



Let Your Dreams Take Flight

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- BPW/PA Summer Board Meeting
August 8
Zoom Meeting

BPW/PA Officers

President
Marisa Harmon

President Elect
Tiffanie Burger

Vice President
Melissa Wieand

Treasurer
Roxanne Pease

Recording Secretary
Glenda Auker

Corresponding Secretary
Virginia Shultz

Parliamentarian
R. Maureen Myers

Greetings and salutations, fellow BPW sisters!

I'm Marisa Harmon, your new State President. Welcome to the 2020-2021 BPW/PA year! This year, while we will continue to deal with the challenges of living in the time of pandemic, I feel we can still accomplish our goals of increasing new members, retaining existing members, and supporting our state project. Speaking of which...

TWILIGHT WISH! If you haven't heard about this great organization, please visit twilightwish.org. State Project chair and PSP Mary Weeks invited Cass Forkin, founder of Twilight Wish, to join us at our Summer Board meeting and tell us more about this wonderful organization. Mary also has great information in the President's Manual which can be found under the MEMBERS ONLY section of the website.

If you haven't registered for the Summer Board meeting yet, hop on over to the website and do so. It is August 7-8 at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College. The hotel staff is working with the guidelines set forth by Governor Wolf and the CDC to maintain social distancing and ensure cleanliness. Please note: per the hotel's rules, masks will be required inside the hotel, in the meeting rooms, and in the dining areas (unless you are eating/drinking). Should the state decide to institute another shutdown, we will again revert to a Zoom meeting; however, I am optimistic we will be able to meet in a few short weeks. **(Editor's Note: As of the press time, the in-person Summer Board Meeting has been canceled and is replaced by a Zoom meeting)**

Be safe, remember to hydrate, stay cool during the heat, and if someone wants to be my personal mosquito wrangler, please email me at marisaharmon@hotmail.com.



President Marisa





CELEBRATING SENIORS AND MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

BPW/PA STATE PROJECT: TWILIGHT WISH - Celebrating Seniors and Making Dreams Come True

BPW/PA has designated Twilight Wish as its State Project for the upcoming year. Headquartered in Doylestown, PA, Twilight Wish has Pennsylvania chapters in Erie, and Allegheny, Butler, Mercer, Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

Since their founding in 2003, the Twilight Wish goal has been to make the world a nicer place to age, one Twilight Wish at a time. Wishes can be in any of the four categories – simple needs, celebrating a life, living life to the fullest, or Veterans. To date, 3,331 Twilight Wishes have been granted.

Any District, Local or individual member can make a monetary donation to make a Twilight Wish come true. Complete the form in the Presidents' Manual (the form will also be on the website) and make your check payable to TWILIGHT WISH and send to me, Mary Weeks, 700 Columbia Ave, Lansdale, PA 19446. Any wishes granted from BPW/PA donations will be utilized for a PA resident. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MONETARY DONATIONS TO ME IS APRIL 15, 2021.**

Any BPW District, Local or individual member can also nominate deserving seniors for Twilight Wishes, if they meet the criteria. To find out how to request a wish and what the criteria are, go to

www.twilightwish.org/request-a-twilight-wish/. Please let me know if you nominate someone for a wish.

You can also support Twilight Wish by using DUTY (Diner Unexpected Thank You) cards to pay for senior meals. The DUTY program involves thanking seniors directly by treating them to a meal on the spot. If you use a DUTY card, would you kindly complete the form and send it to me, so I will know how we supported this Twilight Wish program (# cards used; \$ donated).

For more information on Twilight Wishes and DUTY cards, or to print additional copies of their brochure and DUTY cards, go to www.twilightwish.org. FYI...Under the media kit tab, there is a section of Frequently Asked Questions.

Twilight Wish has also agreed to provide speakers for District or Local BPW meetings, if possible (depending on availability and location). **NEWS ALERT: CASS FORKIN, FOUNDER OF TWILIGHT WISH WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER AT THE BPW/PA SUMMER BOARD MEETING IN AUGUST AT THE PENN STATER!**

Please help me this year to make sure our seniors are not forgotten.

