



# The KEY

Newsletter of Business & Professional Woman of Pennsylvania

Spring 2020

Reach Beyond The Stars Stronger★Together★Advocating★Resources★Survivors

HOPE WILL  
NOT BE  
CANCELLED.

## In this Issue

- Colors of the Women's Suffrage
- State Project Update
- BPW/PA Donation Form
- State Officer Candidate Information
- What's happening around the state

## Upcoming Events

- April 15 2020 Deadline for contest entries to district chairs
- May 1, 2020 Deadline for contest entries to state chairs
- June 11-14, State Convention, York, PA

## BPW/PA Officers

### President

Dawn Berkebile

### President Elect

Marisa Harmon

### Vice President

Tiffanie Burger

### Treasurer

Jean Ann Towle

### Recording Secretary

Glenda Auker

### Corresponding Secretary

Janet Riorden

### Parliamentarian

Cathy Caccia

## WE ARE...

## Stronger Together Advocating Resources Survivors

Ladies in these unprecedented times, I am not sure really where to start with my report. We will start with the business of the state. As you know we were forced to cancel the Winter Board meeting at State College amid the warnings of the coronavirus and Covid-19. Your Executive committee did meet on the 14<sup>th</sup> at my home. And your state board met Sunday March 29 via Zoom. It was an efficient and productive meeting. It was very nice to see friends from the across the state even if only in a small square. With so many District meetings and local meetings being canceled I would encourage you to look at zoom as an option. First to keep continuity among your clubs and districts, and second to keep connected and to see each other even when you can't be in the same space. I am aware that many of you have had to cancel spring fundraisers. I would also encourage you to come up with unique ways to make up for those losses. With so many small businesses being affected right now, maybe you have small business owner members or direct selling members you can partner with to fundraise. This will help your clubs and your members in this time of need. If not for fundraising I encourage those clubs with Facebook pages to start highlighting you small businesses in an effort to help keep them going right now. Check on each other, check on your older members. Help each other out in whatever ways you can safely. I know this is hard on everyone. We will all get through this. We are moving forward as planned with Convention. Until we are told otherwise, we will assume that June will be a light at the end of the tunnel and that our 100<sup>th</sup> Convention celebration will take on a whole new meaning as we gather together after this is over. For me I



am hiding indoors enjoying my time home-schooling Kolten and doing all my normal daily chores around the house. Its strange without the stress of having to run 50 places how much more enjoyable those normal activities have become. I want to thank all of you for your continued dedication to our great organization. Keep up all the good work! Stay home and Stay Safe! And I look forward to seeing you all in June!

*President Dawn*

REACH BEYOND THE STARS  
Stronger★Together★Advocating★Resources★Survivors

## Colors of the Women's Suffrage

With all our hopes and dreams that we will have our 100<sup>th</sup> BPW/PA Convention, I heard that President Dawn would like us to wear one of or all three of these colors on Saturday, June 13 as a tribute to our 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the VOTES FOR WOMEN. But what are these colors and their significance?

**White** stood for the purity and our symbolism of our purpose. **Purple** stood for the color of loyalty, constancy to purpose, unswerving steadfastness to the cause. In the United States, **Gold** replaced the green of our British counterparts. Gold stood for the color of light and life of the torch that led us. The three tricolors signified loyalty, purity, and life.

An interesting fact was how gold was placed into our American three colors rather than keeping the British green. It happened in 1867 when Kansas was considering the passage of a state suffrage referendum. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony adopted the Kansas state flower, the sunflower, as a symbol of the suffrage cause. Gold pins, ribbons, sashes, as well as yellow roses became symbols of the cause- "VOTES FOR WOMEN."

Throughout history, color has always been a way to provide instant recognition. Our three colors – **white, purple and gold** have been our three. So, as we plan our hopeful list of clothes for convention, see what you might have in your closet. If you are not planning on attending, write these colors on your calendar for June 13 and wear them wherever you are. Our BPW sisterhood could not be stronger than in the challenging times confronting us now.

Nancy Werner, BPW/PA

## Issues Management

Hi Ladies: Hoping all of you are staying safe and healthy during these trying times. Looking forward to all of the Issues Management submissions from the various Districts and Locals. I look forward to reading and sharing with everyone your wonderful reports.

Donna M. Jones  
BPW PA Issues Management Chair

## Young Careerist

I hope everyone is holding up in these trying times we now live in. I pray for you and your families as we all aim to keep ourselves healthy!

In this issue of **The Key**, I simply want to remind all potential YCs in BPW/PA to keep in contact with your Local and District YC Chairs for advice on the speech portion of your submission. Many Districts may be cancelling or holding Spring meetings by video conference, so the judging and submission of speeches will take on a new look!

In my own District (8) a Zoom meeting is planned for April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm, so my Director has arranged for judges to review all materials along with video of the candidates giving their speeches prior to the Zoom meeting. That way, the winning candidate can be announced on the day of the Zoom meeting. That is the plan! I will keep you posted and pass on our results, with this format.

A reminder: the deadline for submission of all materials to me, for the Young Careerist competition, is **May 1, 2020**.

I am honored to serve as your Young Careerist Chair this year and would invite you to contact me if you have any questions at [vladika@verizon.net](mailto:vladika@verizon.net).

Susan M. Vladika  
2019-2020 BPW/PA  
Young Careerist Chair

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS



President Dawn Berkebile's selection for the State Project, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its organizations, has brought out the compassion and generosity of BPW members statewide! My job as Chairperson has been easy because of the realization of how important it is to support victims of violence.

