



The KEY



Newsletter of Business & Professional Woman of Pennsylvania

Winter 2020

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

In this Issue

- Are you an Ally?
- Young Careerist topics
- BW/PA announces scholarship winners
- What's happening around the state

Upcoming Events

- January 15, 2020 Deadline for BPW/PA Candidate Applications
- January 15 2020 Deadline for LO and District budgets
- January 15, 2020 Deadline for any proposed changes to the BPW/PA Bylaws
- February 2020 Foundation Month
- March 2020 Women in History Month
- March 13-14, 2020 BPW/PA Mid-Winter Board Meeting – Penn Stater, State College, PA
- PA BPW Foundation meeting
- EPW/PA Meeting

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

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Cathy Caccia

Reach Beyond the Stars!

Happy New Year! As we start of 2020 I hope you all reflect on the year gone by and focus yourselves for the great year ahead. Now that the craziness of the Holidays is behind us we can start regrouping and looking forward to the BPW events ahead. Be sure to mark your calendars for State Winter Board in March. Watch the Buzz for exciting info on some workshops that will be held there at the Penn Stater.

2020 is going to be an amazing year for women!

If you watched to countdown to the Rose Bowl Parade you probably saw Coline Jenkins, the great great granddaughter of Elizabeth Catie Stanton interviewed.

The state of Virginia is ready to pass the ERA and become the 38th state. This will give us the $\frac{3}{4}$ threshold of support for it to finally become a constitutional Amendment. Incoming Virginia House Speaker Eileen Filler-Conn (D), the first woman to hold the title, was quoted saying that ratifying the ERA will be a top priority when the new Virginia Legislature convenes this year. So ladies keep your eye out on the news! We will hopefully see it happen this year. And feel free to contact legislators in Virginia asking for their support. It may be



the state of Virginia making the vote but it will be historic and affect the entire country.

As we focus our energy on this exciting new calendar year, I'm excited to see what you all have planned to finish out our BPW year and head to our 100th Convention.

President Dawn

REACH BEYOND THE STARS





WE WANT YOU!

Wanted a few good members to step up and assume a State Office. There are many eligible members across Pennsylvania. Members with strong leadership abilities, organized, good people skills. There are members who are able to document the actions taken at a meeting in a clear, concise and accurate manner. There are other members who are good with numbers and keeping track of all the in and out of our organizations monies.

What would it take for **YOU** to step up and say **YES**, that is me and I can do it?

The qualifications are as follows:

From our Bylaws, **Any candidate for the office of President Elect, Vice President, shall have served in the office of District Director, and/or two (2) terms as BPW/PA Recording Secretary or Treasurer.**

All candidates for all offices including, Treasurer and Recording Secretary, must answer the following two questions:

1. **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?**
2. **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?**

In addition, provide a completed Candidate Form, Signed Conflict of Interest Statement (on the website) and 2 photographs: 1 color 5"x 7" for display at state convention and 1 color wallet size electronic image (emailed to me) for inclusion in THE KEY. **It must be postmarked by January 10, 2020, as per our State Bylaws.**

Please mail forms and/or direct any questions to: **Theresa S Rusbosin, Nominations Chair, 727 Cat Curve Lane Latrobe Pa 15650 724-331-1010 (C)**

Finance Reminder

1 – District Finance Chairs—make sure you send me one copy of the budget from each local in your district along with one copy of your District Budget by December 31, 2019. As of December 31st I have received the budgets from Districts 4,6,8,9,10 and 12. Districts 1,2,3,5,6 & 11—please email me or snail mail me your budgets asap—you are late!!

2 – make sure your budget balances!!! Income needs to equal Expenses!! Please list your income sources. Please list where you intend to give/spend your money.

3 – We do have some BPW Bracelets that PSP Theresa Rusbosin gave us in our convention bags along with some of the BPW logo charms for sale.

4 – We have new items for sale—little notebooks & pens for \$2.00, see through 9 1/2 x 11 document holders for \$2.00, 100 year celebration pens for \$1.00, acrylic letter openers for \$1.00, metal letter openers for \$2.00, magnetic clips for \$2.00. Let me know if you need anything, I can ship!

5 - please contact me via email drobinson1966@gmail.com or text/call me 724-5575552 with any questions or concerns you have. .

Best personal wishes,
Denise Robinson
BPW/PA Finance 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 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

Want to serve the PA BPW Foundation?

The PA BPW Foundation is currently seeking applicants to serve on the Board of Directors. The candidates, who wish to be considered, must complete an application. We have the PA BPW Foundation application on the www.BPWPA.org "member only" section. If you would be interested in applying for a Board position, please read, complete the application and submit by March 15, 2020.

The usual term of service is three years, unless a Director is replacing another member on the Board for the balance of their unexpired term. If there are more than two individuals being considered to fill the Board positions, the two individuals with the most votes shall be elected. All votes are taken by the Board of Directors of the PA BPW Foundation by a written ballot.

According to the PA BPW Foundation Bylaws, there shall be a maximum of two Directors of the PA BPW Foundation Board from any one District of the BPW/PA Federation, excluding the BPW/PA officers who serve on the Board.

Please submit applications to: Laura Whetstone, P.O. Box 111, Manns Choice, PA 15550. Emails will be considered. A reply will be sent upon receipt. Thank you.

