

# BEACON POINTS

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT: To achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information**



AUGUST 2020 Volume 21 #1

BPW related websites:

[www.greensburgbpw](http://www.greensburgbpw.com) (under construction)

[www.bpwpad3.org](http://www.bpwpad3.org)

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

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## This Month's Meeting:



Our meeting will be September 9, 2020 at the King's Family Restaurant on Route 30 Greensburg (Home Depot Plaza) Please arrive between 5:30 and 6:00 PM.

We will be having several guests joining us for the evening. We will have our District 3 Director, Laurie Hough and District 3 Treasurer Maggie Hildebrand attending as well as three representatives from the Jamie Bostard, Director, Christy Stahl, Secretary and another associate, Jeanie.

In addition to these guest, former member Donna Bailey, is scheduled to join us for a special presentation.

At this meeting we will also be discussing and passing our budget.

Hope many of you will be able to attend in person. However, due to the Covid 19 issue it is understood that some of our members will not be attending in person. And therefore, President Shaler has mad arrangements for everyone to be able to participate either in person or remotely.

Nancy had sent an email out last week for our members to respond to her whether you would be attending in person or virtually.

If you have not responded to Nancy please due so by emailing her at [nkshaler@comcast.net](mailto:nkshaler@comcast.net).

She will need to hear from you be the end of Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

We are resuming our regular scheduled meetings at Kings Family Restaurant on Route 30, Greensburg, PA. At 5:30 P.M. in September. We have the "back room" reserved. Currently, Kings policy is that all customers must wear a mask upon entering the restaurant. As we have the back room reserved and it is only our group back there, we are not restricted as to number sitting at the long table. There are booths in the room that we can use if anyone would prefer more distance than the long table provides.

For our future meetings, please RSVP to Cathy Caccia (email [ccaccia@comcast.net](mailto:ccaccia@comcast.net)) if you will be attending the meeting. This will create a standing reservation list.

After September, if you are not on the standing reservation list, you will need to let Cathy Caccia know that you will be attending the meeting that month. Please, feel free to invite a friend, acquaintance or co-worker to a meeting.

We may also have additional Zoom meetings as necessary.



Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

## **In the Beacon:**

In each month's Beacon we will feature some of our Local, District and State Members who, in keeping with our state theme, have left their dreams take flight.

This month we feature our own Greensburg member, Romain Truxell and our District 3, Assistant Director, Angela Apple.

We asked Romaine to share some of her life, personally and professionally with us. The following is Romaine's first person account.

I am a retired widow with 7 children, 13 grandchildren (1 deceased), 8 great-grand children

I graduated from North Huntingdon High School and took some classes at Robert Morris University.

Upon graduation, I began working at West Penn Power Co. in Pittsburgh, then in Greensburg for 2 years, until I began my family. (In those days, it was an unwritten rule that pregnant women, once they began to show, did not work for most large companies.) I then worked for the Telephone Message Bureau in Greensburg while having my family.

In July 1965, I went to work for Congressman John H. Dent (D-21) as a summer intern in his Greensburg office. I stayed for 15 years until he retired. (At that time, nearly all the girls in the Congressional offices were Legislative Assistants.) Most of the men had different titles.

I then continued to work for his successor, Don Bailey for 2 years, then at the Rehabilitation Center and Workshop as an Executive Secretary.

While in John Dent's office he hired a young man, Tom Tangretti, with whom I worked for several years. In 1982 Tom decided to run for Westmoreland County Controller, won his election and I went to work for him. Five years later he ran for Pennsylvania State Representative in the 57<sup>th</sup> District, won his election and I went to work for him in his district office, until I retired in 2002.

My years of work in the government and political arenas were very interesting and quite a learning experience, federal, county and state. Meeting the constituents and helping to solve their problems could be interesting, frustrating and satisfying, all at the same time. I met many wonderful people. A few that were not so wonderful!

On special occasions, a trip to Washington, D.C. was always a treat and an exciting (i.e. the country bumpkin going to the big city!) experience. To see people just walking down the hall or on the stairway or elevator, and realize they were the ones I saw on TV last week was awesome; and then talking with some of them at a meeting or social function was the greatest. I also once got stuck in a revolving door in the Capitol with Ted Kennedy!