To date, over \$14,000 in monetary and in-kind donations have been distributed to shelters and PCADV organizations throughout the state! And, as an employee of one of these organizations, I can say the clients and their families are grateful for this support! Accept my sincere thanks on behalf of all who will benefit from your kindness!

The top six BPW local groups leading in donations are as follows:

**Washington County – District 12**  
**Latrobe – District 3**  
**Delaware City - District 10**  
**Ligonier – District 3**  
**Central Montgomery – District 11**  
**Wellsboro – District 6**

Please continue to visit the PCADV website at [www.pcadv.org](http://www.pcadv.org) to learn more of what services the Coalition can provide, and what shelters are located in your area. Most shelters and organizations have "needs lists" on their websites. Many survivors will be rebuilding their lives, as well as homes, when they leave the shelter. Donations, monetary or material, are crucial to women, men and children whose lives have been impacted by violence or crime.

At the end of the year, we will be awarding a grand prize to the local who has submitted the most donations for the year. Thanks for your continued support! If you don't have a local shelter or organization to donate to, please consider sending your gifts directly to the PCADV. And, if you have any questions or suggestions contact me, Joelyn Aukerman, at [aukie73@hotmail.com](mailto:aukie73@hotmail.com).

## Be a Star!



Look for the shooting star hidden in this issue of the Key. When you find the star, complete the entry form by clicking the link. Congratulations to Jennifer VanIngen, Upper Perkiomen District 11 for finding the Star in the Winter issue!

A winner will be selected from all correct entries on May 1, 2020 and will receive a special prize! Enter here

<https://goo.gl/forms/1QhPck91HdatbVTy1>



The PABPW Foundation accepts applications from individuals who meet the financial need criteria; are US citizens and are a PA BPW member or resident of Pennsylvania for two (2) years. Our Fall Semester Scholarship Deadline is MAY 1. We do offer a scholarship twice if the applying candidate meets all requirements. Reminder candidate must apply for each request. For application, criteria and submission instructions go to [BPWPA.org](http://BPWPA.org). Applications can be downloaded from the [bpwpa.org](http://bpwpa.org) public page, completed and mailed to Laura Whetstone. Please spread the word if you know anyone who would be looking for educational aid. We will be selecting three (3) more applications at this time.

Scholarship applications available online at <https://bpwpa.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/2019-2020/PABPW%20FOUNDATION/2019%20PA%20BPW%20Scholarship%20Application.pdf>





## Legislation

To paraphrase Thomas Paine, "These are the days that try people's souls". I tried to think of a good quote to start my report given the current crisis and these words came to mind. Despite sounding bleak, I do have good things to report:

**The date of the Pennsylvania Primary has been changed to Tuesday, June 2, 2020.** Also changed is the last day to register to vote (May 18) and the last day to apply for a mail-in ballot (May 26). Applying for a mail-in ballot is easy and you only have to answer a few questions – and thanks to the new election law that doesn't require an excuse, you can answer "no" to all 3 questions and still get approved. To apply, go to [VotePA.com/ApplyMailBallot](http://VotePA.com/ApplyMailBallot).

BPW/PA and AAUW/PA weren't planning an Equal Pay Rally this year since the state legislature would not be in session. Instead, we were hoping our members could meet with their legislators face-to-face to lobby for equal pay but with "social distancing", that didn't happen either. However, we do have some good news to report – we marked the FIRST Equal Pay Day to occur in March since we began observing it! It shows we are making progress. Also, if there is a silver lining to the COVID-19 virus is that more attention is being given to service workers and those making a hourly wage. This crisis has started discussion on equal pay, livable wages, paid sick leave, and quality health care.

Don't forget to complete your U.S. Census form! You can respond online, by phone or by mail and your responses will effect all aspects of your community from funding for public services and schools to how many seats will be allocated in the House of Representatives.

Lastly, I hope this time home has given you a chance to work on your Legislative Contest entries. I look forward to see what you have been working on and don't forget to nominate someone for the Public Servant Award.

Thank you to Lilly Gioia and Jean Calabrace for serving on the Legislation Committee and to President Dawn for allowing me to serve.

I hope to see many of you at State Convention and when we get through this crisis, the only quote we can think of is "She persisted"!

Ginny Bailey  
BPW/PA Legislation Chair

## CONVENTION MANUAL REPORTS

It's that time of the year for Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, Special Appointees, and District Directors to prepare their Convention Manual Reports. I am looking for each of you to provide a one-page synopsis of the 2019-20 year, highlighting your goals met and any achievements accomplished to me.

Once again, here are the guidelines that were published in the Incoming Presidents' Manual last June:

- Use the letterhead provided by President Dawn and Corresponding Secretary Janet Riordan
- Limit your report to one (1) page, using **Arial Font 12**
- Email your report to me in **Microsoft Word** ([karens129@comcast.net](mailto:karens129@comcast.net))
- Deadline is **April 30, 2020** – no exceptions and no extensions

Once again this year, we will accept COLOR Photos for the manual...so those of you submitting photos, particularly Bios, Candidates for State Office, ID & YC Candidates, if you'd send them to me in a separate .JPEG file, that would be most appreciated!

Karen Schmiech  
Convention Manual Editor

## BPW FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS

Please consider giving to the PA BPW Foundation. The foundation has awarded six (6) scholarships for a total of \$15,000.00; Three (3) in July & Three (3) in January. We've paid out more in scholarships in the past two (2) years then we've received.

We have also awarded an EOF grant in the amount of \$5,000 this year. Now, we need to ask you for your support in replenishing our funds. When you donate, would you please check the scholarship box on the donation form that is attached. By doing this, the funds you donate will go to directly to the Scholarship Fund. This will enable us to award more scholarships in the future.