Laura Whetstone,
PA BPW Foundation VP

Young Careerist

2020 is here!! As I write this Winter Edition for **The Key**, I reflect upon all we have accomplished as a group. One of the most important accomplishments we have made is bringing in younger members and encouraging their leadership skills. This is something that an organization like ours, BPW/PA, offers to its members as part of the many benefits of joining one of the best women's groups going today. I know many of the members throughout our great Commonwealth have participated in the Young Careerist Program and are familiar with all that it has to offer. I rely on you and our seasoned members to bring the word to the new members. I know how proud you will be to have one of your District's young members speak at the podium in the Young Careerist competition, this June, at State Convention in York, PA. Not only is it an honor for you but it is an honor for all of us to see the younger members of our organization stepping up to share their pathway to success! Of course, it is obviously a stellar honor for the young woman stepping up to the podium and **REACHING BEYOND THE STARS!** We are there to cheer them on!



This year's speech topics are:

- What does the state theme, **"Reach Beyond the STARS"** mean to you and how do you currently implement the acronym **"STARS"** in your life?
- When you think of the state theme, **"Reach Beyond the STARS"** and the acronym **"STARS"** how would you work to have it impact women's lives?
- How is the state theme, **"Reach Beyond the STARS"** and its' acronym, **"STARS"** relevant to women, specifically?
- What actions or ideas should BPW/PA implement, to guarantee our organization will, **"Reach Beyond the STARS"** and how specifically, is the acronym, **"STARS"** relevant to this goal?

These are all great, thought provoking topics that will help the Young Careerists in BPW/PA present excellent speeches at state convention. As they give their speeches at the Local and then the District, encourage them to **Reach Beyond the STARS** in preparation for state convention. We all will see a constellation of stars at the podium and I know this year will be no different than previous years! Our deadline for submission of all materials 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.

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

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 Theresa Rusbosin, Latrobe District 3 for finding the Star in the Fall issue!

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

Enter here

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



HAVE YOU VISITED?

www.bpwfoundation.org

The BPW FOUNDATION web site is still functioning. This is National. All the information that I would love for you to read and study are the signature materials. I am talking about the **Successful Workplace** that features the WOMENomics Forum, Employer Resources and the Successful Workplace Digest. There is also the **Empowered Workforce** that features the Women Veterans, Young Careerist Project and the Women in the Green Economy. All six of these topics are part of the BPW/PA BPW Foundation Contest. Take some time and travel through this website and learn about these six topics. You still have time to focus on them and provide a project by April 30, 2020. My due date is May 1, 2020 so you have time to plan and follow through on your idea.

One note of information – Using the above categories, the local organization that develops the BEST Project promoting any one of these areas, is eligible to receive the coveted Grace B. Daniels Foundation Award. “Miss Grace” was our only National President of BPW/USA serving from 1958-1960. It is a beautiful gold plated Nike that travels in a felt lined wooden box. It is an honor for any local organization to be recognized for their BPW participation. A local organization must submit an entry under any one of the above six (6). Remember the date of April 30, 2020 at the closure. May 1, 2020, they are due to me. Now the materials to locate are found on the www.bpwpa.org under President Dawn’s Book for 2019-2020. Download the BPW/PA Foundation Contest information and the BPW/PA 2019-2020 CONTEST ENTRY SHEET. Please read carefully and complete the entry sheet. Attach to your writeup. Please send the entry directly to me. (Address is in the bottom right corner.) Any questions, please give me a call or email.

I have been in communications with many past National Presidents over the past 3 months on what they know about the www.bpwfoundation.org and its existence. We have noted that materials are being updated. Maybe not enough but an attempt is being made. We noted that the face book page is active with members sharing news from their federations. We have seen a few from BPW/PA. As for finances, there are still State Federations that are existing just like our BPW/PA. They are supporting the National Foundation. They feel that to have the history, state logos, signature programs, and all that is still available to us the member, is worth supporting. However, they too have questions and are searching for the financial 990’s. I also was reminded that the BPW Foundation was encouraging “endowments” from our members. These requests began in the 1990’s and were still being accepted until 2009. These endowments are being received as we lose individual members across the nation. I am not telling anyone to send funds but take a moment and visit the web site. It’s your call.

Lastly, may I wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2020 NEW BPW YEAR. Hard to believe that we are halfway through the year. Seems to go faster every year but enjoy the ride. Convention is just around the corner.

Nancy Werner, BPW Foundation Chair

Legislation

My father used to say, “Don’t look for the light at the end of the tunnel. It may be an oncoming train.”

In the case of Equal Rights, we are seeing the light at the end of the 97-year-old tunnel and there is no train – the Commonwealth of Virginia is poised to make history as the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Last year, the measure lost by one vote and with the seats in the entire House of Delegates up for election, many candidates campaigned on passing the ERA if elected.

After the 2019 elections in Virginia gave the Democratic Party majority control of both houses of the Virginia legislature, the incoming leaders have pledged to bring the ERA to the Virginia Assembly for passage in early 2020, making it the 38th and final state necessary for ratification.

Even though the deadline for ratification expired June 30, 1982, on November 13, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee passed H.J. Res 79, which would remove the time limit for ratification. Virginia’s two Democratic U.S. senators, Tim Kaine and Mark R. Warner joined a bipartisan effort to remove time limits for ratification of the ERA to ensure that approval in Virginia would be enough to get it into the Constitution.

