. But we need to move outside our little group. We should encourage our friends and co-workers join us when we plan outings, or invite them to a friendship lunch. Post activities on Facebook, keep SBW visible. I would like to see us much more

involved in Business Women of Missouri. We are the largest club in the state with 86 members and although we were well represented at the state conference with seven attendees, a club with 25 members had eight. Other conferences you should consider attending are the leadership conference, the legislative conference, the regional meeting, and inspiration breakfast. Most of the dues you pay go to support the programs offered by BWM. These conferences are opportunities to connect the dots between our club and BWM.

- **Support women in transition through scholarships and mentoring:** Let's continue our support of scholarships both locally and on the state level. I would like to see us support women in the military through adopt a female soldier, and help women transitioning out of the military. BWM has ideas to help, all we need to do is ask.
- **Fulfill our mission to advocate for women's issues through a grassroots movement.** We need to have a process in place so that we can mobilize our club to support legislation that affects women. I would like our legislative committee to offer a screening of Iron Jawed Angels to help us connect the dots between the indifference that stalled the ERA amendment to the passion of Alice Paul who wrote the amendment.
- **Build membership and retain current members:** We can continue to build membership by offering friendship, support, and recognition to our members. We need to continue with great programs at our monthly meeting. I would like every member to make a personal commitment to invite a friend to at least one meeting this year. Through these invitations, we will naturally build membership. I joined this group after Brenda invited me to one meeting, then another, and yet another. It didn't take me long to realize this group was made up of women who tirelessly used their talents to make this a better community for women of all circumstances. I've come to know your compassion, caring, and friendship.

Our goals are connected to those set forth by BWM President Megan Broemmer who was just installed as state president. Our own Nancy Grey is currently BWM's president elect. Dianne Simon is committee chair for Individual Growth and I am serving as Regional Director Elect for the Northwest region.

Our club was recognized at the state conference for several awards. We received the Protecting the Legacy Award for Issues Management (Michelle Sparks, Chair), the Traveling Legislative Award (Brenda Tippie, Chair), Embracing the Future Top Recruiter Award, Nancy Grey, for recruiting 6 members, One Step at a Time Recruiting awards went to Brenda Tippie, Denise Jaegers, Sue Parrish, Vera Chrismer, and Marge Lumpe. Congratulations to each of you for winning these awards.

Thank you for choosing me as your president in 2012-13. I look forward to working with Michelle, Lori, Julia, Carolyn, Della, Cindy, committee chairs, presidential appointees, and members to connect the dots to keep our organization vital and relevant.

I accept the challenge and see this as an opportunity to work with each of you throughout the year ahead. As we connect the dots together, they will lead us in the direction we are meant to take. We will keep moving forward to improve ourselves personally and professionally one dot, one step, at a time.

Linda Fisher



SBW 2012-2013 Officers – Cindy Goalder (Director), Carolyn Green (Secretary-not pictured), Della Schnakenberg (Treasurer), Julia Bowers (Second VP), Lori Haney (Vice President), Michelle Sparks (President Elect) and Linda Fisher (President).

Linda Fisher
President 2011-2012
Brighter Tomorrows



I am honored to serve as president of Sedalia Business Women for 2011-2012.

I began my apprenticeship toward this office by serving as corresponding secretary for Nancy Grey, Membership Chair (2nd vice president) for Marla Franklin, Issues Management (1st vice president) for Dianne Simon, and Finance Chair (president elect) for Cindy Goalder. Through their dedication and leadership skills, these women, like the presidents before them, shaped brighter tomorrows for our club.

Nancy and Marla served while we were part of BPW/USA. Dianne was president during the transition away from our national organization. Our club united to support this important and necessary change. Cindy was president when we re-chartered as Sedalia Business Women of

Missouri.

Now, we have found our footing as an organization with the best of both worlds. We have the passion and history of Business and Professional Women while moving forward with a revitalized organization with stronger ties to our community and to our state.

I have chosen the feminine sunface to represent growth and positive energy. My theme Brighter Tomorrows for Women of All Generations recognizes that our current members, past members, and future members are essential to our success. The women who came before us left a legacy for current members to build on to make brighter tomorrows for the women who will someday assume our roles.

Recently, I met Helen Giokaris who joined our club in 1950 and served as our president in 1966-67. Helen was given a “gift of a day.” She was asked the question, “If you knew you had only one day left to live, what would you like to do?” Helen chose to spend her day visiting with the friends she made in BPW and to meet the new members—the women who currently carry the baton. I didn’t know what to expect, and was pleasantly surprised to meet such an intelligent, likable, and delightful woman. Helen Giokaris was still passionate about belonging to this group.

Joining the Sedalia club was a pivotal moment for me. I met and became friends with women of all generations and stand in awe of their individual talents and skills. SBW membership gives me opportunities to learn from our monthly programs as well as from Business Women of Missouri (BWM) conferences and seminars.