Thanking you in advance for your donations. **Please use the form found on page 20 to make a donation.**

Diane L Lewis  
PA BPW Foundation Chair





## How are you holding up BPW/PA Public Relations team?

Who would have thought while we were having a busy BPW/PA year in our Locals and Districts and preparing to see each other at our Spring District meetings, all while trying to obtain as much public relations exposure for our events as possible, that we would be stopped in our tracks by a disease that has overwhelmed us and caused so much sadness and uncertainty? Having said that and while praying for all of our BPW/PA sisters and our country, life as we knew it has become so vastly different however life, does go on. I have a challenge for my BPW/PA Public Relations team and remember ladies, that is all of us in BPW. I am offering a little temporary diversion from our daily worries and a chance to feel good about your Local and District by entering and winning one of the BPW/PA Public Relations Contests.

Would you please consider completing one or more entries for the BPW/PA Public Relations contests? There are seven categories to choose from with the contest rules found on the BPW/PA website in the *members only* section under the tab Contests-Public Relations. The contest reporting period runs from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Local Organization entries are due to your District Public Relations Chair by April 15, 2020. District Public Relations Chairs choose one entry per category and send the District winners to me (with fingers crossed) by May 1, 2020. In the last few weeks we have renewed our willingness to find joy in some of the smaller things in life. Just entering and perhaps winning in one of the categories of the BPW/PA Public Relations Contests for your Local Organization or District can bring you such joy and give a lift to your membership. Give it a try and I promise it will bring a sense of control and accomplishment. Any questions, please contact me at [Tmiller@frontrowlaw.com](mailto:Tmiller@frontrowlaw.com) or at 610-357-5014. The Public Relations winners will be announced at Convention!

Thank you to President Dawn and her officers for their assistance this year. It has been an honor to serve as BPW/PA Public Relations Chair. I wish all of you the best in the upcoming days and weeks. I look forward to seeing you in print, on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, online and in the Buzz. Take good care of yourselves BPW/PA sisters until we meet again!

Terry Miller  
BPW/PA Public Relations Chair

## Edith Oler Flanigan Fund Grant

The PA BPW Foundation is able to help a member in need with a grant. All Edith Oler Flanigan Fund Grant applications requesting financial aid are kept confidential.

If you know any member that is experiencing a financial hardship due to emergencies such as catastrophic illness or accident, extended unemployment or disaster or any unusual financial loss may apply. Download the application from the [bpwpa.org](http://bpwpa.org) membership section and complete all information. Return to the PA BPW Foundation Board member listed. Applications are accepted at any time.

You can download the donation form at [www.BPWPA.org](http://www.BPWPA.org)

## Membership

March 30, 2020 is the official time to celebrate each local's membership numbers. This year is very unusual due to the Corona Virus 19. Many Spring meetings have been cancelled. Many locals have not had a meeting since early in March. I am asking each local president, local treasurer, and local membership chair to go to the [bpwpa.wildapricot.org](http://bpwpa.wildapricot.org) site. Log in with your email and password to the members only site. Scroll down to the Members column on the left side and press member. Scroll down to Member Directory and tap. Do an advanced search on the right for your local roster using **"IS" then enter "Your CHAPTER NAME"** and double check your membership roster. Please notify me immediately if:

- **Paid members names are not listed in the roster, but they paid dues.**
- **New members names are missing but you sent in their dues.**

**For each problem in category A & B, please include**

- **the check number used from your BPW/PA local account**
- **date of the check**
- **names of the missing members by including a copy of the form sent to state since you must keep these for audit purposes.**

**If a member is listed in the roster, but you did not receive dues payment for renewal, please send a list of names for these nonmembers a.s.a.p.**

**I will accept these corrections until April 28, 2020 by email to [dfes1@comcast.net](mailto:dfes1@comcast.net)**

You may also mail any correspondence by April 27 to: Diana Fesenmyer, 155 East State Rd, Seneca, PA 16346

I understand there may be a few locals that have a concern so by including the president, the treasurer, and the membership secretary in the process, we may find answers to these problems quickly. We promise to use accurate numbers for all the membership awards.

Thank you for all your efforts to make BPW/PA a vibrant and growing organization for Pennsylvania business and professional women.

Diana Fesenmyer  
BPW/PA Membership Chair

# Meet Our Candidates

As nominations chair, I am pleased to be able to provide the names of candidates for office for the 2020-2021 BPW/PA club year. Each candidate that sent their paperwork in by the January deadline was asked to respond to 2 questions approved by the current Executive Board.

**This past year we had locals and Districts disband. With that in mind how will you assist the locals to REACH BEYOND and retain their current membership and at the same time grow and recruit new members?**

**What motivates you to REACH BEYOND to be an officer of BPW/PA? In what way will you assist members to REACH BEYOND their comfort zone to accept a leadership role within their local, district or state BPW?**

These are our candidates that submitted their information by the January deadline. Just recently I received the paperwork from a candidate willing to "COME FROM THE FLOOR" to be nominated for TREASURER. Since I have her information, I made an executive decision, as the nominating chair to include in this issue of THE KEY so you can meet her. (I have paraphrased their responses)

This is the slate that will be presented at convention but anyone still interested in any office may be nominated from the "convention floor". Thank you ladies for "REACHING BEYOND" and agreeing to lead BPW/PA in 2020-2021.