“This is a crucial moment for women’s equality: **Victory for the ERA is in sight.**”

The Equal Rights Amendment is just as necessary now as it was when the amendment first passed out of Congress in 1972. Without an ERA, progress for girls and women remains slow, uneven and subject to reversal by state legislatures, Congress and presidential administrations hostile to women’s equality.”

If you want to follow Virginia’s progress, follow these pages on Facebook or check out the websites:

VA Ratify ERA - VARatifyERA.org
Equal Rights Amendment (no web-site)
Equal Means Equal -
www.equalmeansequal.org
Alice Paul Institute – alicepaul.org



Take a stand to end domestic violence.

An ally is not a noun. It isn't an identity, a label or something to claim. Being an ally is taking action, making a stand, doing something to make a difference by standing up against oppression and marginalization. You are an ally when someone recognizes you as an ally.

How to Be an Ally

An ally is a person from a group with privilege who stands up in support of members of another group. Typically, this is a member of a dominant group standing beside member(s) of a group being discriminated against or treated unjustly, using their position of privilege to call out behaviors of their dominant group. It is important for allies to recognize that they do not have the life experience of the members of the group they are supporting, and so can never truly speak on behalf of this group.

There are a number of ways that each of us can be allies in our everyday lives. Here are some examples of how YOU can be an ally.

ALLY BEHAVIORS:

- I will not laugh at rape jokes. Speak up, saying "Those jokes aren't funny, and you're making us all uncomfortable."
- I will believe victims.
- I will support victims.
- I won't blame victims.
- I will educate myself about gender-based violence.
- I will listen.
- I will think carefully about the media that I consume or share.
- I will challenge stereotypes.
- I won't body shame.
- I won't laugh at homophobic jokes.
- I will use my voice.
- I will be mindful of the language that I use.
- I will call out abusive behaviors.

Source: www.blackburncenter.org



Happy New Year Public Relations Team!

Welcome to a new decade of Public Relations opportunities in BPW/PA. Has your Local started or updated its Facebook page? Is your Local on Instagram? Do you have a Website or a Twitter account? Have you sent an article to the Buzz so that other L.O.'s throughout Pennsylvania know about your Local? Do you know who your local community relations reporter is at your local newspaper? If the answer is "Yes" to these questions, kudos to you on a job well done! If it is "No" let's get going as each day is a missed opportunity to spread the word about the good work your BPW L.O. is doing.

Announcements of monthly meetings and special events are a given, but how about highlighting an upcoming membership activity? Has your Local Organization partnered with a Domestic Abuse group in your area to foster awareness of domestic violence? If so, publicize it! Does your Local Organization support legislation of importance to women such as Equal Pay, Paid Family Leave and the Equal Rights Amendment? If so, publicize it! Why not write a letter to the editor of your Local newspaper or send a picture to the newspaper highlighting a special L.O. event? If you don't see your press release in print, send it again because sooner or later you will see your Local Organization receiving the press you deserve. District Directors, Presidents and interested Local Organization members, please let me hear from you, if I can help with your public relations efforts. Let's have some fun in 2020 seeing ourselves in print as we **REACH BEYOND THE S.T.A.R.S.!**

Terry Miller,
BPW/PA Public Relations Chair

The Tournament of Roses Celebrated the VOTES FOR WOMEN



If you were one of the millions of people watching the Tournament of Roses on Wednesday, January 1, you saw a float dedicated to the Suffragettes who led the way for our right to vote. This float was a mere dream of Martha Wheelock, a member of the North Carolina BPW, who moved to southern California. It didn't take her long to find another BPW Local in California to join. She shared her dream of having a float in the Rose Parade that would show the importance of the 100th Celebration of the Women's Right to Vote in 2020. But she soon learned how the process works for her dream to come true in the Rose Parade.

First, you bring your idea in sketches to the Tournament of Roses Board of Governors for approval. Second, if approved, you receive builders and designers for the flower displays. Lastly, you also need to pledge \$300,000. Well, that last step really was a challenge. But Martha went to the National Women's History Alliance and asked for help. Molly McGregor, Director of the NWA, did her very best by promoting the float contributions on their web site. But it still wasn't enough. Martha went on a one-woman campaign asking for funds to any group who would listen to the story of "VOTES FOR WOMEN." By September, she was halfway with the needed amount of funds.

Now, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women was asked and did collect \$5,000 as their contribution. The yellow roses on the float were placed in vials and anyone could purchase one to help defray expenses. Cost \$20.20. I am proud to share that the PA Affiliate Chapter of NFBPW, contributed an amount to the float and they pur-

chased roses. At last count, Martha did not quite reach the high monetary goal, but Honda came through to help. (They were the sponsors of this year's parade and they wanted this float in the parade. Yeah Honda.)

But I do hope you saw the float - Statue of Liberty holding the 19th Amendment and the many signs of the slogans of many years gone by. The women on the float wore sashes of the women's group that they represented. They were selected for their group's monetary gift to help build the float. They all seemed so excited to be there. As for women walking behind the float all dressed in white, they were the volunteers who helped build it and apply the thousands of flowers. There were BPW sisters among the group. But they all were wearing their "VOTES FOR WOMEN" sashes.

I got a lump in my throat to see that the float received a wonderful summary about our VOTES FOR WOMEN from the television networks. It was like a mini history lesson being shared with the million of viewers. I also felt a great pride for Martha Wheelock who made her dream a reality. I have not met Martha but I sure hope the opportunity comes one day. Would love to thank her for all her work.

