

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.

May 2015 – SBW Installation of Officers

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!



Lori Haney and Michelle Sparks

June 2015 – Paddle Party!



The June 2015 SBW Dinner meeting was under the direction of the Finance Committee, Donna Hirner-Gardner Chair. President Michelle Sparks called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Vendors, local businesses, and members donated items for a paddle party. Bidding was spirited! We were pleased to have Bethany Kreisel and Diana Borlak join us for the evening. They had heard about the paddle party and decided to check us out.



Michelle presented Jamie Folsom with a certificate from BWM Foundation for a \$1,000 scholarship. Congratulations, Jamie!



President Michelle Sparks presented awards received at the BWM State Conference. SBW won the Legislative Award, Issues Management Honorable Mention, Mentoring Honorable Mention, and recognition for a Club contribution to BWM Foundation. Several members received recruitment awards.

Membership Chair Debra Andresen installed new members Cheryl Ames and Jeanie Cable. Della Schnakenberg is their sponsor.



Sedalia Business Women July 2015 Dinner Meeting



Msg. Lakisha D. Lee, USAF

Sedalia Business Women welcomed a new member! Alesia Wissman was installed at last night's dinner meeting.

We had a great meeting! Our guest speaker MSgt Lakisha D. Lee, USAF, gave us insightful information about being a woman in the military.



La Sondra Marsch won the drawing and told us about her long banking career. Thank you, La Sondra for sharing your story with us.

SBW August 2015 Dinner Meeting



The SBW August Dinner Meeting was under the direction of the telephone Committee, Debbie Ulmer, chair. Her committee members are Linda Alcorn, Heather Burdick, Carol Sawyer, and Cindy Weaver.

The guest speaker was Jason McClain, pastor of Olive Branch Church, whose presentation was entertaining and informative. Jason joined the Navy at 16, but had to delay entry until he turned 17. He said that an alcoholic drug addict led him to Christ. He told his story with humor indicating that when he decided he didn't want to work at a job, the Lord had reasons for making that very job the one where he would find employment. He said he never

even liked the smell of wood and hated shop in school. Now, he owns his own business, Mayflower Cabinets.

Jason went to Colorado Springs to Bible College. Eventually, he became the pastor at Olive Branch Church. He is a mentor to individuals who are struggling to overcome addiction. His philosophy is "What's behind us is what we stand on. It is our foundation."

President Michelle Sparks announced the career advancement committee has chosen three recipients for the 2015 scholarships. They will be announced at the September meeting.



SBW September 2015 Dinner Meeting — Scholarships!



Stacie Savage, President Sparks, Heather Slagle, Co-chair Linda Fox, Carrie Gleason, Chair Valerie Dent

The September 3 SBW meeting was under the direction of the Career Advancement Committee, Valerie Dent, chair, and Linda Fox, co-chair. Each year, Sedalia Business Women awards scholarships depending on available funds. Scholarships are awarded to based on financial need to women who are pursuing a certificate or degree to re-enter the job market or re-train to improve job opportunities.

This year, Sedalia Business Women awarded three \$700 scholarships. The scholarship recipients were the speakers at the meeting. Carrie Gleason has a goal to obtain a Master's Degree in Social Work. She spoke about how her battle with cancer motivated her to return to school. Stacie Savage is a student at the University of Central Missouri obtaining a degree in dietetics and a minor in psychology. Heather Slagle is a student and member of Phi Theta Kappa at SFCC.

Linda Fisher gave a report on the BWM Leadership Conference held in St. Clair. She highlighted some of the excellent speakers and workshops. A recap of the meeting is on the club's website.

President Michelle Sparks made several announcements including an upcoming social event to watch "Stand By Your Man" at the Lyceum. She also announced an October 1 deadline for Business of the Year nominees and October 12 as the deadline for Woman of the Year nominees.

Business Women's Week is in October. Several events are being planned.



Debra Andresen installed Brenda Moore, Pettis County Services Director at the Senior Center, as a new member. Her sponsor is Della Schnakenberg.

The October meeting will be under the direction of the Legislative Committee, Linda Fisher, chair. The speaker will be Beverly Chapman, Victim's Advocate at the Pettis County Prosecutors Office. This meeting will be our pajama party. Members are asked to wear pajamas or sweats and bring new underwear in all sizes for CASA.