Another highlight of my years with the Congressman was attending President Jimmy Carter's Inauguration. I had a seat in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row with the Senators' wives. I was so excited I didn't realize how cold it was outside until it was over, and I could barely walk. I thought my goose bumps were from excitement. My feet were frozen, but it was worth it.

I was fortunate to meet many important people of the time, but I'm sure their names are no longer remembered, and there were very few prominent women in government in those days. I didn't meet any of them.

I can remember telling the Congressman how excited I was at meeting so-and-so and him telling me not to be so impressed. "Just remember, every

man puts his trousers on the same way, one leg at a time.” That put things in perspective.

My years of working for the County were mostly taking care of county business and not working with the constituents, another learning experience.

Working for the State Representative was once again helping the constituents with problems pertaining to State matters. We also did bus trips to Harrisburg 3 or 4 times a year to tour the State Capitol. Everyone enjoyed touring the House, Senate and Court Chambers and I became quite adept at serving coffee and rolls on a moving bus without the passengers wearing their breakfast.

In 1968 I was invited to join the Greensburg Business and Professional Women’s Club and in 1969 became a member. At that time, one could not just join BPW, it was by invitation only and then one had to be approved by the board. I felt honored that I was both invited and accepted as a member and am still a member 51 years later.

Over the years I served as Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Vice President, did the Beacon Points, Dinner Reservations, August Fun Party and served on many committees.

One of the highlights of BPW was going to State Convention and learning how the organization worked. I remember the “discussions” on the floor at the meetings that could go on for quite a long time with no solution reached, but the discussions were very interesting. The women worked very hard for causes that would benefit all women and they still do so.

I believe much has changed over the years. It is now much easier to become a member of BPW and I have watched our membership increase and decrease. At one point in time we had over 100 members in our local. Our meetings and conventions have become less formal, but so has all of life. However, we continue to work for the Federation Objectives to elevate the standards for women in business and the professions, to promote their interests; bring about a spirit of cooperation among women and to extend opportunities through education.

A special Convention occasion that comes to mind is the year Bernadette Koval was installed as State President and was escorted to the podium by several military men in full uniform. That was exciting!

I have met many wonderful BPW women over the years and made many new friends. It’s always special to see those whose paths we only cross occasionally.

When I first became a member of BPW, because of my job I was informed that BPW was not involved in politics. I was delighted when years later they formed a PAC (Political Action Committee) and began to support women candidates. Now a very important part of our cause.

I still enjoy being a member of BPW for their efforts in supporting women and most of all, for all the wonderful hardworking women I’ve met and now call friends.

**Thank you, Romaine, for sharing with us. You certainly have life experiences that many of us can only dream of.**

Our next feature in the Beacon Points is a member of the Greater Latrobe BPW and our District 3 Assistant Director:



Angela Apple

I am often asked what is BPW? Seems like a pretty easy question to answer, right? We are women helping women. We work to achieve

equality in the workplace for all women through advocacy, education and information. But what does that really mean? Through a collective voice we advocate together for women's equality in all facts of life. That's a good answer but it doesn't begin to tell you who we really are. BPW is a group of women from all walks of life – educators, health care professionals, entrepreneurs, accountants, scientists, retirees and more. Our diversity is what makes us strong. We are mentors, confidants and friends. We support each other personally and professionally. We build connections that last a lifetime.

Before I joined Latrobe BPW, I thought I didn't have time to belong to a volunteer organization. I was a busy working mom of 2 boys. That kept me busy enough. When I decided to join, my goal was networking. I admit it was a selfish motive. After attending a few meetings, I learned BPW is so much more and filled a void in my life I didn't know existed. As I became familiar with the Latrobe's local organization, I found myself wanted, no needing, to be involved. Not growing up in Latrobe or even Pennsylvania, I finally felt connected to my community. Nine years later I have never regretted a moment (except those meetings and events I've had to miss). I am blessed to be part of this organization. I am honored to have served on many local and district committees, served Latrobe BPW President and currently BPW District 3 Assistant Director. When I joined, I never imagined I would want to take on these roles. I have had great mentors who saw in me what I didn't see in myself and encouraged me to take on these positions. I look forward to continuing the legacy of great leadership of those before me.

I am excited about the coming year. To share ideas, work together and be the best we can be. The board and locals have many great ideas to inspire and connect us. We are dreaming big! My goal as Assistant District Director is helping Director Laurie build on the momentum of District 3 that will continue our collective successes. I hope my enthusiasm is contagious! I am available to brainstorm and implement ideas for every local.