Theresa Rusbosin, Nominations Chair

## Recording Secretary Glenda Aufer

Glenda is a member of Juniata County in District 4. She has been the local President and Parliamentarian. At the District level, Glenda was Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Director and Director. On the State board, she is current Recording Secretary and was BPW/PA Foundation Chair. In addition to BPW, she is a member of Keystone Human Services and is currently enjoying her retirement.



**Glenda's Response:** Glenda feels the locals and Districts need assistance in reviewing what they are currently doing and help to come up with new ideas. She feels this is not solely the responsibility of the BPW/PA President but other officers and committee members as well. She wants to encourage to use programs with more interaction with their membership. Plan events open to the public. Remind current members to ASK others to join BPW and to use the

words Business and Professional Women's Club to help explain the organization.

Her motivation is to help BPW grow and to assist other members to see the benefits of being involved by learning more about how BPW/PA works. She prefers to be a doer than a spectator and she wants to share what she has learned with others by mentoring and encouraging to REACH BEYOND.

## Vice President Melissa Wieand

Missy is a member of the Quakertown local and is completing her term as District 11 Director. Within her local she has held 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and President (twice). In addition to District Director, she was Assistant Director and By Laws Chair. She is retired from the United States Postal Service and is a Board member of the Quakertown High School Alumni Association.



**Missy's Response:** It is the responsibility of the VP to resolve problems pertaining to the district and locals and to stabilize membership. She will assist with locals to REACH BEYOND and retain/grow membership by making herself available and enlisting the help of our State Chairs to promote BPW within the community. She feels we can tap into our collective resources and "our group genius" (no one is as smart as all of us). Realizing we have members talented, knowledgeable and creative in many different ways, she would reach out to them for recommendations in assisting locals and districts. Utilizing social media and technological skills of newer members. Embrace change, while challenging it is also necessary.

An 18 year member, she is motivated and energized by the BPW sisters she has come to know and respect. She says it is important to realize that the 21<sup>st</sup> century presents new challenges and opportunities. It is exciting to look forward to maintaining our core values while adapting to the challenges and opportunities. As women we recognize our roles as leaders, innovator and mentors and we have amazing young women with whom to share those skills. Through education, mentorship, workshops and a wide variety of communication venues we can "REACH BEYOND" so that out locals and districts can "lead by example" and encourage & motivate members to become more involved at all levels of the organization by providing incentives for taking on leadership roles.

## President Elect Tiffany Burger

Tiffany is a member of Juniata County local in District 4. She has held Recording Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and President in her local. In District 4 she was Recording Secretary, Assistant Director and Director. Currently she is BPW/PA Vice President and was Young Careerist Chair and on the Member Marketing Task Force. She is self-employed, co-owner of Serendipity 2 Day Spa, she is a licensed massage therapist. In addition to her BPW membership, she is in Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals, Boy Scouts of America (Cub Scouts) and EJES Home and School Association.



**Tiffany's Response:** Tiffany believes recruiting and attracting members is an issue many organizations are going through. Her approach is 2 prong. She believes that building personal relationships, knowing your members, find out what they enjoy. Encouraging involvement to better learn about BPW and be able to promote the organization in our communities. She believes in recognizing a job well done, acknowledging milestones, (birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, new babies, grandbabies etc.). Are the meetings fun and informative? She says to ask yourself and if the answer is NO, then reevaluate and look for ways to improve the meeting. Make it so you want to invite others to attend. Second, she feels using different avenues of media, word of mouth, social media Facebook, Instagram and Group me, all which are popular with the younger generation. This is how they get their information. Also she suggests live streaming/video through the internet or various apps available, members could join virtually or catch a replay at a more convenient time.

As a BPW officers, she believes they are obligated to assist local and district organizations and their members. Offer support, available to answer questions.

Tiffany is motivated by the desire to continue the mission of BPW to see full equality for women in all aspects of life. She wants to see BPW thrive and continue for future generations. She believes in leading by example, so in order for her to ask others to serve she felt she needed to step up to officer also. She looks for leadership in her local by observing who is a natural leader, who needs the nudge to step up to run for an office. Suggesting a member step up to be an officer may be the encouragement and confidence needed. When a member approached her to consider running for office in the local it gave her the confidence and encouragement she needed to take that step. She feel belief and encouragement are powerful tools to propel someone to their full potential. Plant the seed!

## Stay Connected!

Be sure to visit the BPW/PA website for up-to-date information from across the state. Update your profile online!

[www.bpwpa.wildapricot.org](http://www.bpwpa.wildapricot.org)

Check out the BPW/PA Facebook page! @BPW/PA



## Treasurer Roxanne Pease

Roxanne is a member of both Kittanning and Indiana locals. At the local level she has served as Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and President and for District 2 she served as Recording secretary, Assistant

Director and District Director. She is employed with First Commonwealth Bank as Senior Accountant. In addition to her membership in both local BPW organizations, she is involved with the United Way of Indiana County Board of Directors and THE Care Center of Indiana.

**Roxanne's Response:** During the past 2 years many locals and districts have had talks of disbanding, her district is no different. She is working to gain members by advertising their monthly meetings in the local paper and via Facebook. She has joined local groups within the community such as the tourist bureau and attending events where she can seek new members. Some members have joined via social media (LinkedIn). She believes these efforts are not enough. During the upcoming year she plans to start online meetings because many members work in the area but do not live there. She feels that these efforts can be utilized within the entire BPW.

She states she has been very lucky to have many mentors to follow giving her the motivation to be an officer of BPW/PA. She plans to encourage members to get involved whether it be coming to a state meeting, attending the district meetings or helping with fundraising/advertising within their local. Get-



ting individuals present is the first step. Once they experience the friendships and realize they can be of assistance, they will be happy to help out. She feels that it is just a matter of talking to them and making them feel welcome before they are willing to jump in.

