

Dream Bl6

Spring 2021

Flight

Newsletter of Business & Professional Woman of Pennsylvania

In this Issue

- State Project
- Legislation
- Public Relations
- Young Careerist
- Membership
- What's happening around the state

Upcoming Events

 BPW/PA Summer Board Meeting August 8 Zoom Meeting

BPW/PA Officers

PresidentMarisa Harmon

President Elect
Tiffanie Burger

Vice President Melissa Wieand

TreasurerRoxanne Pease

Recording Secretary Glenda Auker

Corresponding Secretary

Virginia Shultz

Parliamentarian R. Maureen Myers

Spring has sprung! While we may be fighting with weather that doesn't know what season it wants to be, our BPW year is winding down.

Dreams Take

Contest entries from the locals should already be to the district chairs. These entries will then be sent to the state chairs by their deadline. I can't wait to see what everyone was able to do during the year, especially with the constraints of pandemic living. I know it has not been easy for many clubs to organize programs and projects, but please remember that each and every one of you do so much for your communities every year and that is no small achievement.

As announced at the Mid-Winter Board of Directors meeting, the 101st State Convention will be a virtual event held on Zoom. Registration will open on May 10th and will be limited to 300 people. A more definitive schedule of events will be announced that week in "The Buzz".

We are still looking for vendors to participate in convention. Vendor Chair Denise Byers will be putting together an informational presentation for any vendor that would like to participate. The previously advertised costs to be a vendor will not be in effect. For more information, please email Denise at dmbyers1@verizon.net.

Resolutions Chair Aleta Richmond already has two resolutions from the districts. If you are interested in submitting a resolution, please email Aleta at aletabrichmond@gmail.com.

Finally, thank you to all the individuals, locals, and districts who have contributed to my state project Twilight Wish. We have already surpassed my soft goal for donations and I'm hoping we can hit \$10,000 soon.





President Marisa



"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you." Princess Diana

Words can not express my gratitude for your overwhelming support of our State Project, the Twilight Wish Foundation, during this challenging BPW year. Never let it be said that anything, including a pandemic, can stop us when we have a mission to accomplish; we just get a little more creative!

Members from <u>every</u> district in BPW/PA have shown their kindness and generosity through monetary donations and/or DUTY cards, gift cards, or other forms of donations to seniors throughout Pennsylvania. And a new Twilight Wish Chapter has been founded in Fayette County with the assistance of District 12.

As of April 1, 2021, BPW/PA Districts, Locals and Members have contributed just over \$7,600 in monetary donations and \$2,050 in DUTY cards, gift cards, other donations, etc. With 14 more days to go until the deadline, I am hoping to exceed \$10K for our total donations this year. We can do it!

My thanks to President Marisa for allowing me to serve in this very rewarding capacity this year.

Mary Weeks, BPW/PA State Project Chair

Legislation Report 2021 Spring Key

Did you know ... That BPW was established to organize the resources of professional women during World War I and, since its inception, the mission of BPW/PA has been to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through **advocacy**, education and information. To this day, three major issues have shaped BPW's legislative agenda: elimination of sex discrimination in employment, the principle of equal pay, and the need for a comprehensive equal rights amendment.

While BPW/PA is non-partisan, as an advocacy organization, our members have proven again and again they are willing to take action by lobbying in Harrisburg, Washington or local District Offices of elected officials in favor of bills that help all girls, working women, our military women and women veterans. This advocacy is what makes our sisterhood powerful and effective.

BPW's advocacy has a history of making a difference in women's lives – first and foremost, BPW was the first women's organization to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment. Now, after 100 years, the ERA is one giant step closer to being added to the U.S. Constitution when, on March 17th, the House, in a bi-partisan vote, officially removed the deadline to get the ERA ratified.

A sample of major legislation supported by BPW have been:

The Women's Pay Act of 1945 – the first ever legislation to require equal pay – was introduced into Congress. It would take 18 years to make it to the President's desk.

The establishment of "Status of Women" commissions in the U.S. in 1963, largely due to BPW efforts. The first National Legislative Conference was held in Washington, D.C. in 1963 where members lobbied Congress and the Administration on BPW's legislative issues.

BPW tackled "comparable worth" by calling for newspapers to stop the occupational segregation in classified ads clustering women in a few restricted occupations of low-paying, dead-end jobs.

In 1986, San Francisco became the first city in the nation to approve a pay equity referendum, implementing \$34 million in increases for employees in female and minority-dominated jobs.

Focusing on BPW's workplace issues, BPW lobbied Congress for passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act which finally passed in 1993.

