

Submitted by:
NAHB Professional Women in Building Members

"It takes the same amount of energy to worry as it does to believe." I don't know who said this originally, but it is my personal mantra. I am a natural worrier, and this quote helps me to refocus and reframe my worries into beliefs. Imagine all that we could accomplish with less worry and more belief!"

"Knocking out a hundred tasks for whatever the reason is a poor substitute for doing even one task that's meaningful." Gary Keller, co-author, *The ONE Thing: The Surprisingly Simple Truth behind Extraordinary Results*. My struggle isn't finding something to do, it's deciding which of the hundreds of things that demand

"When I think about the PWB, the first thing that comes to mind is empowerment. Depending on which generation you were raised in – boomer, millennial, gen x – all women have faced a mirror that asks questions like "am I good enough?", "how can I make a difference?", "does my voice matter?" When you become a member of the PWB, the answer to these questions become a resounding YES and from that powerful little word, a world opens up to you.

To empower someone is to give them authority, permission to lead, to enable and permit an individual to do something great. Everything about the word evokes forward movement, positive energy, creating opportunity and believing in oneself. I have seen changes in PWB that I was told initially may never happen and yet the leaders before me still empowered me to make them. Tell a PWB member she can't and she will. Tell her 'I don't think so' and she'll say 'watch me.' Show her how and she does it. Be her friend and she will be yours forever. I will forever be grateful to the PWB for so many reasons, but mostly because one PWB member said to me one fateful day, "Come with me and check it out!"

"Set your sights high and be willing to work your hardest to succeed. Learn as much as you can. The more well-rounded you are, the more confident and effective you'll be, and the more respect you'll earn from colleagues. Joining and becoming actively engaged in groups like PWB offer opportunities to surround yourself with like-minded and successful individuals who care about the things that are important to you. If working in a traditional "man's world" career: stay strong, always know your facts, put on your "big girl pants" and never resort to playing the "girl" card."

"When I was first asked to join the "Ladies Auxiliary", I said "No!" I didn't realize what they were about but, they persisted. Joining the Council was the best thing! It took me to places I would never have been able to go. I grew as a woman and as a Leader! As Chair of PWB, I learned to stand tall for what I held as sacred. I learned that there are a lot of different people in this world but that my opinions were just as important. My "Pearls of Wisdom" are stick to your convictions! You are important! You have a lot to contribute! You are unique!"

"PWB members are an amazing source of inspiration! PWB taught me that discovering, acknowledging and promoting another's capabilities is great gift to give and to receive. The best part is that our successes in life,

"Be engaged. Take that step beyond attendance. Being active on a committee or spearheading a project is an opportunity to learn and develop leadership and people skills in a nurturing environment. It will enhance your business performance! Be generous. Share your experiences and your struggles. Many women in our industry have faced or are facing similar challenges and their support and counsel are priceless. Make friends! For over 20 years, my friendships developed through PWB have proven to be my most significant, professionally and even more so personally.