Mary Weeks, BPW/PA State Project Chair

Issues Management

I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Marisa for allowing me to serve as Issues Management Chair for the 2020-2021 year. I look forward to working with the Executive Board, Chairs, District Directors and all of the members of BPW/PA. I know the exciting and wonderful things that the locals accomplish throughout the year and I know this year will be no exception. I look forward to seeing the contest entries and the creative ways our members promote and support BPW/PA. I hope to share many of these success stories with others so that we can become a stronger united force for women. I hope you will share the information regarding contests with your Districts and Locals and submit as many entries as possible. Share your programs and events with others by entering the contests. Encourage your locals to submit entries. The more competition, the better. Be proud of what you and your organization do. Show your pride by entering the contests and sharing your efforts with others. I look forward to working with all of you this year and hope we have a very successful year for BPW/PA

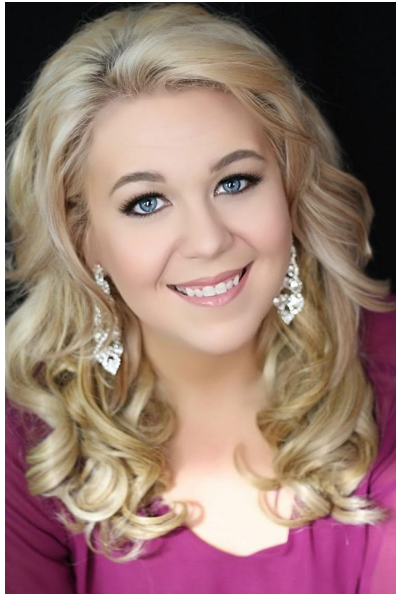
Jean Ann Towle
BPW PA Issues Management Chair



Check out our Updated

BPW/PA Website

<https://bpwpa.org/>



**2020 BPW/PA Young
Careerist Winner**

**Congratulations to the new
2020 Pennsylvania
Federation of Business and
Professional Women's
Young Careerist**

Sarah Marie Thomas

Young Careerist Chair

Members,

I have the honor of serving again as your Young Careerist Chair for 2020-2021. I love President Marisa's theme, ***"Let Your Dreams Take Flight"***, there are endless possibilities with this theme and we certainly need that in our current world. Our YCs will have lots of opportunities and ideas, I am sure!

At this point in the year, I will be putting the (4) four speech topics online, the Young Careerist Biographical Information form, and the Young Careerist Program Guidelines, so that our potential YC's can start working toward State Convention. I know we will have another great group this year!

To participate, a woman must be between the ages of 21 and 35. It is not necessary to be a BPW member at first, but it is a great way to get started in our organization. By the 2021 state convention, YCs need to be members. There will be a \$300.00 cash gift awarded to the YC winner at State Convention 2021!

Seasoned members may invite young members to Local and District meetings to get an idea what we are all about in BPW. Encourage them to participate in the YC competition and refer them to the BPW/PA website for the necessary forms and speech topics.

I look forward to a great year where ***"Let Your Dreams Take Flight"*** is our focus and mindset! Specifically, I urge our young members to consider the Young Careerist Speech Competition as a way of enhancing their budding careers while making some new friends and having some fun along the way. Let us have another fantastic group of YC candidates for State Convention 2021!

Susan M. Vladika, PSP

2020-2021 BPW/PA, Young Careerist Chair

Legislation

At the virtual State Convention on Saturday, June 13th, BPW/PA members adopted the following sentence to the beginning of the Civil Rights plank of the Legislative Platform:

"To encourage and promote diversity in our membership and in others in our communities and actively oppose all forms of institutional and individual racism."

What does this mean for BPW/PA? "To encourage and promote diversity in our membership", we need to be more welcoming of all new members and especially women of color into our locals. Unfortunately, we weren't always so accepting of people who wanted to join us. As late as the early 1970's, my mother had to be recommended by other members and approved before she could become a member of the Lansdale local.

Now comes the hard part – "to encourage and promote diversity in others in our communities and actively oppose all forms of institutional and individual racism", In order to do this we need to understand what's going on – especially in light of the recent protests regarding the death of George Floyd and others.

Black Lives Matter is a movement and a response that began in 2013 with the murder of Trayvon Martin and the disproportionate number of black men and women killed at the hands of the police. It doesn't mean black lives are more important than other lives or that all lives don't matter but to bring attention to the systemic devaluing of black lives and acknowledgement that oppression takes many forms. The best explanation I've heard is that white people are uncomfortable with the phrase Black Lives Matter because they see it as **only** Black Lives Matter or **just** Black Lives Matter when they should read the signs as Black Lives Matter **Too**.