Equal Pay legislation was strengthened with the Pay Equity Employment Act of 1994 and the Paycheck Fairness Act, introduced in 1997.

On January 29, 2009, President Obama signed the first piece of legislation of his Administration – the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009.

BPW is the first and only non-governmental agency to offer programming that supports women veterans. This cause became the focus for First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden.

At the 2012 BPW/PA Convention, the members adopted a resolution in favor of instituting EARLY voting in the commonwealth which was finally adopted by the General Assembly in 2019.

On June 6, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed an executive order to address the gender pay gap with several BPW/PA members in attendance.

On October 12, 2018, Governor Wolf signed the Domestic Abuser Gun Ban. The resolution calling for this legislation was adopted at the 2015 BPW/PA State Convention.

On March 17, 2021, the U.S. House, in a bi-partisan vote, reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act. And we're not done yet!

BPW/USA and BPW/PA members have a long history in being at the forefront of major legislation that advocate for working women. It's the reason BPW was established and our leadership and members have supported the Legislative Platform since our founding. The Platform keeps us focused on the issues most important to our members and lets elected officials know where we stand on these issues.

GET TALKING!

"There is only one thing worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about." - Oscar Wilde

Who's talking about your local? Are you? The best PR is an endorsement from a friend. Get talking! Tell your friends, family, coworkers, everyone about the wonderful things BPW has to offer. Invite them to get to know your BPW sisters or to join an event.

How have you been promoting your local? Now is the time to showcase all your efforts this year. Be sure to submit your contest entries to your district to send to me for consideration and recognition of a job well done. I'm looking forward to talking about all the accomplishments at convention!

Angela Apple PR Chair



Young Careerist

Well, it is finally the Spring of the year and we are moving toward our Zoom convention! I have been actively recruiting judges for the YC competition, by Zoom and have been receiving submission information from our YC candidates. At last count, we had four YCs! I am so excited for them and their Districts. There are a few days left to submit (May 1, 2021) so if any other Districts have a potential candidate who gave their speech at Spring Conference, send me their biographical information.

It has been another interesting year with Covid-19 but we continue to "Let Our Dreams Take Flight". We <u>are</u> accomplishing the business of BPW/PA. The YCs have indeed "Let Their Dreams Take Flight" and are ready for the challenge.

The YC Program celebrates young members as they gain confidence in public speaking. BPW/PA benefits from having them because they provide valuable public relations, recognition of BPW, and recruitment of new members. The YC Program helps us "Let <u>Our</u> Dreams Take Flight". It is women helping women and we soar when we are lifted by others!

Congratulations to our BPW/PA Young Careerists for taking a step forward and sharing their lives. Through the YC Program we witness the growth in these young members as they become the leaders of tomorrow. We are here to support you...women helping women and we are proud of <u>All</u> of you!

Susan M. Vladika, BPW/PA Young Careerist Chair

130

Spring 2021 www.bpwpa.org

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BPW/PA Membership needs to be on the Mind of Every Member in 2021

Teamwork Is the force behind every successful BPW/PA Club and District. Only when members come together, share their strengths, work together on common goals, complement their weaknesses, and help each other, can a club grow to its greatest heights. It is up to every member to build a sense of community, improve morale, brainstorm ideas, solve problems, and work together to make the dynamics of a club more inviting.

A member is defined as a person belonging to a club. Most of the current 1100 BPW/PA members are unified since they belong to their local club, one of the eleven districts and the BPW/PA state organization when they join. Only Members at Large may belong simply to the state organization since they are required to live at least 50 miles away from any local chapter. Their dues are \$50 / year and Members at Large must believe in the mission of BPW/PA, may attend convention, but do not possess the right to vote. Our Student Members are high school and college students who share the concerns of working women in BPW/PA. They pay less in unified dues as long as they are in school and do belong to a local club. Many local clubs do not advertise for student members; yet these members often give great insight and problem-solving skills to our clubs. Think about granting your scholarship winner a student membership in your club. Invite them to bring a friend with them to a meeting. Simply remember that all new members' paperwork and dues money must be sent to the State Treasurer by March 31, 2022 to be considered a member. Remember that May Days are Paydays for most members so send those checks in to continue your membership in BPW/PA.