## President Marisa Harmon

Marisa is a member of the Uniontown Local in District 12. She has previously served as a BPW/PA officer in the capacity of Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. In her local, Marisa currently holds the position of Parliamentarian. She has



held the offices of president and treasurer, as well as various committee chairs. Marisa represented her local three times as Young Careerist, advancing twice to the state competition. In 2013, she was awarded Woman of the Year. At the district level, Marisa has served as the District Director, Assistant Director, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary. She also held various committee chair positions and helped with fundraising for the Barbara J. Myers-Ciccone Memorial Scholarship. Marisa is currently employed with WVU Medicine at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown WV where she is a registered nurse on the surgical oncology floor. She also has a Bachelor's of Science in Computing and Information Sciences with a concentration in Software Engineering from St Vincent's College. (As incoming President, Marisa did not have to respond to the nomination questions.)



# What's Happening

News from around the state

Be a Star!



Look for the shooting start hidden in this issue of the Key. When you find the star, complete the entry form by clicking the link. A winner will be selected from all correct entries on May 1, 2020 and will receive a special prize! Enter here <https://goo.gl/forms/1QhPck91HdatbVTy1>

## District 1 — Meadville

Because our State Project is the PCADV-Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, our guests speakers were: Cheryl Boylan, Founder/Director, House of Hope, A Faith based transitional living home for women and children and Rose M. Hilliard, Medical Advocate of Crawford County Women's Services, (Advocacy Team Leader). Each gave us very good information on the domestic abuse programs available in our area. It was noted we could support their efforts by donating everyday use items; such as, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry soap, etc. The House of Hope also has a Thrift Shop in Cambridge Springs where they sell items to raise funds for their program – and they provide a pick-up service – so you can donate furnishings. The Thrift Shop for the Center of Family Services in downtown Meadville takes misc. items and clothing. Their items and the proceeds from sales also benefit their programs. Please feel free to contact LouAnne for additional information on how you can help.



Cheryl Boylan



Rose Hilliard

## BPW/PA, Meadville Local is very happy to have 5 new members to date!

Pictured left to right

**Cara Natalo**, is the Branch Manager at the Cochran One FCU in Meadville PA. She enjoys sports, her family & friends and helping others.

**Michele Leveto** is a Realtor at Coldwell Banker Select in Meadville, PA. She enjoys repurposing furniture, photography, and travel.

**Molly Minman**, is the Pathway of Hope Regional Case Manager at the Salvation Army in Meadville, PA. She enjoys reading, community service and spending time with family.

**Kayla Quickel** is a proud member of the HBK, CPA's & Consultants in Meadville, PA. She enjoys anything outdoors—Volleyball, Basketball, and Snowboarding.

**Angela Morton** is the Prevention Supervisor at Crawford Co. Drug & Alcohol in Meadville, PA.

She enjoys hiking, culinary arts, advocacy, parenting and gardening.



BPW/PA Meadville Local members, Nancy Asmus and Victoria Soff, are honored in the local Meadville Tribune for showcasing their hometown pride in a custom made throw.



# What's Happening

News from around the state

## District 3

### Greater Pittsburgh BPW



**Members: Judy Ruszkowski, MJ Shaw, Christine Williams, Bonnie Di-Carlo, Brenda Tate, Diane Powell, Virginia Beck and Connie Portis**

GPBPW welcomed Brenda Tate as our February speaker. Brenda is a 40 year veteran of Pittsburgh law enforcement, but continues to educate and instruct our community. Brenda is now the Director of Vote Pittsburgh, whose Mission is to educate our citizens on the new voting law signed by Governor Wolf. Brenda discussed the new voting law, and asked for our help in educating our citizens.

The main points of the voting law:

- PA voters can now vote by mail, no excuse needed.
- PA voters can now request a permanent vote by mail application. The Election Dept. will automatically send you a ballot before each election.
- You can now register to vote up to 15 days before the election.
- You can now bring your completed ballot to your election dept. until 8:00 the evening of the election.
- All absentee and mail in votes will be counted in the County Election Department. They will no longer be sent to the individual voting districts
- There is no "straight party" voting in the General Election. You must individually mark your choices for the offices you choose.
- AND learn about you local and federal candidates, and VOTE on or before Tuesday, April 28.

As I sit and write this article, I think about all the issues we are facing today. There has been so much uncertainty in the weeks to come. However, I know that with all the women in our organization, we will survive and pull together to support one another. There have been many local event cancellations as well as state ones. Be assured they will be rescheduled.

Many of our locals have held virtual meetings as well as an "Unhappy Hour" since our scheduled one in the Latrobe local had to be cancelled. It is important to stay connected.

So far, our District meeting is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>, but I fear this will also be changed. In any event we will connect as a district to complete our year with awards and speakers to get us ready for convention.

I am coming to the end of my term as District Director. I thank all the D3 locals for making this a very memorable and learning experience. It was very interesting to see how the locals work when I had my official visits. Each and every one are very different but work to achieve

the same goal. The BPWPA Mission is a template for us to follow and help us to grow. For us to continue, we must work together to share ideas and ways to gain and keep members. Always remember to meet and reach out to them. Connections are the best way to feel welcomed.

District 3 participated in the Women's Expo on March 7 at the Ramada in Greensburg. Each local participated either by members manning the table or donation of funds or gift cards for prizes. We talked to a great deal of people spreading the BPW word. We had a lot of fun. By donating \$1.00 for a chance to open a chest to win a gift card, we raised \$260.00 for the Blackburn Center supporting President Dawn's state project of Domestic Violence.