It's a Pajama Party! October 1 at the SBW Meeting.

Plan on joining us for our third annual Pajama Party.

Our guest speaker will be Beverly Chapman, Victim's Advocate at the Pettis County Prosecutors Office speaking on services for victims of crime.

Come in your PJ's or comfy clothes and bring undergarments for CASA because every abused woman and child deserves new undergarments!

Imagine leaving home in the middle of the night without a change of clothing. Wondering what size to get? Buy your size or the size you would buy for your child or grandchild. Victims of domestic abuse come in all shapes and sizes.

Invite a friend to join us for an evening of Sedalia women helping victims of domestic abuse. We will be having breakfast for \$12.50 which includes tip, tax, and beverage. Visitors welcome! If you wish to attend, email sbwmail@sedaliabwm.org by September 28 to make your reservation.

See you there!

SBW October 1 Legislative – Pajama Party



Pajama clad SBW members holding CASA donations.



The October meeting, under the direction of the Legislative Committee (Linda Fisher, chair), featured a “Pajama Party” with donations of undergarments for CASA.

Mayor Stephen Galliher signed a proclamation declaring October 18-24 Business Women of Missouri Week in Sedalia. The mayor presented the proclamation to SBW President Michelle Sparks.

The Club has planned several activities for Business Women’s Week, which can be found on the Business Women’s Week page on the Website.

Beverly Chapman, Victims Advocate, gave a presentation outlining the services her office provides to victims of domestic violence. They help victims navigate the system. She said that we must refuse to tolerate abuse. Her presentation was eye-opening and

relevant. She answered pertinent questions after the presentation.

President Michelle Sparks reported on the Northwest Regional Meeting that she and Kayla Clutter attended in Kansas City. She reported that it was a good meeting. Michelle is now the Northwest Regional Director Elect and will serve in 2017.

The President announced that President-elect Donna Hirner Gardner and Linda Fisher will be on KSIS October 14 at 9:00 a.m. and KDRO October 15 at 8:00 a.m. They will be talking about the club, Business Women's Week, and the Chicken Dinner.

The Club will participate in Bell Ringing at J.C. Penney, Saturday, November 21. Linda Alcorn has the signup sheet.

Cindy Goalder won a prize for bringing a guest and Donna Stetzenbach won the birthday prize.



Cindy Goalder, Legislative Committee member, created the Halloween decorations.

SBW Public Relations Dinner, November 5, 2015



The Sedalia Business Women held their public relations dinner in the Best Western Upstairs Banquet Room. The meeting was called to order by President Michelle Sparks. Debbie Ulmer gave the invocation. The Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts Color Guard presented the flag and Madison Lamb sang the National Anthem.

Sue Parrish presented the **Woman of the Year** award to **Carolyn Green**. In addition, to the accolades in the formal presentation of the award, Sheriff Kevin Bond added comments about the instrumental part Carolyn has played in helping children in our community through her dedication to Child Safe. Linda Alcorn, 2014-15 Woman of the Year, presented the Woman of the Year pin to Carolyn. Congratulations, Carolyn!



Elaine Bryson introduced several guests including several local officials, Business Women of Missouri State President LuAnn Irby, BWM President-elect, Sharron Sutton, Past State President Betty Beason, and Heart of the Ozarks President, Tami Mills.





Donna Stetzenbach, chair of the Business of the Year Committee, presented the Business of the Year award to Starline Brass. Barbara and Robert Hayden were present to receive the award. Congratulations, Starline!

Zak Wilson, Development Director for the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, spoke on the state's sexual assault laws and gave an overview of victim services throughout the state.



Chair Lori Haney presents a check to Zak Wilson for MCADSV

BWM President LuAnn Irby greeted those in attendance and announced upcoming events of Business Women of Missouri.



Msgt Jamil Goodwin, Msgt Matthew Osborn, Dianne Simon and Carol Sawyer

The Club's service project during Business Women's Week was the Warm Heart Fund. A check was presented to Msgt Matthew Osborn and Msgt Jamil Goodwin for more than \$350.