COVID -19 has transformed the way members of BPW/PA meet. Social Media sites including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Linkedin, Pinterest, YouTube, Tik Tok, Reddit, and Messenger offer avenues to share our message and invite women everywhere to join us. Many BPW/PA clubs have been using ZOOM and other programs to hold meetings when COVID restrictions closed restaurants and meeting places. BPW/PA Wild Apricot is an excellent website to use for materials. The President's and Treasurer's Manuals are also excellent sources of information and can be found on line at https://bpwpa.wildapricot.org

Personally, I received many calls from individuals this year who want to join a BPW/PA club because they have seen an article in the newspaper, heard on the radio, saw a poster, or went on the web. I have called on Club Presidents, District Directors, and my Membership team for help finding the right place for people who have moved and want to find a BPW club to join. Alone, my Work as Membership Chair would be impossible; yet together with others every problem and concern was addressed in a reasonable time span. Thanks to all who assisted me in my tasks. A special thanks to my Membership team who visited all eleven district meetings in person or by Zoom to deliver the Membership Message.

Area 1 Districts 1,2,4: Mary Jane Rowles Area 2 Districts 3,5,12: Theresa Rusbosin

Area 3 Districts 10,11: **Leigh Wilson Price** Area 4 Districts 6,8,9: **Diane Lewis**

We must all learn to "Look for the Positive in Each Day, Even if Some Days You Have To Look a Little Harder!" by Recovery Experts.com. Aesop quoted "No Act of Kindness No Matter How Small Is Ever Wasted." Together BPW/PA members can achieve their goals if we work together and follow the words of our Collect in our daily lives.

Diana Fesenmyer

BPW/PA Membership Chair

District 4

On March 27th, District 4 hosted a Personal and Professional Workshop for eight members. The workshop taught an array of topics including communication, listening, and public speaking.



District 6

Wellsboro

District 6 Wellsboro:

Using the generous holiday donations from our members, Bev McKnight purchased fourteen \$25 gift cards from Weis and Tops as part of our Twilight Wish Project. Donna Mettler made valentines that featured a beautiful poem written by Susan Graver. The gift cards were tucked inside. Bev and Donna met with Bill Yacovissi, President of the Wellsboro Area Food Pantry, who had offered to distribute the gift cards with food boxes going to Park Hill Manor residents. When deciding who should receive the special surprise, Bill prioritized seniors who have, during their lives, helped with the food pantry.

Twilight Wish Project

Bev McKnight hands Valentines containing grocery gift cards to Bill Yacovissi, President, Wellsboro Area Food Pantry.





District 6

Wellsboro Cont'd and Jersey Shore

This winter was stop-and-start for Jersey Shore, but we are finally back in the swing of things with masked, socially distanced, in-person meetings! We sure missed one another's faces.

In the spirit of Twilight Wish, we reached out to the local nursing home to ask if there was anything our club could do for residents in a "Covid safe" manner. They asked for cookies for residents and staff. Our club baked 200 Valentines cookies for Manor Care.

The President of the Jersey Shore Historical Society was our March meeting speaker. She educated us about our community's history, brought artifacts along, and even brought along information about members of our club in the 1920s.

We celebrated FIFTY YEARS of Nancy Lucas' membership this month! Nancy is our Treasurer and a dear friend to us all. Thank you, Nancy, for serving BPW all of these years!

Photo Caption: Nancy Lucas



Wellsboro:

In March District 6 Director and Wellsboro Past-President, Bev McKnight, presented a check to Wendy Erway, Nursing Home Administrator for the Green Home, Wellsboro. This donation from District 6 and Wellsboro Local was in loving memory of Past State President, Jane Barndt, who lived in the Laurels and the Green Home for the final several years of her life. The donation will go toward paying for a laptop which can be used by Green Home residents in conjunction with the iN2L (It's Never Too Late) System. The iN2L System was built on the idea that it's never too late for a fulfilling life – one with joy, purpose, and meaningful social connections.

Photo caption: Members of Wellsboro Local, (L-R) Colleen Jackson, Georgia Tracy, and Donna Mettler, presented a check and "Wish List" items to Jim Howe, President of Second Chance Animal Sanctuaries. The donations were in loving memory of Cherry Wilson, Past District 6 Director and Past President of Wellsboro Local.



District 10

Delaware County

Delaware County BPW continued our monthly meetings via ZOOM.

In January we had the pleasure of having Dr. Jeanie Subach, professor at West Chester University, who gave a very spirited talk about plant based diets, meatless meals, organic produce and local produce. She definitely made healthy eating look fun.

We also had a surprise visit from our youngest BPW member.

Little Miss Norah Jane Albany, new baby daughter of Delaware Co. BPW President Jen Bravo and her husband Brian. She was very attentive during the business meeting.

Lauren Psimaris, Director of Development for Girls on the Run Southeastern Suburban PA division, was our guest speaker. Girls on the Run has been the recipient of \$500 donations from Delaware Co. BPW each year to help fund their programs. This organization's mission is to inspire healthy habits and lasting confidences in young girls, mainly preteens. It is a wonderful organization.