SBW and BWM offer leadership opportunities for women at all stages of their careers. Both groups offer scholarships to women of all ages whether they are just beginning college or are in transition. BWM is working on a Generations Taking Charge program—formerly known as Young Careerist. This year, SBW reinstated the Individual Growth program under the leadership of Dianne Simon and Nancy Grey.

Our committee chairs put together outstanding programs throughout the year. For example, the finance committee has announced the June speaker will be Virgil McDonald with Edward Jones Investments speaking on “A Woman’s Guide to Money Matters.” Programs like this add value to your SBW membership.

At the Conference last weekend, the Business Women of Missouri announced the 2011-12 Issues Management topics. These topics will be our focus throughout the coming year.

1. **Embrace the future with technology at all membership levels.** SBW uses technology to communicate with our members. We have an outstanding website, thanks to our web designer and webmaster, Harold Ream. I want to see us kick it up a notch to make the website the go-to resource for our members and prospective members.
2. **Protect the legacy by increasing membership.** SBW has more than 70 members and is the largest club in the state. My goal is to increase membership by 10% through member retention and by attracting new members.
3. **Embrace the future by promoting Business Women of Missouri throughout the state.** We can wholeheartedly support Business Women of Missouri’s legislative platform, which includes the Alice Paul Equal Rights Amendment, economic equity, health programs, and civil and social programs.

Through our members’ community involvement, we make an impact throughout the state. When we are passionate about a cause, we find time to be involved. In addition to SBW, I’m a volunteer for the Alzheimer’s Association and still find time for involvement in three different writing groups.

How many of you volunteer for other organizations besides SBW? Because you are busy women, I want you to know that I truly appreciate the time you devote to committee work and to fulfill the SBW mission.

SBW promotes the professional growth of women in our community. Beneath the watchful eyes of the feminine surface, SBW members can use their positive energy to develop personally, professionally, and spiritually. Each member is important to our success, and I look forward to working with each of you to make brighter tomorrows for women of all generations.

Linda Fisher



On May 5, 2011, Sedalia Business Women officers were installed for 2011-2012 at Best Western. Officers from left to right are Cindy Goalder (Director), Della Schnakenberg (Treasurer), LaSondra Marsch (Secretary), Valerie Dent (2nd Vice President), Michelle Sparks (1st Vice President), Stacy Purvis (President Elect), and Linda Fisher (President).

Cindy Goalder
President 2010-2011
****Women Emerging****



Over the past couple years our club has experienced many changes. I am sure some people have questioned what direction we would go in by leaving the National Organization; I know we all had many questions and concerns. But not unlike the Butterfly we broke out of our “cocoon” and are “emerging” a renewed and revitalized club in the community and are as of last state conference still the largest in the state.

Over this past year Dianne and the board have lead our club in the direction that I feel we should be going in, and we can feel comfortable with. I know Dianne had some issues as we all did on how quickly some of the transitions went, but I think overall we are on the right tract.

I know most of you have been members of this club for many years, and you know the time and work that goes into sustaining a club such as ours. We have lost several members for various reasons over the past several years, and unfortunately we haven’t had as many new members. It’s not just about attending the friendship lunch or the monthly dinner meeting; it’s about creating something that all women in Sedalia, and the State, can benefit from—either by education, networking or supporting various issues concerning women. All members of this club have something to contribute in some way. We will continue to focus this year on moving forward and continue the process to be a strong group that the community can continue to admire.

Our club has a long history in Sedalia and throughout the State. We have had four Past State Presidents from Sedalia. We have had members who have held director and state board positions. Nancy Grey was elected this past state conference as Secretary. Our accomplishments in the past have been abundant and I know we will continue that tradition as Sedalia Business Women.

Our state president this year, Ellen Hill chose the theme- Believe in the Power of Women. I am sure that all the local clubs in the State will join with her to make sure we support the action items of her platform.

Her issues include: Believe in the Power of Women to Achieve Economic Equality, Believe in the Power of Women to Have an Impact on the Future, and Believe in the Power of Women to End Domestic Violence.

I think my theme “Women Emerging” Past, Present and Future will work well to accomplish both our goals. It will take our past history and experiences to continue working on the new and exciting programs: such as the new Individual Growth and Generations Taking Charge. These

programs will both help to educate new and existing members in a way that we need to be able to keep up-to-date on what is going on around us.

I think all of us would like to be a part of history and see a Women's Equality Amendment passed in Missouri it's long over due and something I hope everyone will get involved in by contacting their government representatives and getting them to support this important women's issue. I know our Legislative Committee will keep us informed of all the upcoming issues that concern all women.

The women of today have a tremendous impact on every issue that happens today in their lives. Much more than they did when this club started more than 80 years ago, but those women helped pave the way for what we can accomplish now and for the young women that are to come after us. Our members need to encourage other women to become involved in Sedalia Business Women. We have a lot of new ideas in mind and hope you all will get more involved in the coming year.

Times are changing, technology is changing, and we need to keep up and be an important part of those changes. I look forward to a great year. I encourage all of you to step out of your box, and to emerge a Powerful Sedalia Business Women of the Future.

Cindy Goalder