Cindy Weaver won the birthday drawing.

The meeting ended with the Emblem benediction.



Msgt Goodwin and Msgt Osborn won table decorations



Madison Lamb singing the National Anthem

Sedalia Business Women Ring Bell for Salvation Army



Cindy Goalder

On November 21, Sedalia Business Women Volunteers rang the bell for the Salvation Army at J. C. Penney's store. The first volunteers turned up at 10:00 a.m. and throughout the cold, blustery day, volunteers rang the bell until 5:00 p.m.

Braving the cold: Denise Jaegers, Beverly Dillon, Linda Fisher, Cindy Goalder, Debra Andresen, Mackayla Peters, Michelle Sparks, Marty Walkington, Carol Sawyer, Alesia Wissman, Linda Alcorn and La Sondra Marsch.

Thank you, Linda Alcorn for coordinating this event that raised \$536.30 for the Salvation Army!



Marty Walkington, Mickayla Peters, Debra Andresen

SBW December Dinner Meeting – December 3, 2015



Sedalia Business Women celebrated the holiday season with a special program. The Youth Choir of First Baptist Church, accompanied by Virginia Sparks entertained the group with several selections of Christmas music. The lyrics were provided in sign language for the hearing impaired.

The meeting was under the direction of the Socials Committee. Following dinner the group participated in a gift exchange through a fun game. Chair Carolyn Green read a story and the gifts were passed to the right or left each time the word appeared in the story. It was in the

story several times!

Faye Hunton won the birthday gift and the 50/50 drawing!

Red purse raffle tickets were distributed to members in attendance.

The January 7 meeting is under the direction of the Membership Committee. Speaker will be Brandy Wilson on the topic of women's health.



January 7, 2016 Sedalia Business Women's Meeting



The January Sedalia Business Women's meeting was under the direction of the Membership Committee, Debra Andresen, chair.

Brandy Wilson was 25 years old when she had a heart attack within days of giving birth. She had a headache, pain in her arm, chest, and back. Because of her age and apparent health, the ambulance refused to take her to the hospital.

When she arrived at the hospital she met the same resistance to the possibility of heart attack. She listened to her gut feeling of "impending doom"

and insisted on proper treatment for her condition. She came out of a state of depression and more medical problems to determined to become a nurse. Now, Brandy is an RN and charge nurse for the medical surgical unit at Western Missouri Medical Center. Brandy's story was informative and inspirational.

Dianne Simon reported on the December State Board Meeting which was held in Columbia. She extended kudos to SBW member Cindy Goalder for maintaining both SBW's and BWM's Facebook accounts and doing an excellent job!

Michelle Sparks, president, announced that Business Women of Missouri's scholarship deadline is February 1. She also announced the upcoming Legislative meeting in March and State Conference in May.

Debra Andresen installed three new members: Nichole Vallery (sponsor Cindy Goalder), Robin Balke (sponsor Dianne Simon) and Diana Eckhoff (sponsor Marge Lumpe).



Nichole Vallery with sponsor Cindy Goalder



Diana Eckhoff with sponsor Marge Lumpe



Debra Andresen, chair, Robin Balke, Dianne Simon, sponsor

Sedalia Business Women, February 4, 2016, Red Purse Raffle!

Foundation Co-chairs Lori Haney and Amanda Davis had a fun evening planned for SBW's February meeting. We had an opportunity to bid on several accessories on the silent auction table—purses, scarves, jewelry while we waited for the big reveal as to who would win the red purse raffle and the members' only clutch.

We played a purse game that told more about us than we might have wanted others to know. The items the SBW ladies carry around in their purses is amazing, along with the speed they retrieve them!



Karen Steele was the lucky winner of the 2016 Red Purse Raffle with a value of more than \$800. Thanks to the local businesses and individuals who donated items for the purse and for all who bought tickets. Proceeds from the raffle benefit scholarships for women in our area.



Debbie Ulmer won the members' only clutch valued at \$135.

SBW installed two new members Marti Greenslade (sponsored by Donna Hirner-Gardner) and Donna Haley (sponsored by Cindy Weaver). Marti immediately won the birthday gift donated by Handel Haus in Cole Camp (Judy Smasal, owner). We want to extend a warm welcome to our new members!