If you would like to view just this part of the float at the reviewing stand, please go to face book. Visit Central Montgomery County BPW. It will appear under Ginny Bailey's name. It is a video. Give us a "like."

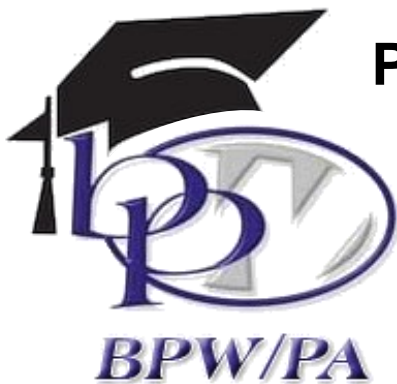
Nancy Werner

Ecumenical Event



The 40th Annual Ecumenical Event was held Saturday, October 20, 2019 at the Doubletree Hotel in Washington, PA. Members from BPW/Ohio and BPW/PA Districts 1,3 & 12 attended. Speakers included Dawn Berkebile, BPW/PA President, along with Dr. Twila Wynn, Uniontown BPW member, Aleta Richmond, Washington BPW member, Audra Walker, Greater Pittsburgh BPW Member, Lisa Pustelak, Meadville BPW member and Bobbi Dobler, Uniontown BPW member. Musical entertainment for the celebration of National Business Women's Week was Denise Fait, Greensburg BPW member. Each attendee received a commemorative mug celebrating the theme "Reach Beyond the Stars" with a picture and quote from Harriet Tubman "Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world."

Submitted by Denise Robinson, Ecumenical Event Co-Chair



PA/BPW Foundation Awards 3 Scholarships

Laura Whetstone, PA BPW Foundation VP Chair and Committee is proud to announce that three scholarships were awarded to the following students:

- **Chloe A Tubbs is attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania with her studies in Music Education**
- **Sofia Pascuzzo is attending Lebanon Valley College with her studies in Digital Communications**
- **Catherine C. Cobetto is attending Washington University in St. Louis with her studies in Clinical Social Work.**

Each recipient will be receiving a \$2,500.00 scholarship that is sent to her respective school.

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. Applications can be downloaded from the 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.

The PA/BPW Foundation is sustained by your contributions and by funds raised during the Friday night event at State Convention. Your support is greatly appreciated and is reflected by the number of scholarships the foundation gives each year. The Foundation needs your continued support to continue with these efforts. Please be sure to include funds in your local budgets for PA/BPW Foundation. You can also remember the Foundation in your will or make a memorial contribution. You can download the donation form at www.BPWPA.org

DEAR FRIENDS I GO

Dear friends I go, but do not weep
I've lived my life, so full and deep
Throughout my life, I gave my best
I earned my keep, I've earned my rest
I never tried to be great or grand
I tried to be a helping hand.

If I helped in a team, if I helped on my own
It was more than repaid by
good family and friends I have known.
And if I went the extra mile, I did it with pleasure
It was all worthwhile

If I brightened your path, then let it be
A small contribution from my loved ones and me,
Now sadly I leave you and travel alone
Through a mystic veil to the great unknown.

With such beautiful memories
That will forever be the way that I hope
You'll remember me.

- Author Unknown



Denise L. (Lewis) Clawson, 65, of Indiana, passed away Saturday, November 2, 2019, at her home. She was born in Indiana, on May 10, 1954, to the late Charles J. Lewis, Jr. and Betty (George) Lewis. She was the wife of Robert M. Clawson; they were married for 45 years.

She graduated from Indiana High School and later went on to become a bank manager. Following a 38-year career with PNC bank, Denise worked for Marion Center Bank for more than 8 years as manager of the Indiana Office.

Denise believed wholeheartedly in pay equity and women's equality, spending her life working hard to make a difference.

Denise was very involved with various local organizations, including: President and Founding Member of the Indiana County Commission For Women; Past President and Board Member of the United Way of Indiana County; The Indiana Networking Group; Advisory Board Member of the Center for Family Business at the IUPUI College of Business; Leader's Circle of Indiana - Athena Award Winner, and Past President of the PA Federation of Business and Professional Women, Inc.



Denise was a friend to all. Her warm smile and upbeat personality will be missed. Her legacy will live on in us and BPW

What's Happening

News from around the state

District 3

Greater Pittsburgh At the December 3rd monthly meeting the guest speaker for the evening was Helene Cirillo, daughter of Vice President Bonnie DiCarlo, spoke on Healthy Eating as a way to combat a chronic immune disease. Helen spoke how she manages her MS by using healthy eating, herbs, vitamins, exercise and other techniques to maintain her health and function at a high level of activity.

In keeping with the state initiative, a \$100 donation to the **Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh**, to support and help further their mission to provide safe housing, counseling services and a sense of community for women in domestic violence situations.

Sister's Place is a supportive housing community committed to assisting families who experience domestic violence and/or homelessness in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Two GPBPW members, Norma Caquatto and JoAnn R. Forrester collected donations of toys, food and clothing. Through their efforts,



12 bags of food, clothing and toys were collected for the organization. On December 17, 2019, Executive Director, Melissa Ferraro, picked up the donation from the home of JoAnn Forrester.