Some only see the reports on TV of protestors facing police in riot gear and tear gas. No one is condoning violence, looting, or the destruction of property but as my dad, who was a police officer, used to say, if you look for trouble, you'll find it. The best example I have of protests that were handled correctly occurred in Lansdale. There have been 3 so far and all have been peaceful and respectful of property. The Lansdale Police Department handled the situation perfectly and instead of showing up with helmets, batons and riot gear, showed up their regular uniforms and stood and knelt with the protestors. Would there have been violence if they showed up otherwise? Who knows? I'd like to think the trust the police departments in our community have built with the residents showed in how they handled the protests.

Being white, I can never or even pretend to know what it's like to be black in America but I have seen firsthand the results of racism. I know mothers who have had "the talk" with their children on how to deal with the police so they come home safely and have seen them frantic with worry when their children are late getting home or fail to "check in". If you don't believe this happens, watch the video, Black Parents Explain How to Deal with the Police, on YouTube. There's one segment of a father and daughter practicing what to say every day before she leaves the house in case she's stopped by the police. She holds her hands up in the air, states her name, says she's 8-years old, is unarmed, and has nothing to harm the officer. It's heartbreaking to watch.

In response to yet another shooting of an unarmed black man by the police, Jon Stewart said, "I guarantee you that every person of color in this country has faced an indignity, from the ridiculous to the grotesque to sometimes fatal, at some point in their ... I'm going to say last couple of hours, because of their skin color. Race is there, and it is a constant. You're tired of hearing about it? Imagine how ****ing exhausting it is living it."

Adding a sentence to the BPW/PA Legislative Platform, no matter how well intended, is a meaningless gesture unless we're prepared to do something about it. Join the protests, demand better training and screening of police officers, find out what you, your local, and your community can do to end racism, and if nothing else, start the discussion. Nothing will change if we don't act. Women didn't get the right to vote sitting home and hoping one day they would get the vote. They protested, marched, were arrested and tortured and to quote a new documentary about the suffrage movement, "they weren't given the vote, they took it".

Thank you to Terry Miller, Delaware County, District 10 and Past State President Donna Weinstein for revising the BPW/PA Legislative Platform with this important statement.

Ginny Bailey
BPW/PA Legislation Chair

Bylaws Chair

Hope all of you are staying safe and healthy during these crazy times. I want to thank President Marisa for allowing me the opportunity to serve BPW/PA State as this year's By-Laws Chair. I will be reaching out to the District Directors for District 5 and District 6 to get us going on a successful By-Laws review and submission. Wishing all of you a great rest of the summer.

Donna M. Jones

BPW/PA By-Laws Chair





BPW Website / Social Media

The importance of a website for membership / information purposes extends to every aspect of our digital strategy. As the backbone of our online presence, every type of communication, piece of content, or advertisement that we put online should drive the consumer back to our Website / Facebook. Our website serves as that "home base" where you can send members when they want to learn more about an event or program we are having, or for a prospective member who wants to learn more about BPW and what we do in the state.

This year we are going to give the BPW/PA Website a facelift. We are going to make it more user friendly and more appealing to those who don't know about BPW/PA but are seeking more information. We are going to continue with the weekly Buzz Newsletters and post weekly to our social media to keep all members in the loop.

POSTING INFORMATION TO THE BPW/PA WEBSITE / FACEBOOK PAGE: PHOTOS:

To have information posted on the BPW/PA Facebook page or photos added to the Website Gallery please email all pictures as a JPEG. Include the names of all people pictured. Include info about the event the picture was taken.

EVENTS If you would like an event posted to the Facebook page, please have all info submitted at least 2 weeks before the date of your event. You must include: Date of Event, Location, Time of Event, and Explanation about the event. Please include the art for the event or it will be generic.

DISCLAIMER: Make sure you have the permission of all members photographed to be posted on our Website / Social Media. I encourage you to have your members sign a photo release form upon joining the organization.

Good Luck on the upcoming year!

Membership Board



I want to introduce my team of four area membership representatives. They will plan to visit your district meetings this Fall to give some tips on increasing and maintaining your members. Please allow them 10 minutes maximum with time to answer any questions.