Cindy Goalder won the business card drawing and she told us about Goalder Transportation, the company she and her husband own.

Our silent auction brought in more than \$300 which will be donated to Business Women of Missouri Foundation on behalf of the club. BWM provides up to eleven \$1,000 scholarships statewide.

Sedalia Business Women, March 3, 2016, Individual Growth



The March SBW meeting was under the direction of the Individual Growth Committee, Dianne Simon, Chair. The meeting focus was mentoring. Guest speakers were Michael Wright, Head Coach for Team SCREAM and teacher at Smith-Cotton High School, and Team SCREAM members, Erica Shawl and Lora Haney. Smith-Cotton Robotics Engineering and Mathematics (SCREAM) is a mentor based robotics team that has competed in both statewide and national competitions.

During the presentation, Dianne Simon, chair, distributed Lego sets without instructions. Each table was challenged to use teamwork and creativity to build something out of the Lego's. This resulted in some interesting creations!

Members of the SCREAM Team judged the pieces.





President Michelle Sparks reminded the members of the April 21-23 BWM Conference at Camden on the Lake.



SBW will sponsor a girl for Girls State Conference. The Club is also sponsoring a table at Go Red for Women. The SBW members attending the event paid for their own tickets.

The March birthday winner was Anne Hamilton.

The April 7th dinner meeting will be under the direction of the Special Projects Committee, Nancy Grey, Donna Hirner-Gardner and Deanna Stockstill Co-chairmen. The dinner meeting will be held at the Shrine multi-purpose building with dinner being catered.

Sedalia Business Women, April 7, 2016, Special Projects



The April 7th dinner meeting was held at the Shrine Multi-purpose Building on Elm Hills Boulevard. This meeting was under the direction of the Special Projects Committee and an opportunity to thank our Chicken Dinner cookers and volunteers.

This year's recipients of the proceeds of the Chicken Dinner were Child Safe, CASA, and Meals on Wheels. Handing out checks to great causes. Nancy Grey to Kim Allen of Child Safe, Dena Stockstill to Shirley Homan of Meals on Wheels Michelle Sparks, President and Donna Hirner to Lori Haney of CASA.

The guest speakers were from Black Dawn shooting range and JC Penney's line of cosmetics.

2016 State Conference – Camden on the Lake



Della Schnakenberg, Donna Hirner-Gardner, Michelle Sparks, Dianne Simon, Cindy Goalder, and Linda Fisher

The Business Women of Missouri's 95th Annual State Conference was held at Camden on the Lake, Lake Ozark, Missouri, April 22-24-2016. Six SBW members attended the conference: Della Schnakenberg, Donna Hirner-Gardner, Michelle Sparks, Dianne Simon, Cindy Goalder, and Linda Fisher. SBW Member Stacie Savage attended the Business Women of Missouri Foundation meeting where she was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.



Stacie Savage, Business Women of Missouri Scholarship Winner



Dianne Simon, Cindy Goalder, Linda Fisher, Michelle Sparks

Sedalia Business Women received a Legislative Award (shared with Harrisonville/Cass County BWM, Three Rivers BWM, and Excelsior Springs BWM) and a Mentoring Award (shared with Harrisonville/Cass County BWM).

Sedalia Business Women received a Soaring to New Heights Membership Award for gaining the most new members. SBW members earning Spreading Your Wings Membership Awards for recruiting one new member: Debra Andresen, Donna Hirner-Gardner, Sue Parrish, Lori Haney, Carol Sawyer, Cindy Weaver, Marge Lumpe, Dianne Simon, and Cindy Goalder. Della Schnakenberg was the only Business Women of Missouri member who recruited five new members. Congrats all!

The Sedalia Business Women club received recognition for contributing to BWM's Foundation (\$350). In addition to the club's contribution, individuals from SBW contributed to BWM Foundation. Della Schnakenberg met the Gold Challenge, Linda Fisher met the Silver Challenge, and Lori Haney made a personal contribution to Foundation.

Our region, the Northwest Region, also contributed to Foundation. Michelle Sparks is the Northwest Regional director elect.