

President's Message

By Lori Lewandowski, Wells Fargo

Well, according to the calendar it is after Memorial Day, so it's the official start of summer. I just hope Mother Nature realizes that.



Lori Lewandowski
2011 Forum of
Executive Women
President

Thank you to all of our FEW members who participated in our Focus Groups in May. We will be carefully evaluating the feedback we received and making changes as appropriate. Stay tuned as we will be presenting our finding to the membership.

As we end another school year we think about teachers who have touched our lives. One of the most prominent teachers in history is Anne Sullivan. Most everyone knows her famous pupil, Helen Keller, but people know less about Anne. By age seven she was almost completely blind due to an untreated illness. By the age of ten her mother and brother were both dead and her abusive, alcoholic father had abandoned the family. The turning point in her life occurred at age 14 when she was allowed to enroll in the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts. While at Perkins, Anne had several successful eye operations, which improved her sight significantly. In 1886 she graduated from Perkins as valedictorian of her class. A short time later, Anne accepted the Keller family's offer to come to Tuscumbia, Alabama, to tutor their blind, deaf, mute daughter, Helen. She became Helen's lifelong teacher and friend.

Make sure you attend our next meeting on July 13, when we have a Garden Party! We will be featuring local experts on gardens and skin health.

- ◆ "Ten Easy Tips for Your Vegetable Garden" - Chanda Gebhardt, Owner of Fairview Gardens
- ◆ "Sun Smart and Beautiful Skin" - Maretta Johannes, CCE, SkinFitNess, MD

Be sure to join us—this will be a high-energy event!

Exciting Meetings Ahead

July 13: Garden Party!

Join us at our July 13, 2011 FEW garden party! Adorn yourself with your favorite party dress and come for some fun. We'll be learning about a few topics that affect us all at this time of year.



◆ **“Ten Easy Tips for Your Vegetable Garden”** - Chanda Gebhardt, Owner of Fairview Gardens

◆ **“Sun Smart and Beautiful Skin”** - Maretta Johannes, CCE, SkinFitNess, MD

The FEW program starts at 11:30 at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud and includes lunch. There is no fee for members and guests pay just \$20. All are welcome, so please invite your friends and colleagues.

Upcoming 2011 Meetings

August 10	Kate Hopper, Author – Motherhood, Memoir Writing and Tips for Getting Published
September 14	Cyrus International – Human Trafficking: “They’re Bringing Terror, We’re Bringing Hope”
October 12	MaryBeth Overland – Enneagram Inventory and Tapping Your Potential as a Leader
November 9	Business Meeting
December 14	Holiday Social

Featured FEW: Meet Brenda Brown



Brenda considers herself very lucky to have always worked professionally for organizations that she has a personal connection to. She began her fourteen-year advancement career with the Girl Scouts, an organization that is close to her heart as she was a Navy brat who moved around a lot as a child— but she was always a Girl Scout. After working for the Girl Scouts in St. Cloud and in Minneapolis as the Vice President for Development, she turned her attention to her other passion, the Catholic Church. Brenda became the Development and Admissions Director of Holy Trinity High School in Winsted, Minnesota. Finding Winsted to be too Mayberry-ish, she moved her family back to Central Minnesota and became the Director of Communications for the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict. Brenda loved working with the Sisters, but when the Director of Development position opened at Saint John's Prep, she knew she had to take it as the educational benefits for her children were too important to pass up. She currently serves as the Director of Advancement, directing all aspects of Development and Alumni Relations of her three-person office.

Brenda has been married for 17 years to Eric Brown and together they have four children, Alyssa is 14, Mitchell is 10 and the surprise! twins, Ethan and Anthony, are four. They live on the Chain of Lakes in Cold Spring. Eric is the Director of Marketing and Business Development for Contregrity Group in Little Falls. They also have a seven-year-old black lab cross, Dora, whom they adopted from the Humane Society.