AREA 1 Districts 1,2,4 Mary Jean 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

Additionally, I will answer questions and help locals with membership issues. My goal is to see all locals equalize first then grow in membership. BPW/PA is 1230 members strong as of May 31, 2020. Let us allow our dreams to soar and watch as BPW/PA soars to new heights in 2020-2021!

Diana Fesenmyer

BPW/PA Membership Chair

155 East State Rd

Seneca, PA 16346

e-mail: dfes1@comcast.net

818-676-6442 home

814-673-6442 cell



D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

July 1, 2020	* Deadline for the September Issue of <i>THE KEY</i>
August 7-8, 2020	* BPW/PA Summer Board Meeting, Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, 215 Innovation Blvd., State College, PA 16803 * PA BPW Foundation Meeting * EPW/PA Meeting
August 26, 2020	* Women's Equality Day
October 2020	* Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 1, 2020	* Deadline for the December Issue of <i>THE KEY</i>
October 18-24, 2020	* National Business Women's Week
October	* BPW Ecumenical Event,
November 1, 2020	* Deadline for PA BPW Foundation Scholarship applications for Spring Semester
November 3, 2020	* Election Day – GET OUT AND VOTE!
November 11, 2020	* PA Conference for Women, Online To register visit website: paconferencefor-women.org
November 15, 2020	* Deadline for LO copies of Budget to District Finance Chair
December 2020	* Happy Holidays!
January 15, 2021	* Deadline for BPW/PA Candidate Application to State Nomination Chair, Dawn Berkebile * Deadline for one copy of LO Budget and District Budget from District Finance Chair to BPW/PA Finance Chair, Joyce Turner * Deadline for any proposed changes to the BPW/PA Bylaws to BPW/PA Bylaws Chair, Donna Jones
February 2021	* Foundation Month * Heart Awareness Month * National Cancer Prevention Month
February	*World Cancer Day
February 6, 2021	* Deadline for April Issue of <i>THE KEY</i>
February 15, 2021	* Deadline for LOs in Districts 5 and 6 to submit Bylaws to District Bylaws Chair
March 2021	* Women in History Month
March 1, 2021	* Deadline for Districts 5 and 6 Bylaws to BPW/PA Bylaws Chair, Donna Jones
March	* BPW/PA Mid-Winter Board Meeting, The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, 215 Innovation Blvd., State College, PA 16803 * PA BPW Foundation Meeting * EPW/PA Meeting
April 15, 2021	* LO Contest entries are due to the District Chairs for the following: Issues Management, Legislation, Membership, and Public Relations
April 2021	* Equal Pay Day, Primary Election – Get out and vote!
April 30, 2021	* District Historians must send their LO Histories and their District History to BPW/PA Historian, Liz Leeper * All Donations to PA BPW Foundation must be received by PA BPW Foundation Treasurer
May 1, 2021	*BPW/PA District Entries to BPW/PA Chairs are due (and postmarked) for the following: *Issues Management Jean Ann Towle *Legislation Virginia (Ginny) Bailey *Public Relations Angela Apple *BPW Foundation entries are due (and postmarked) to Foundation Chair, Terri Detrick BPW Foundation entry form must be attached. *All Materials/Photos for the District Individual Development and Young Careerist representatives are due to BPW/PA ID Chair, Sheryl Nierenberg, And BPW/PA YC Chair, Susan Vladika * Deadline for PA BPW Foundation Scholarship Applications for Fall Semester * Reports from District Directors, Standing and Special Committee Chairs are due to the Convention Manual Editor, Angie Marhefka
	* All BPW/PA Chairs with contests must send a copy of their categories and winners to Issues Management Chair, Jean Ann Towle, for the contest winner booklets and to Donna Weinstein for printing of the certificates for presentation at Convention. *All remaining BPW/PA Standing and Special Committee Chairs are asked to send a summary of the Districts' participation to BPW/PA Vice President, Missy Wieand for the Eleanor Briner Award.
June 7, 2021	National Cancer Survivors Day
June 10-13, 2021	BPW/PA 101 st Annual State Convention, Pittsburgh Marriott North

District 3

On behalf of District 3, we would like to congratulate Dawn Berkebile on leading us through the 2019-2020 BPW/PA year. Dawn did a great job amid all the things she experienced personally with health issues, relocating to a new home and having zoom meetings due to the corona virus and Covid-19. It was not an easy task and we are proud she was our BPW/PA President during unprecedented times. We wish President Marisa Harmon success in her upcoming year and District 3 will be here to support her.