The district will be continuing the officer shadowing program, as this is a good way to promote leadership and encourage members to leave their comfort zone.

If I can be of any assistance now or in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Always remember Strive to Unite!

Jean Calabrace  
District 3 Director



# What's Happening

News from around the state

Share your local and district news in the next edition of the Key! Deadline July 1, 2020

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## District 3 continued

**Latrobe BPW** greeted a chilly January with hopes of spring by featuring Linda Yarborough as our guest speaker. She discussed color and the use of color in our everyday lives to reduce stress and send messages we want to convey (ie: Power Red). We began our Student of the Month program again honoring Derry and Latrobe high school seniors in distinct subjects every month until May. Our PR committee designed a "100 years" Celebrating Women's Right to Vote t-shirt and we began marketing those to the entire BPW/PA organization with all proceeds benefiting the BPW/PA Foundation. We continued to fundraise for our State Project with a Valley Dairy Fundraising Night and raffle basket at our monthly meeting.

In February, we featured The Blackburn Center as our guest speaker. Latrobe BPW also became a sponsor of the Walk a Mile fundraiser for 2020 and started forming our team! Join us! (Unfortunately, the walk was canceled by The Blackburn Center due to the Coronavirus). Our annual Silent Auction was held in February. We exceeded past fundraising efforts and raised nearly \$670 for the BPW/PA Foundation Scholarship fund. To beat the winter blues, our Goodwill Committee also arranged for a "Games Night" for members to participate in, in which fellowship, food, and games were enjoyed by all.

Latrobe BPW participated once again in the Women's Expo at the Ramada in March; helping to market BPW and attract new members to our district. Our annual Spring Tea to fund our Scholarship, Achievement Awards, and Community Philanthropy has been rescheduled for May 16. Since we could not get together for our UnHappy Hour on 3/31, we hosted a virtual event with members to bring awareness to Equal Pay Day. Our interview on WHJB aired as scheduled—you can listen here <https://youtu.be/CvI4M6utVWs>



**Virtual UnHappy Hour for Equal Pay Day.** Members **Sindy Diaz, President Nicole Purnell, Mary Ann Urban, Alice Brasile, Marsha St. Pierre and Stephanie Ankney** enjoying some together time while social distancing.



## Ligonier Valley BPW

is 82 members strong; 2 new members joined in 2020 and 12 overall since April 1, 2019.

In December 2019, we participated in two (2) Salvation Army programs. We donated Christmas gifts to 22 children in the Angel Tree program and had bell ringers half the day for the Red Kettle Bell Ringing campaign in Ligonier.

In January we held our re-gifting program and honored a student of the month. We collected \$62 from the monthly basket raffle for the Blackburn Center.

In February, local student pilot Brynne Barr spoke and presented a slide show on her experiences while earning her pilot's license, her future career goals and some female aviation history. We collected \$51 from the monthly basket raffle for the Blackburn Center. A nominations committee was elected to start gathering officer nominees for the 2020-21 year. We honored another student of the month.

In March, we participated in the Women's Expo at the Greensburg Ramada. Due to the COVID-19/corona virus concerns, we have postponed our 20th anniversary party on March 24th. A new date to be determined.

In April we will be holding our officer elections for President, Vice President and Recording Secretary. In May, we will hold our new member inductions.

In June, we will hold our new officer installation ceremony. One of our members' employers, QuatriniRafferty, is contributing 160 can cozies and pizza cutters towards the BPW/PA State Convention gift swag bags.

# What's Happening

News from around the state

## District 5

Bedford BPW District 5 is sponsoring Justice Belles. Justice Belles is a newly formed group of women in Bedford County, a group with the purpose to educate and inform adults and children about the amazing struggle for the 1920 ratification of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote. There are three members from Bedford BPW on the committee: Deb Baughman, Ella McElwee, heading the Justice Belles Steering Committee and Rita Bush. A proclamation was read at the Commissioners' Meeting on January 28th kicking off the celebration in our county. The committee has several things planned for this summer. For more information check [www.justicebelles.com](http://www.justicebelles.com)

Our Spring Bingo Fundraiser at the Bedford American Legion scheduled for April 19th was cancelled but we hope to have it in the summer.

The deadline for our scholarships for senior women was extended until April 30th because of schools being closed.

Bedford District 5 prays that all our BPW Sisters stay safe and healthy.

## District 9

District Nine participated in Math Counts held at Penn State /Schuylkill on Saturday February 1 2020.. Pictured: L/ Justina Majestic Pottsville Local...R/Cynthia A Sowers District Nine Director... also participated but not pictured Nancy Cooper and Patricia Naus.. Schuylkill Haven



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REACH BEYOND THE STARS

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## District 6

**Jersey Shore BPW** had a program in February presented by the Clinton County Women's Center, currently changing their name to "Roads to Peace" since they now service men, women and children. Sarah Harnishfeger spoke about the many programs, from education and community awareness, safe/emergency shelter, to advocacy for elders, youth, LGBTQ, medical and legal support. Our club donated cleaning supplies and paper goods to them which the center requested; several boxes full which our little group of eight was very proud to collect. The CCWC will receive our donations for the PA State Project.

We are collecting personal/care feminine products for the Love Center Food Pantry in Jersey Shore at their request, since we are a womens group and these items are badly needed for the clients.

A quilt program is planned for the April meeting (if we are able to meet!) and May should be our Girl of the Month meeting. Hoping we all stay healthy and things will soon get back to normal!