Stuff-A-Store with Allegheny County Police Athletic Association: On December 8, 2019, members of the GPBPW chapter volunteered their time to wrap Christmas presents for children at the Monroeville Mall. Gifts were distributed to community children by local police departments. Picture

are: Maurita Bryant, Diane Richard, Bonnie DiCarlo, Helene Cirillo and Alice Paylor.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I cannot believe another year has ended. What a special year it was! The 100th Anniversary of BPW/PA. We celebrated it well. I can't wait to experience all the new phases of our club in the upcoming years. There have been so many changes through the years that we have all adjusted to.

I have had Official Visits to the Greater Pittsburgh, Ligonier Valley and the Scottdale locals. All part of BPW/PA, but their own small groups of ideas. Each in their own way, support our mission. However, we must remember the State mission and Bylaws. Without following these guidelines, we fall from the original mission of our fore sisters. Always remember to follow the guidelines of "Women helping Women".

District 3 is comprised of 6 locals working hard and I appreciate all that the members have done in keeping our district successful. In addition to those I visited, Assistant Director Laurie Hough, visited Greensburg, Latrobe and Scottdale. Congratulations to all the anniversaries celebrated this year.

We will be participating in the Women's Expo at the Ramada in Greensburg on March 7, 2020. This will bring more awareness to our locals and how we can help women going forward.

In addition, each local is working to contribute to President Dawn Berkebile's State Project. I believe this hit right at home with our mission.

I look forward to attending the State Board in March also. Our District 3 wish is for all the locals of BPW/PA to have much success in 2020.

Jean Calabrace,
District 3 Director

What's Happening

News from around the state

District 3 continued

Latrobe

Latrobe BPW has been involved in several activities, events, and fundraisers over the last few months. We've supported our State Project through a monthly raffle taking place at our meetings, a Self Defense Class fundraiser, and through a Shoe-box campaign where our members filled over 25 shoe-boxes full of necessities and goodies to be distributed at Christmas for The Blackburn Center. Members have also personally supported our State Project by hosting fundraisers on their Facebook pages for their birth-days.

In October, we assisted the Salvation Army once again with Project Bundle Up, and honored our members during National Business Women's Week. To raise awareness of the week, we did several radio advertising campaigns as well as being interviewed by the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce. Our efforts yielded several inquiries into BPW!

In November, we celebrated our 90th Anniversary! We were thrilled to have several past Presidents in attendance as well as guests from our community, visiting Presidents and members from other BPW Chapters.

As we started into December, members volunteered their time once again to the Salvation Army in support of The Red Kettle Campaign. Our members went above and beyond with their time and we were able to fill 2 weeks of volunteer time for bell ringing. Latrobe BPW wishes our fellow District 3 chapters a healthy and happy holiday season and best wishes into the New Year!

Nicole Purnell
Latrobe BPW



What's Happening

News from around the state

District 3 continued

Greensburg

Greensburg's Program for November was a presentation by Ms. Laurie Barnett Levine, Executive Director of Mental Health of Southwestern PA. She provided us with an overview of the services provided by MHA and Mental Health in general. MHASWPA began in 1964 to provide advocacy, education and service. It is an affiliate of Mental Health America. Behavior Health Advocates assist consumers with problems regarding treatment and conflict resolution. They provide information to consumers about managed care. There is a Speaker Bureau and Suicide Task Awareness Force. Also, there is a step-up center for adult behavior, health consumers, support group for self help and a loss support group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide or overdose. She noted that suicide is on the rise in young people as well as the elderly. "RAY OF HOPE" is the Awareness Task Force. Veterans can also call and speak to another Veteran. With regard to the numerous mass shootings in the US, hate is not a Mental Health issue but rather a personality disorder. Mental Health professionals are available in the schools to create greater awareness to help students and teachers required to have suicide training.

In December, Greensburg adopted a family of 5 (4 boys and a girl) from the Giving Tree at St Vincent de Paul. We went on a shopping spree to purchase some of the items from the angel tree that was on the children's wish list. Each child received four gifts so hopefully this will make their Christmas a little merrier and allowed us to share our blessings with those in need.

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Shirley Wolinsky, Greensburg



Ligonier Valley

Since Sept., we have sold tickets for monthly raffle baskets of which the proceeds are being donated to the Blackburn Center (one of BPW/PA State President Dawn Berkebile's projects). To date, we have raised \$171.00.

In Sept., we held our 17th annual Luxury Bash. This is our largest fund raiser which helps fund our scholar-ships for five (5) Ligonier Valley High School girls. We donated \$400 to each of the three (3) local fire departments that volunteered their time to help us that day.

In Oct., we sponsored Ligonier Valley Cub Scout Pack #370 to participate in the Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow contest. We also displayed members' business cards in a member's shop window for National Business Women's Week. We had members attend the D3 Fall Meeting in Scottsdale and the Ecumenical event, and we supported our Latrobe BPW sisters by attending their 90th Anniversary brunch. We held our annual Member Market where members who have items or services showcase them to sell to the membership and guests.

In Nov., Cassie Ellson from the Blackburn Center spoke about domestic violence and we presented her with a donation in the amount of \$1000 and collected items that are needed for the shelter. We inducted five (5) new members bringing out total membership to 81 and honored two (2) Ligonier Valley High School students as November students of the month.

In Dec., we participated in the Angel Tree gift giving program to children of families in financial need and Red Kettle Bell Ringing projects for the Ligonier Valley Salvation Army. We held our annual Christmas Party and grab bag exchange at our Dec. member meeting and contributed a Christmas mantel piece for the Ligonier Valley Historical Society's fund raiser, Toast to the Trees.