I would like to thank all the members of District 3 and Past District 3 Director Jean Calabrace who made last year very successful in spite of the changes in the world around us.

District 3 was represented by Teresa Whitacre for the ID speaker and Erica Stouffer as the YC speaker at state convention. They did a great job. Congratulations to Teresa the BPW/PA winner!

Many local members from Greater Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Latrobe, Ligonier, McKeesport and Scottdale attended the BPW PA State Convention on Zoom. We also welcomed back the Eleanor Briner Award.

The District 3 officers for the 2020-2021 year are:
District Director Laurie Hough – Ligonier Valley
Assistant District Director Angela Apple – Latrobe
Recording Secretary Marsha St. Pierre – Latrobe
Treasurer Maggie Hildebrand – Ligonier Valley
Parliamentarian Marilyn Tallant – Greensburg
Corresponding Secretary Jackie Elliott – Latrobe



District 3 is preparing for a very busy year with new ideas and plans for our future. All the locals are having crossover meetings either in person or zoom to help new officers and chairs with their new responsibilities.

Our theme for the new year is Dream Big – Be All You Can BE. Doing all we can, being the best we can be. Our goal is getting past the I can't's and focusing on the I can – women helping women.

Laurie Hough
District 3 Director

District 10

District 10 had their Spring District meeting via ZOOM. It was well attended but hopefully the last ZOOMer.

Since we did not have a Spring District meeting this year, District 10 held a "Bakeless Bake Sale" to raise money.

Half the proceeds went to The District Treasury and the other half was donated to 2 local Food Banks: one in Chester county and one in Delaware County.

Many members of District 10 attended the BPW/PA 2020 State Convention via ZOOM. It was well attended and very productive. The District received awards in a few categories. Thanks, President Dawn for a history making convention.

District 10 is tentatively planning our Fall District meeting on October 24, 2020 at The Clarion Hotel in Essington (near Philadelphia International Airport)

Due to COVID19, our year was interrupted but our locals are staying strong.

We are looking forward to a new beginning in 2020-2021.

**Thanks for
Donating!**



District 11

Greater Conshohocken

Greater Conshohocken has sad news and good news. Sadly we have lost our longest term member Louise Hepburn. Louise was 99 in April and was a loyal and dedicated BPW member for over 60+ years. Louise was our Treasurer for more years than we can count. We would come to our dinner meeting and Louise was at the front table greeting us. She leaves us all with a sad heart.



Our happy news is our member Alix Catania and family welcomed son Charlie in April. Alix, her Mom Rose Marie Kunaszuk, Grandmother Rose Marie Berkezhuk and Aunt Janet DeTuro are all members. Congratulations to the Catania family.



Quakertown



COVID 19 wasn't stopping the Quakertown's Installation from happening on Tuesday, June 23 at the home of member Lyn Treffinger. Everyone came with their masks and did the 6 feet apart while enjoying a picnic. Our installing officer was Judy Guise with a theme of "radios." Our officers for 2020-2021 are: Linda Moskal, President; Georgia Wilson and Jeanne Schlicher, Co-Vice Presidents; Ellen Moran, Recording Secretary; Crystal Smith, Treasurer; Gladys Benner, Corresponding Secretary and Toni Rubic, Parliamentarian.



Two Scholarship awards were presented to seniors of the Quakertown Community High School. They were Jacob Lewis and Cecily Desiderio. Both are hoping to attend college in the fall.

Nancy Werner, Quakertown Key Reporter

District 11

Central Montgomery

When the COVID-19 came to PA, we were rather dumbfounded. It happened so fast and how quickly the world stopped. We did not meet in March and April, but we sent email news. We realized that we needed to do something to keep our communication lines open. We adapted to joining the Zoom era. CMC BPW member, Dr. Bev Weinberg, shared her Zoom account with us, and we had a delightful time meeting live and in prime time for May and June. Dr. Bev owns and operates the Ingrate For Good Foundation. Now we did not do any programs but just doing the business of our local organization was so important. We are becoming pros on the Zoom.