**Wellsboro BPW** held a "Wine & Design" Event in February to relieve the stress of the long winter. Everyone had a great time and produced a lovely painting.

For our March meeting, one of our members, Catherine Mulcahey RN, facilitated a mini-workshop, "Live Your Best Life: Discover & Use Your Innate Talents." Utilizing multi-media, Catherine led the members and guests through a series of engaging activities designed to assist in the awareness and exploration of their individual talents. The feature activity was the "Great Marshmallow Tower Challenge." Small groups were challenged to build the tallest, free-standing tower utilizing the same materials of spaghetti, tape, rubber band, and marshmallow for the top. The "winning" tower-building group is in the photo. Catherine is a GALLUP Strengths Coach, an NSHC Health Coach, and CEO of Alive & Well Coaching.

Our April meeting has been cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to honor our "Young Women of the Month" and their mothers during our May meeting. We will end the year with a picnic for our June meeting.





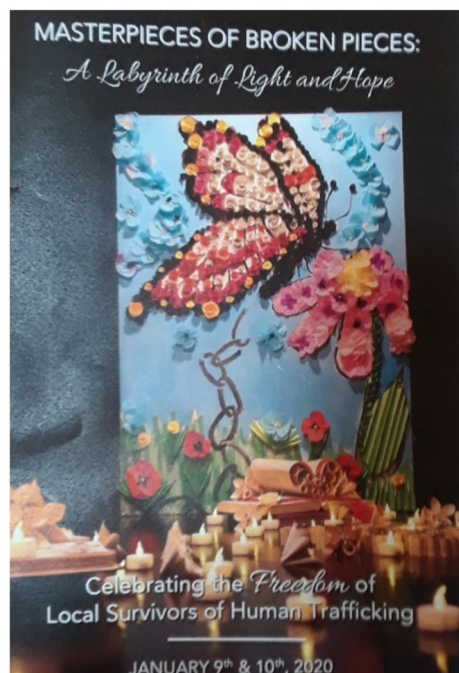
## District 10

### Greater Downingtown

At Greater Downingtown's local meeting held in January invited guest speaker, Amelia Rayburn, Director of Education for the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County educated the group on the types of abuse and extent of domestic abuse in our area and what steps should be taken if someone we know is in a domestic abuse situation. In support of President, Dawne Berkebile's State Project, Greater Downingtown BPW held a fun and successful Comedy Night on Saturday, February 22, 2020 benefiting the Community Youth and Women's Alliance (CYWA) of Coatesville, and continues their efforts to donate to the Salvation Army's New Day Center.



In January a few of our members participated in New Day Center's Masterpieces of Broken Pieces: A Labyrinth of Light and Hope in West Chester, PA. Celebrating the freedom of local survivors of human trafficking. Displayed were artwork and stories of the victims with their names changed to protect their privacy and anonymity. The artwork was amazing and exquisite, the stories went straight to your heart. These women are truly remarkable and deserve to be celebrated.



Members also attended the *Votes for Women A Visual History Exhibit* and lecture by curator, Amanda G. Burdan, Ph.D. at the Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford, PA. The Exhibit and lecture were very enlightening and presented various perspectives of participants in the Women's Suffrage Movement. It is worth seeing and attending one of the lectures. Greater Downingtown BPW members also attended *Womenomics* in March cohosted by Delaware County BPW and the Friends of Delaware County Women's Commission. We want to thank our sister local, Delaware County BPW for inviting us each year, our members always walk away from this event learning something new and making connections with impressive women.





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## District 10 continued

**Delaware County BPW** had another successful Quarter Auction on March 11, 2020. Funds were raised to be distributed to Girls on the Run, Pathways PA, Delaware County Community College-New Choices Program, Salvation Army New Day Program, Mary Walker House And Art Reach. There were 106 Delco members and friends who made this an exciting event for all.



**REACH BEYOND THE STARS**

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**Chesmont BPW** Donna Wneistein's granddaughter, Kayla, has been working on her National Honor Society project by serving as a helper at the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry in Collegeville. Kayla and one of her classmates realized that there is a need to provide feminine hygiene products to the clients of the food pantry. She reached out to several community organizations to secure donations for this initiative.

The members of the Chesmont LO were happy to help Kayla get started. Pictured are Donna Weinstein, Kayla and Carole Turk, Chesmont LO President. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue helping Kayla with this worthwhile project.





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## District 11

Last August, District Eleven started a "green project" when District Director Melissa Wieand asked for empty medicine vials. These vials were to be collected for the Matthew 25: Ministries located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Their mission is caring for a needy world with the things we throw away. (Make sure to Google and read.) All five local organizations were encouraged to ask their members to participate. To date there were 850 vials collected and cleaned for shipment. We understand that there are nations that do not use plastic vials to dispense medicines as we do in the United States. We are hoping that this project will be beneficial to others around the world. Director Melissa was doing the cleaning and packaging for the district.

**Upper Perkiomen** held our Annual Oldies Dance. We sold out this year with 400 attendees. All Of the money raised goes to our programs, Projects / Scholarships and BPW events.



Upper Perkiomen Rescheduled our Power With Purpose Women's Summit to 9/22/2020. Tickets are available to be purchased on the Summit Website: <http://www.bpwupperperk.org/women-s-summit-2020/>



Upper Perkiomen had Adrean Turner Speak at our March meeting about being F.I.T Fearless! Inspired! Transformed!