I'm still a busy working mom. By day I am a school guidance counselor for Adelphoi Ketterer Charter School. I have a degree in Journalism from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Most of my career has

been in advertising and sales for a variety of media outlets and advertising agencies. I knew I wanted something different and dreamed big - #becauseofbpw. I love my "job". BPW inspired me to pursue my passions and the "lessons" learned through my membership help me empower the students I work with. I am truly blessed to do something I love every day.

My husband Neil and I just celebrated 26 years of marriage. We live in Latrobe and have 2 sons, Seth (21) and Ethan (19) and two fur babies Rufus and Lola. Neil and I both grew up in the state of Indiana, but after 20 years in Pennsylvania we are "home." We spend our weekends camping and recently earned our scuba certification. I enjoy being creative and crafting is my therapy. Most of all I enjoy the moments created with my BPW sisters.

If you can dream it, you can do it

Angela Apple  
Assistant District Director

**Thank you, Angela, for sharing your dreams with us.**

### **Live by the Collect:**

We need to truly understand the collect and live by it every day, especially in these chaotic and confusing times. The collect was originally written as prayer by Mary Stewart to start our BPW meetings many, many years ago. It was as relevant then as it is today.

It has been said that many people "read but do not understand." How long has it been since you read and understood our Collect?

It might be wise and helpful to us to analyze some of the words in our Collect.

"Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed."

In other words, life is too short – to be little!

"- - - be done with fault finding."

It is so easy to be a critic, so hard to be a doer.

“- - - put away all pretense.”

In this one-world of ours, honesty is as necessary as in the horse and buggy days, but as rare as uranium.

“- - - never be hasty in judgment.”

How often have we found that our first impressions were wrong, and it is not easy to say, “I am sorry.”

“- - - make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.”

These qualities are needed in our professions and our home; let us never forget that we are woman.

“Teach us to put into action our better impulses.”

How often we have thought “I must send a card or a note to someone,” and have forgotten to do it. Good thoughts are fine, but good deeds are more rewarding.

“- - - in the big things of life, we are at one.”

We are all seeking success in our business of profession, happiness in our hearts and fulfillment of our dreams.

**“And may we strive to touch and to know the great, common human heart of us all and, O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.”**

This statement said in many ways, can be found in any and all religions, creeds and philosophies.

***THE WORDS OF OUR COLLECT ARE A WONDERFUL WAY OF LIFE, SO LET US LIVE THEM AND SHARE THEM!***

***Thank you to Marilyn Tallant for permitting the reprint of this article.***

## **19th Amendment: Women Vote**

The commemorative stamp honoring Women’s Right to Vote and the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment has been issued.



Inspired by historic photographs, the stamp features a stylized illustration of suffragists marching in a parade or other public demonstration. The clothes they wear and the banners they bear display the official colors of the National Woman’s Party — purple, white and gold. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with original art by Nancy Stahl.

Did you get yours yet?

## **Last Month’s Meeting:**

Our August Meeting was a Bring Your Own Dinner, picnic at the home of Marilyn Tallant. In attendance were, President Nancy Shaler, Parliamentarian Marilyn Tallant., Treasurer Cathy Caccia, members Romain Truxell, Mary Catherine Motchar and Karen Schmiech. At this meeting program topics were discussed, the 2020-2021 budget was drafted and plans for future meetings. Our meetings for the remainder of 2020 will be as follows: meeting at King’s restaurant September through November with our holiday party being at Rodney’s in December.

It was the consensus of those present that due to the conditions we are dealing with the Covid 19, that our joint anniversary party with McKeepport BPW be postponed until November 2021. It is very unfortunate, however, it was felt that this was the best course of action to take at this time.



## PREVAILING IN TOUCH TIMES

Some of the most notable innovations of our time came amid American economic recessions.

In 1898, a batch of wheat-based dough sat out overnight, causing it to ferment. The baker decided not to throw it out. Instead, he rolled out the dough, creating large thin flakes. The baker, Will Kellogg, experimented with these flakes and eventually created Kellogg's Corn Flakes!