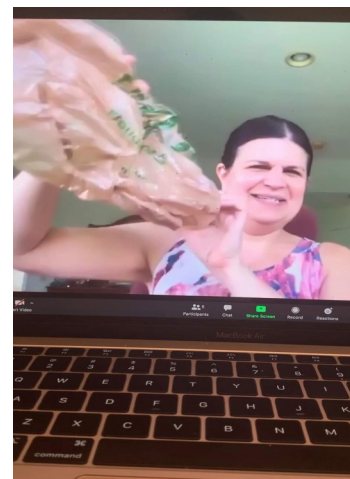
We did elect officers for the 2021-2020 year.

President-Nancy Werner;
Vice-President-Ginny Bailey;
Rec. Sec.-The Honorable Cheryl Austin;
Treasurer-Noreen Morello;
Corresponding Sec. Vanessa Perez;
Parliamentarian Cheryl Decoteaux.

Installation will take place in September.

But our success at the Zoom BPW/PA Convention on June 13 was humbling as well as gratifying. Placing third in the Federation with our Laurel House Domestic Violence Shelter in Norristown was a year of working with Beth Sturman, the Director, and her staff. Our participation in the many District/State Committee Contests showed that working together does provide success through achievement. But we must also brag about our Ginny Bailey being honored as our BPW/PA Woman of Year. We are so immensely proud of all that she has accomplished. BRAVO!!!

Nancy Werner, CMC BPW Key Reporter



District 11

Souderton

Telford ends their year. With the COVID-19 keeping all our members at their homes or isolated at their work, the last 4 meetings were cancelled. We had ZOOM meetings for two of our Board or regular meetings.

We voted in the new Officers:

President - Dana Vesey.o
1st Vice-President - Colleen Gular
2nd Vice-President - Diana Trotter
Recording Secretary- Rachel Finlayson
Treasurer - Janet Cary



We have 7 new members contacted through our website, Facebook or our vendors of 2019 LGS. They have stepped up helping with gifts to the families, LGS, Poinsettia sales and committees. We are strong.

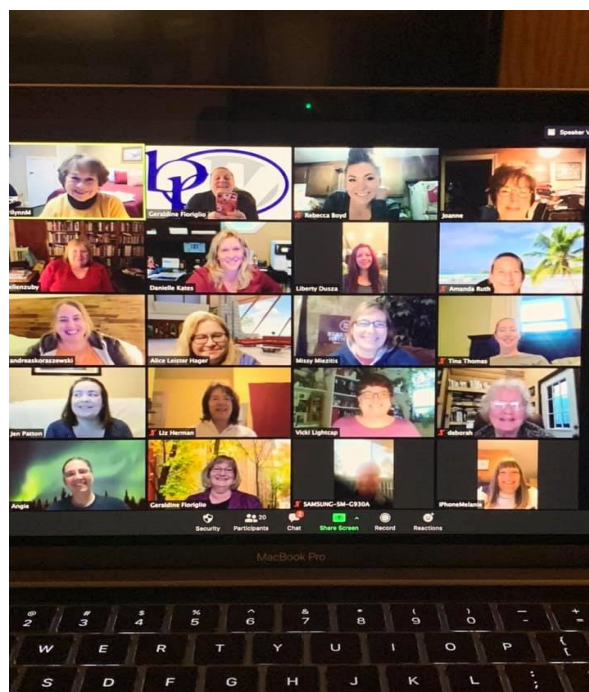
The Locally Grown Showcase is our major fundraiser. The 2020 event has been postponed and the committee is making plans for 2021.

The community has a Concert Sundaes series where our members served ice cream, pizza and hotdogs while attendees enjoyed the music. This series has been cancelled for 2020 summer but the committee has two nights that Ice Cream will be available and we have members helping with the dishing and gifts for children.

Upper Perkiomen

The Upper Perkiomen BPW elected the following to the 2020-21 Board:

President Alice Hager
1st Vice President: Liberty Dusza
2nd Vice President: Rebecca Boyd
Treasurer: Annie Skoraszewski
Recording Secretary: Angela Graber
Corresponding Sec: Cheryl Gebert
Parliamentarian: Jennifer Van Ingen



Upper Perkiomen BPW members look great on Zoom!