The speaker at the March Delaware County BPW meeting was Attorney, Sherry L. Hoban, Executive Director of Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project. Attorney Hoban's topic was "What's a Shecession". Members learned what is true regarding women and our present economy and what the difference is this time around in the Covid recession. We also heard better ways to recognize the impact of Covid on women in the workforce and what we can do to help ourselves and other women gain wage equality.

We have some interesting speakers lined up for the rest of the BPW year and are maintaining a strong membership. Thank goodness for ZOOM

Greater Downingtown

Greater Downingtown continues to hold their monthly meetings via Zoom. Programs have included Cass Forkin of Twilight Wish, Melissa Lusk, Executive Director of Ryan's Case for Smiles, a volunteer organization dedicated to helping children with devastating illnesses, such as cancer, feel better so they can heal better. The organization along with sewing whimsical pillows for children dealing with illness also helps siblings cope with the illness as well. In March, Carol Metzker, spoke of the docudrama being created based on some of the stories from her latest book "Shield Against The Monster: Protecting Children From Human Trafficking". The book was co-authored with a survivor of human trafficking.

In February and March Greater Downingtown collected food and items for the Lord's Pantry in Downingtown. The group continues to support President Marissa's State Project, Twilight Wish.





District 11

District Director Report

As we continue to persevere during one of the most challenging and unprecedented periods of our nation's history, District 11 continues to thrive and reinforce the strength of our locals like we have in years past. Our locals and its members have not been immune to the economic and social challenges that exist. Through all of this, we are proud that our members have sustained their programs and projects that continue to build their local communities.

Rather than continue to dwell on the challenges of the past year, we prefer to focus on the opportunities that lie ahead. 2021 is going to be a great year. We hope to get back to "normal." We hope to be able to see each other in person, we hope to be able to embrace each other, and we aim to remain pillars in our communities for women's rights and advocacy.

District 11 will be having our Spring Meeting on April 24th. We will be meeting via Zoom, fingers crossed for the last time. We are excited to nominate and elect our 2021-2022 District 11 Board and start to prepare in the planning for Vice President Missy's State Convention which will be in 2023.

We know there are much brighter days to come, and we look forward to joining our BPW sisters again for fellowship, fun and lots of laughs.

Love Through BPW, Jennifer Van Ingen District 11 Director

District 11

Greater Conshohocken

This Spring, GC BPW has been busy supporting our various BPW and community projects. We continued our Adopt a Senior project, Mae Krier, with a birthday card shower for her 95th birthday on March 21st, National Rosie the Riveter Day (see picture below). Our thanks to all of our BPW sisters and friends from across PA and beyond who sent cards in for Mae.



GC BPW President Donna Jones, Mae Krier, and GC BPW member and Past State President (PSP)

Mary Weeks

Members also collected multiple bags full of sundry items, toiletries, socks, slippers, etc. for our second donation to the Mary E. Walker house (see picture below). The items were delivered on March 22nd, the same day as our monthly meeting and guest speaker Jennifer Lilly, CTRS, Chief, Voluntary Services, Coatesville VA Medical Center. She shared information about the VA Center in general, her role, the Mary E. Walker House and how GC BPW can continue to support the VA and The Walker House.



GC BPW Member and PSP Mary Weeks and Kimiko Brickus, Voluntary Assistant, Community & Congressional Affairs, Coatesville VA Medical Center, holding several of the bags of donations for the Mary E. Walker House

President Donna's Fitness Challenge has also resulted in donations to various charities, including Twilight Wish, American Heart Association, Organ Donor Awareness, etc. GC BPW will again be awarding a scholarship to the Montgomery County Community College KEYS program and one to the local high school.

GC BPW continues to routinely post inspirational and informational articles on our Facebook page, and the page has maintained a good following. We continue to run our fun challenges, including March's Facebook Contest: Who Am I? – Women Firsts and April's How Did You Help Someone Today?

GC BPW has been developing and submitting entries for the BPW contests, including History, Foundation, Issues Management, Legislation, Membership and Public Relations. The Local has also been planning for their hostess responsibilities for an upcoming District meeting. Even with the challenges and restrictions during the pandemic this year, GC BPW has achieved its goal to stay connected and become a stronger local.

District 11

Central Montgomery

CMC BPW was still zooming along with their meetings in January through March 2021. In January, we were delighted to have the PA BPW Foundation and the BPW Foundation explained to us by CMC Members Norma Zarfoss and Nancy Werner, PA BPW Foundation Board member, who shared their knowledge about both of our Foundations. The Scholarship and the Edith Oler Flanigan Fund Grant information were shared in detail and how one can find the materials on www.bpwpa.org.

