



September 2011 Newsletter

President's Message

By Lori Lewandowski, Wells Fargo

At August's board meeting the board reviewed the results of the focus groups. It was very exciting to hear all of the positive comments about FEW and why our members join and stay members. We also received some suggestions for improving and will be implementing some of them very soon. In this newsletter you will see a summary of our findings and then at the November business meeting we will be discussing them in greater detail.

"A woman is like a tea bag- you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water." Eleanor Roosevelt.

For many years this has been one of my favorite quotes and thus Eleanor Roosevelt one of my favorite influential women in American history. We all know her as President Theodore Roosevelt's wife, but what many of us may not know is that she changed the role of first ladies. She had her own press conferences and even her own newspaper column. After her husband's death Eleanor became a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly and chair of the UN's Human Rights Commission. As a part of this commission, she helped to write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Eleanor died of cancer in 1962 at the age of 78.

There's still time to invite your friends and colleagues to September's meeting featuring Lee Domingue from Cyrus International speaking on human trafficking. Also please don't forget to RSVP yourself on our website www.fewstcloud.org.



Lori Lewandowski
2011 Forum of
Executive Women
President



Exciting Meetings Ahead

September 14: Human Trafficking: A Growing Epidemic in Our Own Backyard



Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that affects both children and adults. Victims are deceived into commercial sex acts or other forms of labor and/or imprisonment against their will. Once perceived to be largely a problem outside of our borders, it is in fact one of the fastest growing criminal industries here in the United States.

Lee Domingue is an entrepreneur, author, international speaker and founder of Cyrun International, a non-profit charity focused on helping oppressed people across the world. Lee's life mission is to help leaders recognize and understand the issue of human trafficking. Attend this session to learn more about how we, as influencers in our community, can be a part of the solution.

The program starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Le St-Germain Suite Hotel (formally the Radisson) in St. Cloud and includes lunch. PLEASE REMEMBER: PARKING IS FREE AT THE LE ST-

GERMAIN SUITE HOTEL IF YOU ASK THE FRONT DESK TO VALIDATE YOUR BLUE PARKING TICKET! There is no fee for members and guests pay \$30. After September 7, guest pay \$40. All are welcome, so please invite your friends and colleagues. All members and guests MUST register online at www.fewstcloud.org.

**If your company has pads of paper that you could donate, please bring along to the meeting, thanks!*

2011 Meetings

October 12	MaryBeth Overland – Enneagram Inventory and Tapping Your Potential as a Leader, Le St-Germain Suite Hotel— FEW Members will receive an Enneagram prior to the meeting, watch your email and fill it out and bring to the meeting. However, if you forget to bring it, still come to the meeting!
November 9	Business Meeting, Le St-Germain Suite Hotel
December 14	Holiday Social, Saint Cloud Country Club

Featured FEW: Meet Brenda Schermerhorn



When she was a kid in Perham, Mn. and was asked, “what do you want to be when you grow up?” Brenda Schermerhorn says she would reply, “A corporate executive. No kidding, that’s what I used to say.” Brenda is living out her childhood goal as an Account Manager at Agency 128 . With more than 20 years of experience in marketing, Brenda uses that background to help clients grow their business by using unique creative and marketing strategy that is tied directly to their business goals.

Brenda has been a member of FEW since 2004 and has served on the Board for the past few years. Initially, as AVP and VP of Communications. Today, she is the VP of Special Projects. Brenda would challenge every FEW member to get more involved in the organization. “I spent my share of years as a passive member myself, admiring the strong and influential women who are FEW from afar. But as soon as I jumped in and got involved, mentors became friends, I grew personally and professionally and today, I have a long list of people I’d be 100% comfortable going up to and chatting with at those dreaded ‘networking events’.”

The Schermerhorn family includes her husband, Paul, of 18 years, and two sons. Zak is a junior at Cathedral and Noah is an 8th grader at John XXIII Middle School. They also have a beloved Weimeraner, Lexi, and a cat named Boomer. Their last vacation was to Disney with the whole family and some friends this past March. Brenda reports, “Disney with teenagers was a whole new experience! It was a blast.”

When asked how she helps others succeed, Brenda replied, “I believe in providing objective advice and access to the tools people need to succeed. Then, armed with everything they need to make it happen, I believe it’s important to allow them to pursue their objective in their own way, using their own creative approach. I’m also very candid and direct. If you ask me for honest feedback; I’m going to give it to you.”

Brenda is a loyal friend and absolutely loves gardening, bird watching and spending time with friends and family and her biggest indulgence is dark chocolate and shopping at White House Black Market. She recommends that, “you try bird watching and yoga because both are peaceful and relaxing and good for the mind and body. Also, you need to check out La La’s Bar & Grill just down the road in South Haven, MN. Best burger I’ve ever had!”

Her philosophy in life? “As difficult as it may be sometimes, bite your lip and be nice, even if you’re positive you’re right. It always works out better to take the high road. I’ve learned this from many (MANY) years of experience testing the alternative.”

