



Business & Professional Women of Pennsylvania

To achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information.

What's Your ID?

One question that we personally consider throughout life is: "Who am I?" The answer comes easily when we are self-confident and self-assured, but all too often our self-identity is based solely on the influence of events and outside forces.

What?

The Individual Development Program (IDP), begun in the late 1960's, was developed to provide our officers and future leaders with public speaking and presentation skills. Consisting of an intensive course of study and practice sessions, the IDP has evolved into a flexible program that offers techniques and tools for taking an active role in creating our own identity.

So What?

The IDP has always been one of the most useful personal benefits of membership in BPW – for members who take advantage of this program. Moreover, the IDP can be an exceptional process for attracting new members, if promoted in our communities.

Now What?

Although many of the modules in the IDP are woefully outdated, we are somewhat constrained, due to the copyrighted program, from actually changing the basic contents of the program. However, we certainly can update and supplement the core modules with current trends, techniques, and technology to better address the issues faced by today's working woman. The IDP can be molded to the needs of the participants as it provides invaluable information for training women in all levels of life – from young women first entering the workforce, to those who have been absent (for whatever reason) and are reentering the professional arena, to those who have continued their journey but may feel the need for a boost of self-awareness.

The IDP is an opportunity to connect with other women for the purpose of promoting professionalism in our presentations, for developing abilities in negotiating when necessary, for recognizing and appreciating the differences in our personalities, and generally for bringing out the best in each other.

BPW members, in good standing, who have completed the IDP within the three preceding years, are eligible to participate in a speak-off competition held at the 2019 BPWPA Convention at the Doubletree by Hilton Pittsburgh at 340 Racetrack Rd, Washington, PA. **The competition will consist of each candidate's presentation before the convention body of a five-minute prepared speech based on our 2018-2019 theme "Celebrating 100 Years of Women Helping Women with Passion and Purpose" and a two-minute impromptu response to a question selected by the candidate during an interview with the judges.**

***Celebrating 100 Years of Women Helping
Women with Passion and Purpose***

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