Brenda loves to travel and was fortunate to take a group of alumni, parents and students on a trip to the Holy Land last year. This year she and Fr. Tim are taking a group to Turkey over the New Year, following the evolution of Christianity (if you want to go, let her know!). In June she is traveling to Europe for her third trip there. She also loves less exotic places, as long as there is a sunny beach and a good book!

She also loves to scrapbook and goes away twice a year with her girlfriends to scrapbook—and she actually does get a lot of pages done! Studying English for three years prior to switching her major to Organizational Management at SCSU, makes her a writer and book lover at heart. She is currently working on a fictionalized novel about her father's experiences in the Six Day War in Egypt in 1967. Brenda also DVRs all of the Sunday morning political talk shows and is happy to engage in political conversation without making enemies. She listens to both MPR and Fox News, so you try and figure out her political bent!

Brenda is honored to be a member of the Forum of Executive Women and enjoys being with high-powered women from the St. Cloud area. Being on the board this past year as AVP for Communications has been a joy and volunteering outside of the monthly meeting has made her membership come alive.

Upcoming Events



June 16: Fireside with FEW

The June Fireside with FEW will be Thursday, June 16. Join us at the Red Carpet Martini Lounge any time from 4:30 to 7:30 and enjoy your favorite beverages and appetizers in the company of some wonderful women. This is a fun and relaxed atmosphere for getting to know our fabulous FEW members.

June 21: Free Timberwolves Basketball Clinic



The 2011 U.S. Bank / Timberwolves Caravan is coming to St. Cloud on Tuesday, June 21. A basketball clinic featuring Anthony Tolliver, Wayne Ellington, Assistant Coach J.B. Bickerstaff and team mascot CRUNCH, will be held at North Junior High School from 9 - 10:30 a.m. (Enter Door #3) This event is free and open to the public. Timberwolves merchandise will be for sale at the event and Boys & Girls Clubs of Central MN will receive the proceeds. Any questions, contact Laura Supan, Vice President, Private Banking, U.S. Bank.

June 23: Dinner Theatre Event Near Alexandria

The Lakes Area Professional Women's group from Alexandria is hosting a fun-charged night out with dinner at Bug-a-Boo Bay and a live performance of "Triple Espresso" at L'Homme Dieu Theatre near Alexandria. See more details on the FEW website (<http://www.fewstcloud.org>) under the News tab.



Breakfast with the B.E.S.T.

Building Excellence through Strategic Thinking

July 13: Breakfast with the B.E.S.T.

Performance Appraisals: How to Punch Up Productivity AND Help Employees Thrive

This seminar is presented by Greg Nystuen to enable practitioners to use performance appraisals to maximize productivity while also helping employees to develop to their fullest potential. The seminar is from 7:00–8:30 a.m. at the MN Workforce Center in St. Cloud. Register by calling 320-308-5701 or emailing admissions@workforceu.com. Or visit <http://www.workforceu.com>.

FEW Announcements

Board minutes are on website

The monthly board meeting minutes are on our the home page of the Member's Section of the FEW website. You are invited to read up on what's happening with this great organization. To see the minutes from the most recent board meeting, visit www.fewstcloud.org.

Make the most of your membership: get involved!

The Marketing Committee is being assembled to help FEW plan & implement strategic and proactive marketing efforts to retain existing members and build membership overall, as well as add value to the experience of our existing members. The team will be working together initially to pull together some broad based membership research and will then develop a 1-3 year marketing plan for FEW to be implemented beginning in 2011. The team will meet as needed to achieve the objectives set forth by the committee (we will develop these objectives together).

The Social Media Coordinator position is being developed and is envisioned as the person who keeps FEWs social media updated and relevant. This is not a board position, so it would be a great chance to be involved without a large time commitment.

Interested volunteers can contact Brenda Schermerhorn at (320) 656-4186 or brenda@agency128.com or Rebecca Kurowski at (320) 251-0558 or RKurowski@gw.stcdio.org.

Mission Statement

The Forum of Executive Women is a non-profit organization that promotes growth and connection among professional women.