We also had as our speaker, Trish Corvo, an educator and CMC BPW member, who works with the A Step Up Academy located in Jenkintown. She and her colleagues presented a video and a power point program that shared how the school was developed for autistic children and all the programs that they provide. We all want to spread the word about its existence.

Zooming along, our February program was the Laurel Hill Mansion in the Philadelphia Park System. Owned by the City, the mansion came under the guidance of the late Alma Jacobs, who created the Women for Greater Philadelphia (WGP) in 1976. Alma was our BPWPA Woman of the Year in 1980 and a member of the Greater Conshohocken BPW. Our member, Barbara Jean Maresca, who is also a member of the WGP, provided us with the most informative Zoom program about the Mansion. She traveled down the timeline of the house, including additions, gardens, and social activities that this mansion witnessed over the years. She shared the activities that are held during the year but have been placed on hold due to the virus. We were thrilled to have the WGP members join us for this presentation.



LAUREL HILL MANSION

We also had Mydera Taliah, an inspirational poet, share a newly written poem with us. She also provided a view to the Norristown Theater School that she directs.

March was our Women's History Month. It was a creative evening with a play called "Women of the Suffrage Movement," written by Nancy Werner and Ginny Bailey. With ten BPW members showcasing their acting skills, the play was featured on the Screen Share of Zoom. A huge thank you was extended to Barbara Jean Maresca for her hours of inputting pictures into the script. Our "Not Ready for Prime Players," did a remarkable job! Another positive, the WGP joined us AGAIN. Love having them.

We will be hosting the District Eleven Meeting on Saturday, April 24 via Zoom.

We are planning our BINGO Scholarship Event for the Montgomery County Community College on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at Maggiano's. Please place on your calendars.

District 11

Quakertown

What an interesting time for BPW members!

Quakertown BPW has changed our meeting night to the fourth Wednesday of the month.

The Quakertown BPW met on February 24 at the McCooles's Arts and Entertainment Center on Main Street, Quakertown. Our speaker and member, Georgia Wilson, shared the comparison of our lives to those of a treasured string of pearls. The "Seven Pearls of Wisdom for Wellness" were: Purpose, Passion, Presents, Promise, Power, Peace and Path. She focused on each bead and how it impacts our lives. Also, Brenda Hoot was inducted into the membership by Pat Mullen, membership co-chair.

We also met face to face on Wednesday, March 25 at McCooles's. Our speaker was Rich Rafferty, a representative from Fair Districts PA. He shared the proposals to reform the Gerrymandering practices within our Commonwealth. We also learned that we will postpone our famous "Paddle Raffle" Day to next year, but we will be conducting a Lottery Ticket sale for the month of July.

We are also helping the Twilight Wish Project with the collection of individual candy bars, puzzle books, small crackers, and cookie packages for the Independence Court's weekly Bingo games. Jean Carcanague is heading this project. (This is a senior citizen residence.)

Lastly, we are sure hoping to participate in the annual Quakertown Arts Alive on Saturday, May 15. Lyn Treffinger and Jeanne Carcanague will be coordinating this event for us.

Quakertown BPW is making plans to slowly return to what we hope will be "normal."

Nancy Werner

District 11

Souderton/Telford

Giant supermarket in Souderton donated \$1200.00 worth of hand sanitizers and hand soap to the community. S/T BPW facilitated getting the donations to the following organizations: WHW baskets for Keystone Opportunity Center, Garden of Health, Angels Sharing the Warmth, and Souderton Fire Company. Some will be used for our Locally Grown Showcase giveaways to be held on 5/1 in Upper Salford Park.

We had a window of a few days to make this happen, but great teamwork enabled us to accomplish it effortlessly.





Pictured are Allison Derstine of Giant, Kristine Fallows of Angels Sharing the Warmth and Colleen Gular V/P of S/T. Other picture is Mary Montroy with Jim Gallagher, President Souderton Fire Department.

LOCALLY GROWN SHOWCASE — MAY 1, 2021: We are so excited to announce that Locally Grown Showcase will be outside this year at Upper Salford Park, 559 Salford Station Rd, Schwenksville, PA 19473. It will be held on Saturday, May 1st 10am-3pm with a rain date of Sunday May 23rd, 10am-3pm. There will be food vendors, locally made and grown, wine to purchase, vendors who sell bath and body items, crafters and artists, local service groups and non-profits, and lots of fun for the whole family. We hope to see you there!