As we look forward into 2020, we will be holding our annual regifting raffle at our January member meeting and continue to sell raffle basket tickets and give the proceeds to the Blackburn Center. Our 20th Anniversary Committee has been meeting and planning a wonderful celebration party to be held in March.

Kimberly A. Bellas,
BPW of Ligonier Valley

What's Happening

News from around the state

District 5

Juniata County



Members had the opportunity to see the BPW/PA Equal Pay quilt at our local meeting in November. Our meeting's guest speaker was from the Abuse Network in Lewistown, a shelter for victims of domestic violence. In late November, many members came together to decorate our county Courthouse for the holidays. Our December meeting brought Christmas cheer! Pictured below are the win-



What's Happening

News from around the state

District 5 continued

Bedford

Bedford BPW member and District 5 BPW Assistant Director Dr. Ella McElwee was awarded the prestigious Athena Award at the Bedford Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards dinner on November 22, 2019. Ella is the President of her own health and wellness center and health foods store, Health By Choice which is located in New Enterprise PA and the founder and board member of Health By Choice Research, a non-profit organization committed to educating the public to maximize their health and wellness. Ella overcame adversity and personal challenges to relocate her family to Bedford County and build a business that has made a positive impact on many lives. Ella's company, Health By Choice also received the Excellence in Education Award at the Chamber Annual Awards banquet. Ella is both an educator and a life-long learner who is compassionate about sharing knowledge with others, with a focus on mentoring and encouraging women. She has been called a "trailblazer in the community (who) has guided generations of future leaders from Boy Scouts to BPW". Ella served as Bedford local BPW President in 2016-17, and currently serves as District 5 Assistant Director. Ella completed the ID program and is active in BPW, currently serving as chairperson for the Bedford local Women's Suffrage Float and Individual Development committee. The Athena Award is co-sponsored by Bedford BPW and Thomas Chevrolet. Past award winners include current member Rita Bush and recently passed member Carol Stump.



Dr. Ella McElwee

Bedford BPW held their Christmas party on December 10, 2019. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, food and entertainment by local singer Phil McCaulley. The club collected cash donations and Sheetz gift cards to support State President Dawn's project for PCADV. The local organization for Bedford is Your Safe Haven. Many times women and children have little or no resources when they need services from Your Safe Haven and are required to travel, and perhaps eat along the way. Your Safe Haven uses donated gift cards for fuel and food. Bedford BPW collected and donated a total of \$287.76 in cards and cash.

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

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What's Happening

News from around the state

District 6

Wellsboro BPW

Bike-A-Thon to Benefit HAVEN

(Pictured: Colleen Jackson, Wellsboro BPW Treasurer with her son, Trevor, President of AKL Fraternity)

In October, Wellsboro BPW partnered with Alpha Kappa Lambda (AKL) Fraternity at Mansfield University for a Bike-A-Thon to benefit HAVEN of Tioga County. Colleen Jackson solicited sponsors and participated in the Bike-A-Thon. The event raised \$210 with \$100 of the amount donated by BPW members. Thank you to Colleen, Trevor, and members who sponsored her...Wellsboro BPW Proud!



During our November meeting, we donated \$1,207.58 to the HAVEN of Tioga County. Our donation included a check from the club for \$1,000, and from individual members we had cash donations of \$35, gift cards totaling \$50, and in-kind gifts for their shelter assessed for \$122.58. Wow! Way to go!



Dr. Donna Mettler, Wellsboro BPW President (Right), presented a check for \$1,000 from Wellsboro BPW to Machelle Suttile, Executive Director of HAVEN of Tioga County. This donation also supports BPW/PA President Dawn Berkebile's Project for the year, PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



(Pictured: Machelle Suttile, Executive Director of HAVEN, with donated items)

During her official visit, Bev McKnight, District 6 Director, inspired us with stories of personal experiences while making friends with the incredible women in our own club, in District 6 and at the state level. We think our District Director is an incredible woman! Bev is the energy inspiring us to keep District 6 moving forward.



What's Happening

News from around the state

District 1

Meadville hosted their annual 'Purses, Pastries & Pints' on October 16, 2019.

Over \$1500 was raised for the Helen R. Remler Scholarship Foundation Fund.

We will be giving some lucky student \$750 at our May Meeting.

Rose Silverio and LouAnne Bearfield had a great time at the Meadville Chamber of Commerce Women's Expo. Many of our Sisters were there as well! Christine Yamrick, Suzann Delo, Victoria Soff & Dawn Fronce with her Marquette gang, just to name a few!!!

We would also like to welcome our newest member, Kayla Quickel, she won the BPW/PA Meadville Local membership at the Event. And she will be a very welcome addition, very energetic and excited to join us!!! Kayla has experience in tax accounting, planning and preparation for businesses, estates, trusts, and individuals and enjoys helping others through her profession. She is a proud member of the HBK team where, since 1949, this dedicated group of professionals has committed to excellence in client services through careful nurturing of long-lasting and individualized relationships. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and being outdoors. Welcome aboard Kayla—we are very happy and excited to have you!!!