In 1918, a California restaurant owner accidentally dropped a sandwich bun in a pan of meat drippings. Rather than throwing out the sandwich, the customer said they would eat it. The customer raved about the "dipped" sandwich. The French Dip sandwich was born.

In 1924, another California restaurateur was overwhelmed with crowds on a holiday weekend. The restaurant owner was running out of food, but people were still showing up. All he had left was lettuce. Not wanting to turn people away, the owner concocted a dressing using basic ingredients. Caesar Cardini poured the dressing over the lettuce and served the first Caesar Salad.

Although the above stories are fascinating, what's even more fascinating is the timing. In 1898, the United States was on the tail-end of the 1893 Depression. As WWI was ending, we experienced another recession in 1918(not to mention the global

pandemic of the Spanish Flu). Although the 1920s were "roaring", there was still a recession from 1923-1924. These success stories are proof positive that you can prevail in tough times.

A skeptic would claim dumb-luck led to these successes, but that's only half true. Yes, they experienced luck, but they also had to act on it. These entrepreneurs viewed their accidental innovation through an opportunistic prism. That's why they were successful. You, too, can prevail if you are opportunistic.

Being opportunistic is adapting one's skills and actions to prevailing circumstances. It is seizing opportunity from the jaws of defeat, finding gain amidst pain. Prevailing in touch times requires a bold contrarian optimism. You can see that happening even now during the Covid-19 virus and all the shut-downs and restrictions happening with your favorite locally owned restaurant or store. These small business owners have had to adapt or change almost daily. From being totally operational, to closing for weeks, to opening with just 50% capacity, then being lowered to 25% capacity, etc. Grocery stores have had to put directional arrows on their floors to do one-way aisles and Six Feet Distance markers along with installing large amounts of plexiglass at registers, counters, etc. These owners have come up with some very creative ways to ensure that they survive in these trying times along with keeping their loyal customers happy. Even "Drive-Thru" Take Out entire meals have been handled beautifully and efficiently at restaurants with no Drive Thru Windows.

As things change daily, even hourly, who knows what these small business owners will invent which will become the products and trends of the future. All we can do is support them and hope they and all of us can prevail in these tough times.

## Up Coming Events:

The District 3, Fall District Meeting will be: Monday, October 12, 2020 at Banquets Unlimited, North Huntingdon, PA Hostess for the event will be McKeesport BPW.

Please consider attending.

## August and September Birthdays:

None celebrated these months.

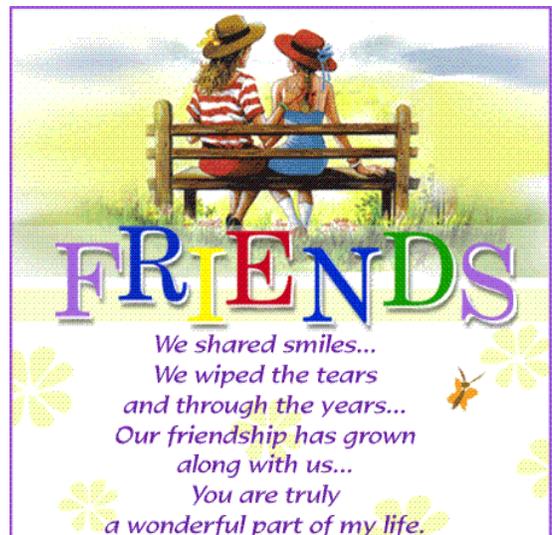


Dates to remember:



November 3, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Election Day-Go Vote</b></li> </ul>
November 11, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PA Conference for Women, Online To register visit website: paconferenceforwomen.org</b></li> </ul>
November 15, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deadline for LO copies of Budget to District Finance Chair</b></li> </ul>
December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Happy Holidays</b></li> </ul>
December 9, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greensburg BPW Holiday Celebration, Rodney's North Huntingdon</b></li> </ul>

July 1, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Deadline for the September Issue of <i>THE KEY</i></b></li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Breast Cancer Awareness Month</b></li> </ul>
October 1, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deadline for December issue of the Key</b></li> </ul>
October 18-24, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Business Women's Week (NBWW)</b></li> <li>• <b>BPW/PA &amp; BPW/OHIO Ecumenical Event</b></li> </ul>
November 1, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deadline for PA BPW Foundation Scholarship applications for Spring Semester</b></li> </ul>



*Here's to seeing all our BPW Friends, Soon!*