**NORTHWEST MISSOURI FINANCIAL WOMEN**

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING**

November 8, 2012

The November meeting of NMFW was hosted by UMB Bank, N.A. on Thursday, November 8th and held in the upstairs meeting area of the new Ground Round located in downtown St. Joseph. President Tracy Schmidt called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 28 members and 5 guests present. An invocation was given by Deb Conyers and all enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship.

The program was presented by Linda Milbourn and Amber Rhein of Think Outside The Box. The ladies had several beautiful displays set out and taught several simple, fun ways to decorate and get ready for the holidays. Linda demonstrated building a table display for us based on the classic *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. A definite favorite of the evening was the candy/dessert bar with the Grinch theme.

The October 2012 Meeting minutes and treasurer’s report of $8368.52 as of October 29, 2012 were previously circulated to the group via email. A motion was made by Jennie Brown to approve as sent; Becky Gall seconded the motion.

**Old Business:** Ashlea Buntin agreed to take on the Treasurer’s position for the remainder of the term. Name tags have been ordered and presented. There were a few ladies who had not received one. Ashlea will follow up with you and verify the spelling of your name and take a membership application if necessary. February 7th still needed a host bank—Commerce Bank agreed to change from hosting the April 11th meeting to hosting in February.

**New Business:** We now need a host bank for the April 11th meeting. Tracy and Ashlea described the Hosting Organization’s Duties, which include choosing the location of the meeting, the topic, and the presenter. There is minimal cost to being the Host. The presenters typically do not charge a fee; however the Host usually pays for their meal. A door prize is often but not always presented and is not a requirement. The officers have a Restaurant list of locations we’ve held meetings before which have adequate space and understand our budgeting for total cost per individual meals. Also available is a list of topic ideas if interested but stumped. The question was raised: if for whatever reason we do not have a Host for any month, do we cancel the meeting? This issue is not currently addressed in our Constitution/Bylaws. From the October meeting we were able to raise $305 since we ate a less formal meal. These proceeds directly help fund the scholarships provided by NMFW. Also, in an effort to grow our organization, a new informative brochure was created. Feel free to pass these out to fellow coworkers who currently don’t attend our meetings. If you know someone who works at another Financial Institution and they don’t attend, especially if their group is not yet represented, we would love to have them as a guest at one of our meetings. If preferred, pass their name and contact information on to an officer and we can talk with them more about. The website has recently been updated—check it out: [www.nmfw.org](http://www.nmfw.org)

**Future Meetings and Hosts:** February 7th – Commerce Bank

 March 14th – BMW

 **April 11th – (Currently Available)**

**Door Prize:** Everyone in attendance received a gift box containing a bell as well as a delicious cake-pop from the Grinch table.

With no further business Kathe DeMott made a motion to adjourn; Becky Gall seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashlea Buntin, Secretary/Treasurer

Treasury balance as of January 23, 2012 $9200.15