

Business and Professional Women

*Bedford, Pennsylvania
December 2019 Newsletter*



***Please Join us at our Annual
Bedford BPW Christmas Party
Tuesday December 10, 2019
Bedford Elks 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm***

***Dinner and Entertainment
Cost \$15.00 per person
Members and Guests are welcome***

***Reservations required by noon
Friday 6th***

***To make Reservations: Call
Jeannie Plummer (814) 623-5510
Or Faith Zembower (814) 977-6641***

***We are collecting donations of
Sheetz Gift Cards or Cash
for Your Safe Haven***

Entertainment by Phil McCaulley!

There is no regular meeting this month

Message from President Joan LaSalle:

At our November meeting, we heard two stories from Beth Hickey, Executive Director of Your Safe Haven about women who experienced domestic violence situations. One story was from Beth's experience in her current position, and the other was actually Beth's story of leaving a bad relationship and eventually landing in Bedford. She got here because of help from friends, and now she is in a position to do the same for other women in need.

Beth explained that 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. We have chosen to donate Sheetz gift cards (or cash to purchase) for this reason. Let's join together this holiday season to lend a hand and help Your Safe Haven by donating gift cards or cash.

Also - If you are retiring some of your better clothing, Rec La Ma Tion is still taking clothing donations for BPW's Outreach to help clothe women and children. You may also donate by giving cash or check to Faith designated for this project. Since the beginning of the BPW 2019-2020 year, \$125 in clothing vouchers have been issued.

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Continued From Page one, (At our November meeting, we heard two stories from Beth Hickey, Executive Director of Your Safe Haven.....)

One of our members also told her story, and Bedford County has been blessed since they have relocated here. In case you missed it - she is also this year's Athena Award Winner our own Ella McElwee! The following is the presentation document from the award, provided by the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Office.

This year's Athena honoree has served in a number of leadership positions in our community, the region and beyond. She is a passionate champion of education and enrichment of body, mind and spirit... and a consummate servant leader.

Her nominator wrote of our 2019 Athena: "She generously shares her energy, passions and knowledge with others, but has a particular focus on mentoring and encouraging women. She has never stopped learning, and is generous in sharing her wisdom and inspiration with those around her."

Although she was not born in Bedford County, our newest Athena dreamed of living in a place like this one day.

She started her career in a traditional way, but when faced with personal challenges and adversity, changed course...and started to soak up knowledge and information that would help make her dreams come true, both personally and professionally.

After starting a successful business, she found herself in a position where she had to start over for the sake of herself and her children. Fleeing an abusive situation, with the help of friends, and the support of her community, she ultimately landed in Bedford County and we have been better for it. A leader in her industry... not just in the United States, but around the world, our 2019 Athena has assembled a team of experts to guide others toward being their very best.

A trailblazer in the community, she has guided generations of future leaders, from boy scouts to BPW, and after serving as local President of the Bedford Chapter of Business and Professional Women, now holds regional office in the organization.

Mother of three outstanding adult children, who have excelled in business, the arts and served our country in the armed forces...

President of her own health and wellness company and Executive Director of a non-profit organization committed to educating the public to maximize their health and wellness...

Someone who enriches everyone she meets with her friendly smile, her strong spirit, her courage, wisdom, strength, compassion, and generosity.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 ATHENA AWARD WINNER DR ELLA McELWEE



Bedford BPW co- sponsors the Athena award with Thomas Chevrolet. Mark Thomas was out of town, so we were able to have 4 BPW members on stage to present to Ella! BPW member Rita Bush was also an Athena Award winner, as well as recently passed member Carol Stump.



December Birthdays

Shirley Hess, December 24

Ella McElwee, December 25

STATE AND DISTRICT NEWS

Legislation – bills recently signed into law in PA include:

House Bill 962, sponsored by Rep. Mark Rozzi, abolishes Pennsylvania's criminal statute of limitations on childhood sexual abuse and extends the timeline victims have to file civil action against their abusers; extends civil statute of limitations for victims age 18-24 until the age of 30; extends the criminal statute of limitations for criminal proceedings for victims age 18-24 for 20 years; and provides counseling services for victims of sexual assault via the Crime Victims Compensation fund through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

House Bill 1051, sponsored by Rep. Todd Stephens, increases penalties for failure to report child abuse by a mandated reporter.

House Bill 1171, sponsored by Rep. Tarah Toohil, makes conversations with law enforcement agents exempt from non-disclosure agreements.

To see the latest signed and vetoed bills in PA visit: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/>

Bedford Club News

Spring Fundraiser tentatively set for April 26, 2020. It will be a Bingo and Basket Event, and all members are invited to join in planning. There will be an organizational meeting in January.

Surveys were handed out at November meeting with choices for meeting location and meals. Feedback so far is that a majority would like to hold meetings at Springhouse Estates with meal cost of \$12. Anyone who did not return a survey can do so at January meeting or via email. Look for surveys in an email in January. You can also email comments to jlasalle929@gmail.com.

Yearbooks are available. If you did not receive yours, please contact Joan LaSalle.