Upcoming Events



September 15: Fireside with FEW

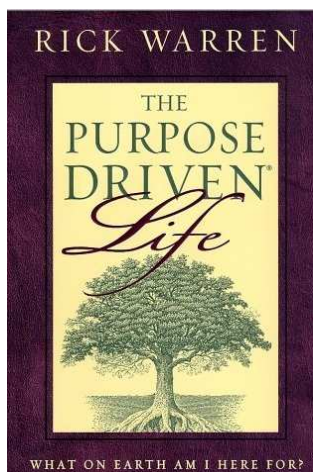
The September Fireside with FEW will be Thursday, September 15. Fireside with FEW is always the third Thursday of the month, set a recurring appointment in your calendar today! Join us at the Red Carpet Martini Lounge any time from 4:30 to 7:30 and enjoy your favorite beverages and appetizers in the company of some wonderful women. At least two Board Members will be there, so you won't be alone! This is a fun and relaxed atmosphere for getting to know our fabulous FEW members.



September 26-30: Week of Action

United Way of Central Minnesota and the Central Minnesota Community Foundation will be hosting **Week of Action September 26-30, 2011**. Week of Action is designed to bring people together to volunteer on special community projects each day in towns throughout Central Minnesota. Volunteer opportunities will take place in St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Becker, Foley, Avon, Albany, St. Joseph, Cold Spring, and Waite Park. **More than 500 volunteers are needed** throughout the week to complete **over 65 projects**.

Opportunities include painting, weeding, creating thank you cards, cleaning, building fences, and helping with children's activities; and they were designed to fit the needs of large or small groups (such as coworkers or service clubs), individuals and families with children of all ages. **PROJECT SIGN-UP IS NOW OPEN:** [Click here](#) to sign-up for your favorite opportunity today! Contact Mary Krippner for more information at (320) 223-7991.



5 Weeks Beginning September 20: The Purpose Driven Life

5 week Women's Tuesday AM Book Study beginning September 20 from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. at Caribou Crossroads Meeting Room. Whether you are reading it for the first time or refreshing yourself with this book again, come and discover how your Designer has a Unique Purpose for You! Hurry, class limited to 7. **Facilitator: Pam Nelson**, Certified Life Purpose Coach. **Cost: 35\$**. Purchase book on your own. **Register:** pam@designedforpurposecoaching.com or 320-266-8198 www.designedforpurposecoaching.com

Upcoming Events



BULLYING
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE
THE BULLY, THE BULLIED AND THE BYSTANDER

SEPTEMBER 26th
6:30-8:30PM
ST. CLOUD CIVIC CENTER

BARBARA COLOROSO
INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SPEAKER

resourcetraining.com/Page/BullyingEvent

\$5/person pre-registered ▪ \$10/person at the door

PRESENTED BY

Resource
Training & Solutions



Diocese of
SAINT CLOUD

Upcoming Events

DMD
HEART OF MERCY
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011
 St. Cloud Civic Center

Rev. Timothy Radcliffe, OP

Diocesan Ministry Day

Join us at Diocesan Ministry Day on September 26, 2011 as we embrace the gifts of the religious communities within our diocese and highlight a broad view of church. This day-long celebration features enrichment opportunities for everyone from parents, parishioners, pastors and more.

Featuring...

- Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, O.P., keynote speaker
- Learning sessions on many topics
- Bullying workshops (by Barbara Coloroso, subject-matter expert)
- Enhancement of faith & knowledge

Register at www.stcdio.org/DMD

FEATURED EXPERTS

Legal Implications:
Ronald Brandenburg & Melinda Sanders,
 Attorneys at Law from
Quinlivan & Hughes
Law Firm

Tax Considerations:
Mark Skaj, Accountant
 at *Schlenner Wenner*

SHOULD WE HIRE CONTRACTORS OR EMPLOYEES?

Two-Part Series to Explore Both Legal Implications & Tax Considerations

Dates: September 14 & 28 **Time:** 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. **Total Cost:** \$40

Place: MN Workforce Center, St. Cloud Technical & Community College
 1542 Northway Drive, Door 2, St. Cloud, MN (Parking Lot B)

Register now for breakfast and this great series!

HIRING HELP: CONTRACTORS vs. ACTUAL EMPLOYEES

How to find the best fit for your company

Learn the various tests to know when it is proper to classify a worker as independent contractor or to consider the worker an employee. This series covers key legal and tax components of independent contractor agreements, consequences of improper classification, real-life examples of classification issues, and the top factors in the independent contractor vs. employee tests.



Breakfast with the B.E.S.T.
 Building Excellence through Strategic Thinkin

www.WorkForceU.com

FEW Announcements

Focus Group Report is on website

Thank you again to all who participated in the Focus Groups earlier this summer. Results and next steps will be shared at the November meeting, but please review the full report in the members-only section of the website. A big thank you to VP of Special Projects, Brenda Schermerhorn and VP of Communications, Rebecca Kurkowski for their leadership on this project.

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!

We need someone who is handy with the camera to take digital photos at FEW events and meetings! If you are a shutterbug, or just don't mind snapping a few shots, please contact Brenda Brown, AVP Communications at bbrown@sjprep.net.

Congratulations FEW Members!

April Mastey, AVP for Programming, recently started her own company, Mastey Financial Group. **Kelly Hansen**, VP for Meeting Coordination, is now a Senior HR Business Partner/Engagement Leader at Creative Memories. If you have an update to share, please email Brenda Brown.

Mission Statement

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