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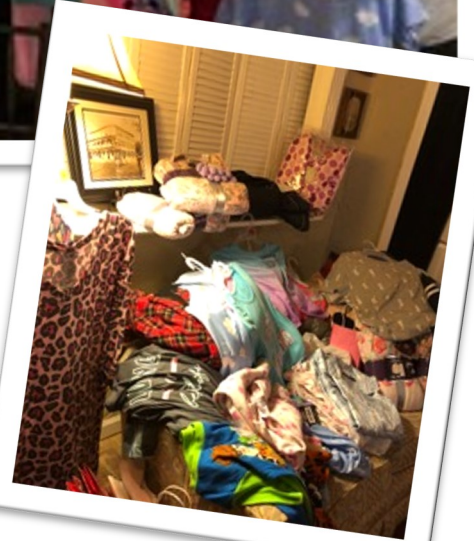
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## District 11 continued

### Quakertown BPW

What a groovy night for a Pajama Party! Yes, on February 25, the Quakertown members all came dressed for a night of fun and laughter in their PJ's, slippers, robes and even those old-fashioned curlers. Going back to the 50's and 60's, the records were playing and there was singing and dancing. It was really a slumber party that many of us remember and enjoyed of years gone by. Let's see, we did our nails, make up sessions, and played a few games of the 50's. The only thing missing was the "boys" but that was okay since we talked about BPW instead. What was extra cool was the record box full of candy from yesterday as our "party favor." All this fun was for our Domestic Violence Project of helping the Woman's Place in Doylestown with pajamas. Since so many women and children appear at the shelter with little clothes, PJ's are always in need. The BPW members each brought PJ's of all sizes to the meeting. We collected 38 in total. They were taken to the Woman's Place in Doylestown by our Vice President Linda Lokay and Past President Toni Rubic. The Director Ms. Brouwer-Ancher was ecstatic with our donations and creative project. One of those meetings never to be forgotten.



**Central Montgomery County** Was honored to have the Honorable Lois Murphy share an evening on the topic of Elder Care and Abuse. Serving on the Montgomery County Orphan's Court, she shared many statistics with us. We learned that our county ranks fifth in the Commonwealth with the number of elder abuse cases. Her case histories were very powerful and quite sad that we learned about the physical and mental abuse that our seniors endure. The abuse cases are basically from friends, caregivers, and neighbors but worst of all family members who exploit the individual's financial expenses. We learned about the role of Guardians who are appointed by the county judicial system to manage the rights of these individuals. We have sixty Elder Lawyers in Montgomery County who assist those elders in need. The Honorable Cheryl Austin and Lois Murphy both serve on the Montgomery County Judicial System.



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## District 11 continued

**Souderton Telford BPW** Our year continues to be great as membership continues to grow with seven new members this year. We write on Facebook of our activities and these women found us interesting. We had installations for them.

Plans were going well for the Locally Grown Showcase. We had to reschedule for June 6. We welcome all to attend at Indian Creek Foundation, 420 Cowpath Road, Souderton, Saturday, June 6, 2020, 10-3 Rain or Shine.

We are signed up for the Indian Valley Arts Festival Concert Sundaes. We dish ice cream as well as sell pizza slices, hot dogs and soda as we enjoy the music of the evening. We invite members to attend on July 12.



Our programs this year were on the Census and our member Tia McCoun, the Founder of The Boots and Wings Project, Inc.. Her company is dedicated to consulting, educating and coaching companies and individuals around caregiver issues.



**Greater Conshohocken** The February meeting was hosted by Glynis Braun of Girls on the Run. This organization works with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls and up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls. They meet twice a week for a period leading up to a weekend in May when there is a run event being held at the Montgomery County Community College. The work that they do with the girls was inspiring. Our local is looking forward to working with this group in a volunteer capacity. Currently, our thoughts and prayers are with all our sisters and everyone in our communities that they are all safe and healthy as we work our way through the Coronavirus.

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## District 12

Plans for a spring district event are being made. The date will be announced at a later time. District 12 continues to encourage locals to find ways to attract new members and to retain the members that we have. We are proud that past District Director and current BPW/PA President-Elect, Marisa Harmon, will be installed as President at the 2020 State Convention. After the Banquet, there will be a reception/party for which a fundraiser was held to support this event.

**Canonsburg BPW** recently had guest speaker, Phyllis Pirnik, representing the Canonsburg Methodist Church Outreach Program, which recently opened "Wayne's Closet." Wayne's Closet is located at the church and is a clothing pantry filled with gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, and hygiene items for women, men and children. They are in need of winter clothing, coats, boots, and shoes. Canonsburg members are helping with hygiene kits for females and whatever else they can donate.

Canonsburg held a Colebrook Candy Sales fund raiser and continue to be involved with Domestic Violence. Officers for 2020-2021 were elected as follows: President-Kathy Smith; Vice President-Tracey O'Donnell; Recording Secretary -Jocelyn Corry; and Treasurer-Jill Shook.

Canonsburg members were asked to display this in their windows at home to show that we are doing our part for the pandemic.



**MASONTOWN BPW** had an active winter with informative guest speakers and active membership. In February, Dr. Natalie Furguele, Breast/ Surgeon from Monongahela Hospital gave a slide show presentation to members and community guests. Pictured below is Dr. Furguele (front row, second from left) and some members of Masontown BPW.



In March, Fayette County Special Olympics Spokesperson, Haleigh Sommers, was our guest speaker. She talked about her experiences in Special Olympics and their value to participants and the community in better understanding people with varying special physical and mental challenges. This delightful young lady enjoyed our meeting and participated in many of the club's activities that evening. Shown below is Haleigh and Masontown BPW members.



