



## **BPW: An Organization of Firsts**

Based on the premise of women helping women, Business and Professional Women/USA was the first organization to focus on issues of workingwomen.

BPW/USA was one of the first women's organizations to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment in 1937.

Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation became the first foundation dedicated to conducting research and providing information solely about workingwomen, in 1956.

BPW Foundation was the first 501 (c)(3), women's organization to have its articles of incorporation signed by a woman, Marguerite Rawalt.

BPW/USA is the first and **only** non-governmental agency offering assistance to transitioning women veterans through the Women Joining Forces: Closing Ranks, Opening Doors (WJF) program.

BPW Foundation was the first foundation to offer scholarships to assist workingwomen with career advancement and education goals in 1972.

BPW/USA was one of the first organizations to lobby for and lead in the passage of Title IX in 1972.

BPW/USA established National Business Women's Week in 1928, to celebrate women's accomplishments and their contribution to the workforce and the economic success of the nation.

President Kennedy recognized BPW/USA as a leader in the passage of the Equal Pay Act with the first pen he used to sign the Act into law.