

BPW FINLAND

Report: Autumn 2003/ Summer 2004

- Six BPW members took part in the BPW European Congress in Rome 28 -30.9.2003. Official delegates were Paula Hjelt-Putilin, the president and Marketta Hyötyläinen, the secretary general of BPW Finland.
- The Autumn Meeting of BPW Finland was held in Pori 18 - 19.10.2003, hosted by BPW Club Pori.
- A seminar arranged on the 18th October in Pori for the clubs and members of BPW Finland on the theme "The healthy economy guarantees the activities" (of the clubs and the federation).
- A seminar arranged on the 19th October in Pori based on the theme "A World of Peace". The main speaker was the Woman of the Year 2003, Ms Elisabeth Rehn, M. Sc. and the special expert in the Finnish Ministry for the Foreign Affairs. She concentrated in her speech on women as the civil victims of the war.
- The statement on the theme "A world of Peace in Employment", concerning the harassment at work, was published in many local newspapers.
- The Spring Meeting was held in Turku 24. - 25.4.2004, hosted by BPW Club Turku.
- BPW Finland nominated Dr. Tarja Cronberg, MP, for the Woman of the Year 2004. The speech of the Woman of the Year "Each should have someone whom to call" was given in the reception hosted by the City of Turku.
- The President BPW International Dr. Antoinette Rüegg was as our guest of honor in Turku and in Helsinki in April. She took part in our Spring Meeting program both on Saturday and on Sunday. Dr. Antoinette Rüegg gave a lecture on the BPW International matters, among others the twelve reasons why to be a BPW member.
- Ms. Liisa Kiianlinna, our member of BPW Club Kuopio participated the UN Commission on the Status of Women 48th Session in New York.
- The members of BPW Finland took part in the BPW Hanse Network in Turku in June 2004.
- BPW Finland has its own magazine called LIVYK. This color magazine is published four times a year and it informs the Finnish BPW members about the BPW action in Finland and abroad. In the last issues of LIVYK there had been reports about BPW Finland board members, young members, national and international meetings, seminars and actual matters including the visit of the President BPW International.
- BPW Finland has its own web pages, the web pages covers the BPW activities both on national and international level.
- BPW Finland informs its BPW clubs by a monthly letter, e-mail or posted letter.
- We have our own slogan "BPW Finland - a Strong Network to Influence" which we use in our magazine, brochure, letters and on our web site etc.

The 31 BPW CLUBS IN FINLAND have had very interesting and versatile program during the period from Rome to this day. For example many clubs have arranged seminars based on the theme of the year "A World of Peace" and about international BPW activities. Many clubs have named their own local "Woman of the Year", but with a different title referring to a remarkable woman of the local area. BPW Club Lahti participated in sport action, they walked 20 kilometer in three hours. BPW Club Helsinki had a twinning visitor from BPW Kalamunda Australia. BPW Club Joensuu arranged Women´s Fair in Joensuu and they sold lottery tickets and donated the lottery income to the local crime victim helping line. BPW Club Iitti runs a cafe on Saturdays in the local marketplace, a clever way to have some income for their club. Of course there had also been the monthly club meetings of each BPW clubs.

Submitted by Paula Hjelt-Putilin, President BPW Finland