District 8



Tunkhannock - In October 2019, the Wyoming County Commissioners made a proclamation with the Tunkhannock Business & Professional Women (TBPW) for National Business Women's Week. Photo in the front row from left to right: Commissioners Judy Mead, Tom Henry and Michael Stabinsky. In back row left to right are Gloria Pasternak, Elaine Walker, Mary Bishop, Mary Murphy Fox, Michelle Shotwell, Mary Tempest, TBPW President Julianne Miller, Terri Detrick, Rev. Lou Divis, Sandy Lane and Lori Bennett.

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District 10

Greater Downingtown -

Greater Downingtown held their yearly Quarter Raffle on October 20, 2019 at the VFW Post 106 in West Chester, PA. A good time was had by all. The baskets were filled with a lot of great items and were beautifully made by members. The event benefited Mary Walker House and the Gift of Life. Donations were also collected for The Salvation Army New Day Center. A special thank you to members from Souderton-Telford, Chesmont and Delaware County locals that join us in supporting this event.

Greater Downingtown's press release of the District 10 Fall Meeting made print in the Community Courier. The meeting was held on October 27, 2019. Director Ro Colantuono called to order and proceeded to give a very good program. District 10 was honored to have special visitors from BPW/PA. President Elect, Marisa Harmon, Ginny Schultz, Past President, R. Maureen (Mo) Myers and Leigh Wilson Price who gave a very enlightening presentation. Also present was Tiffanie Burger, BPW/PA Vice President and her husband, Larry, Denise Romanelli and Joyce Sachs.



At our holiday meeting in December, members worked together wrapping jewelry to give to the women veterans at Mary Walker House, which our local does annually. Donations were also received to support the program for The Salvation Army New Day Center. A surprise visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus delivering goodies topped the evening. Also, in December, our local donated a wreath and members along with Jean White from Chesmont participated in Hopewell United Methodist Church's Wreaths Across America Ceremony.



We will be co-hosting our next event, a Comedy Night with the Re-actors Comedy Club on Saturday, February 22, 2019 at Timothy's Restaurant in Exton, PA benefiting the Community, Youth and Women's Alliance (CYWA) of Coatesville which provides various services for women with children in Coatesville such as homeless shelters, food, clothing and furniture, low income apartments, drug and alcohol programs, family caseworkers, etc.

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District 10 continued

Delaware County



Delaware County BPW members with our BPW state representatives. — with Pat Puleo, Tricia Messina McLaughlin, Jennifer Bravo, Mary Farrell Messina and Ro Colantuono at Concord Country Club.

Delaware County BPW President Jen Bravo with Rep. Jennifer O' Mara was the featured speaker at Delaware County Business and Professional Women's monthly meeting in Springfield. Representative O' Mara shared her insight as the youngest female legislator currently serving in Harrisburg. She was impressed with the Pennsylvania statewide BPW Pay Equity Quilt.



Delaware County BPW honoring our local veterans at Wreaths Across America. Thank you to Ro Colantuono for organizing the beautiful ceremony! — with Jennifer Bravo at Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association In Newtown Square.



What's Happening

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District 11

The Fall District Meeting was held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at McCool's Arts and Entertainment Building in Quakertown, PA. We were honored to have President Elect Marisa Harmon as our visiting State Representative. District Director Melissa Wieand conducted the meeting and the Quakertown BPW was the hostess. Leigh Wilson Price, Membership Task Team for Area 4, provided the group with interesting way to find and keep new members. We were also encouraged to provide what assistance we can for the Domestic Violence shelter near our LO location. Every LO has found a shelter and is busy providing monetary or in-kind donations. We were also pleased to have R. Maureen Myers, Esq., and Ginny Shultz, members of District 12 join us for the day.

All the five BPW locals-Central Montgomery County, Greater Conshohocken, Quakertown, Souderton Telford, and Upper Perkiomen were in attendance. The District Eleven's Bernice Maxwell Issues Management Award was presented to the Quakertown BPW for their issues management entry about achieving their 65th Birthday. (Bernice Maxwell was a former District Eleven Director in the early 50's.) The District Eleven's Eleanor Knoke Award for the most outstanding local organization of the year was presented to the Quakertown BPW. It is based on involvement with BPW events and community volunteer hours. (Eleanor Knoke was also a District Director from 1970-1972.)



Linda Lokay, Rita Brouwer-Ancher, Director of the Woman's Place, and Quakertown President Linda Moskal.



What's Happening

News from around the state

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District 11 continued

Upper Perkiomen BPW has been very active this fall and winter season. The Fall District Meeting was well attended by our members. Our poinsettia sale was a huge success as we earned funds for our scholarships. A fantastic time was had at the joint Christmas party with the Quakertown BPW at the Shady Nook Restaurant, Pennsburg. We prepared the First Meal of the Monday project for the Community. (Our photos show us hard at work.) This was on November 4 at the Pennsburg United Church of Christ.



Our next fundraiser and enjoyable night out will be our Oldies Dance to be held on February 1 at the East Greenville Firehouse Hall from 8 PM to Mid-night.



Also, our Women's Summit will be held on April 21. Registration Available at: <http://bpwupperperk.org/women-s-summit-2020/>

Come join our events!

What's Happening

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District 11

Central Montgomery County -

Maggiano's Italian Restaurant in the King of Prussia Mall area has become the meeting place for Central Montgomery County BPW. They were delighted to have Beth Sturman, Director of the Laurel House, speak to their members about the programs and accommodations that exist for both men, women and children. They collected many gift cards for the residents at the Laurel House. Their donation and the gift cards totaled almost \$250.

The November Meeting speaker was Mo Gillin, a retired Army Colonel and CMC member, who provided a thorough look at how we as civilians, look at veterans. "Does a uniform really matter?" She shared many perceptions that are true and false.

The day before the Nov. meeting, a few members traveled to the Mary Walker House on the Veteran's Campus in Coatesville. They brought a great meal, jewelry crafts to make gifts and presents for the women residents. It was one great day. Mo also visited the Norristown Vet Center and discovered that there was a family in need for the Holidays. The CMC BPW was able to share their good will with this family. Mo coordinated both projects.

But the MAIN EVENT for the CMC BPW was a huge Sunday BINGO gathering held at Maggiano's on December 1. With over a hundred in attendance, everyone received 10 games of BINGO, raffle prizes galore and a delicious buffet meal. The raffle prizes were certificates and products from local merchants in the King of Prussia Mall and surrounding area. It was a very successful fundraising event for the CMC BPW. The funds are used to provide the Montgomery County Community College with two scholarships for students over 25 years and are in the business program. Becky Shoulberg coordinated this successful event for the LO.

Lastly, a Holiday Party called a "Potluck Gathering" was held on Saturday, December 14 at the Montgomery Township Recreational Center. There were over twenty members and guests in attendance. But they shared their Holiday spirit by purchasing gifts for the Laurel House residents. Beth Sturman, Director of the Laurel House, came as their guest and she left with a car full of presents. The Holiday Joy was certainly in the air that day.



President Nancy Werner and Beth Sturman, Executive Director of the Laurel House, at their October meeting.



The CMC BPW members standing on the steps of the Mary Walker House at the Veteran's Campus in Coatesville. They just completed visiting the women veterans with food, gifts and making their favorite activity-jewelry.

What's Happening

News from around the state

District 11 continued

Greater Conshohocken



BPW was delighted to have Tina Quinci of the Laurel House (Domestic Abuse Shelter) come as their October speaker. Melissa Wieand, District XI Director, was also in attendance for her official visit. The LO collected and presented

Souderton Telford BPW is off to a great start as membership continues to grow with three new members this year. We write on Face Book of our activities and these women found us interesting.

We honored women in business by attending an applesauce making in Sheila Rhodes' workshop at Small Batch Kitchen in Lansdale. We sold Wawa coupons and poinsettias as fund raisers for our scholarships.

Plans are going well for the Locally Grown Showcase. We have many vendors signed up and several sponsors have been added to our booklet. We welcome all to attend at Indian Creek Foundation, 420 Cowpath Road, Souderton, on Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 10-3. Rain or shine.

Our committee will be attending the Breakfast Meeting for the Indian Valley Arts Festival Concert Sundaes. We dish ice cream as well as pizza slices, hot dogs and soda as we enjoy the music of the evening. We will select our date at the breakfast.

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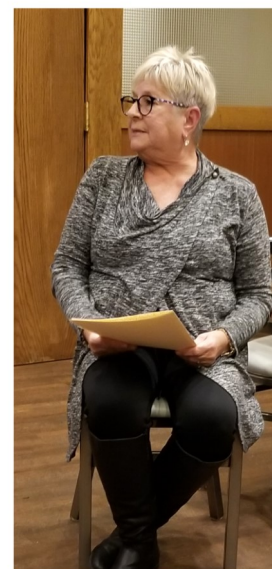
District 12

DISTRICT 12 FALL MEETING AT CEDARBROOK GOLF CLUB

All members are wearing purple in recognition of the 2019-2020 state project for domestic violence awareness.



CANONSBURG LOCAL—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 a clothing pantry filled with gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, and hygiene items for women, men and children. The Pantry is opened on the 3rd Friday evening of every month from 4pm to 6pm and Saturday morning of every month from 9am to 12:30pm. These times are in conjunction with the monthly free spaghetti dinners, monthly diaper pantry held at Christ the Redeemer Church and a monthly food bank held at Canonsburg Presbyterian Church. For questions, please contact Canonsburg First United Methodist Church at 724-745-5771 or by email ppirnik@yahoo.com.



Phyllis Pirnik, guest speaker at Canonsburg Local

MASONTOWN LOCAL—Masontown BPW has been very busy having programs using President Dawn's State Theme - "Reach Beyond the Stars" & her State Project "The Pa Coalition against Domestic Violence. Our October 8th speaker was Alexandra from the Southwest area office of Domestic Violence who gave an excellent presentation on the Statistics from Western Pa. We also had a very successful "meet & greet" before the meeting conducted by our Membership team of Dolly Murray & Beverly Honeywell. As a result, 3 new members joined that same evening! We also are collecting items & cash for Domestic Violence.

Our members also participated in the American Heart Assn Heart Walk in Fayette County, in addition to having a Halloween Program for the Masontown Senior Citizens at their Center on Main St. In Masontown. In addition, our members Dorothy Gruskowski & her helpers conducted a "Storytime hour" at the German Masontown Library & donated a book to the library in honor of National Business Women's Week. We attended the Fayette County Commissioners meeting & received their proclamation for National Business Week. We are looking forward to 2020 with programs & speakers on "The Barbara Myers Ciccone District 12 Scholarship" & a clothing drive for "Dress for Success", in addition to 2 of our own members who have written & published a book!



Above: Commissioners & Linda Martin from the Uniontown Club receiving the proclamation for NBWW. Right: Alexandra from Domestic Violence doing her presentation to Masontown BPW members

