



The KEY

Newsletter of Business & Professional Woman of Pennsylvania



Grow Through what you Go Through

SUMMER 2023



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PA State Summer Board Meeting
August 4-5, 2023

BPW/PA Officers

President

Michelle Holler

President Elect

Jennifer Van Ingen

Vice President

Sarah Kitchen

Treasurer

Jean Calabrace

Recording Secretary

Laurie Hough

Corresponding Secretary

Glenda Auker

Parliamentarian

Mary Weeks

Welcome BPW members to a new membership year! Can you feel the excitement in the air as we are all busy preparing for what we will do for the upcoming year? I know I for one can feel it. I always come home from convention with such a burst of enthusiasm and just a general sense of excitement after spending several days with my sisters from around the state.

As I was deciding on a theme for this year, these words “Grow through what you go through” just kept sticking with me. We, as women, over the years have certainly followed this as a mantra. We weren’t allowed to vote so women before us fought until we were granted this important right. We weren’t always recognized as a valuable part of the workforce. While we continue to fight for equal pay in the workforce, we are seeing more women take high-ranking leadership roles. That gives me hope that this will soon be another hurdle that we will conquer. I am encouraging each local and district to make this a focus this year. Women deserve equal wages to a man’s wages. Our legislative committee will be working on an Equal Pay Rally in Harrisburg in March. Watch for details coming soon.

Let’s bring this saying back to BPW specifically. As I have listened to our more senior members reminisce about conventions that would have several hundred in attendance; when our membership was over ten-thousand ladies; when we had full slate of locals in each district. I ask each of you, “Can you help us grow through what we are going through?” I have met so many amazing women in this organization and I know what the answer is... it’s YES!

If you are asking yourself, “What do I have to offer that can make an impact on BPW?”, look at the talents you have developed! Think of your talents as a puzzle piece. Each piece is needed to make a completed picture. So, I encourage each of you to take that leap outside of your comfort zone and be an active participant in your local, district and state.

As I close, please know that there are state chairs that are here to be a resource. You will find their contact information on the website. Please reach out to any one of us for help. You are not alone in this BPW journey!

Until next time I encourage you to keep growing!

President Michelle



PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S FOUNDATION, INC.

PA BPW FOUNDATION WORKS 24/7

The PA BPW Foundation is here for you, the members of BPW/PA. We are a board of eleven women from across the Federation. All are BPW members who have given years of dedication and service to the BPW/PA. Our PA BPW Foundation is a 501 (c) (3). May I introduce our Board-Laura Whetstone, Vice Chair; Theresa Rusbosin, Recording Secretary; Joyce Turner, Treasurer; Jean Towle, Finance Chair; Paula Maloney, Cathy Collins, Ginny Bailey and from the BPW/PA EC-Jennifer Van Ingen; Sarah Kitchen; and Laurie Hough.

We have established our newest help to our BPW/PA educators of the Sharon A. Walsh S.T.R.E.A.M. Grant. Please come to the member section of the www.bpwpa.org and review the application and apply on line.

We work to provide scholarships to those individuals seeking higher levels of learning. There is a scholarship application on the www.bpwpa.org web site that can be downloaded and submitted. Please remember to read the criteria and submit the requested information with the application. If selected, a \$2,500 scholarship is sent to their higher level of learning.

We are proud to announce that three scholarships recipients from the November 1 deadline who were:

- Kara Jo Wright attending the Pennsylvania State University. Field of Study is Biomedical Engineering. Degree: Masters
- Skyela Jo Whetstone attending Clemson University. Field of Study is Anthropology with minors in Animal Vet Science and Biological Sciences. Degree: BS
- Kari Louise McWhorter attending University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg. Field of Study is Biological Sciences with a minor in Chemistry. Degree: BS

We are proud to announce the three scholarship recipients from the May 1 deadline who were:

- Camille Ann Kuczynski attending Seton Hall Field of Study-Early Acceptance to LECOM Dental Scholl and Biology. Degree-Bachelor of Dental; Medicine and Biology.
- Elianna Delaney Bermudez attending Messiah College. Field of Study is Nursing. Degree is Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- Alexis Joan Werner attending Point Park University. Field of Study is Community Psychology. Degree is Master of Arts in Community Psychology.

We also maintain the Edith Oler Flanigan Fund Grant which provides emergency funds for the following: catastrophic illness or accident; extended unemployment; a disaster or any other unusual financial loss.

There is an application on the “member only” section of the www.bpwpa.org web site. There is never a deadline for a request.

During this year of 2022-23, we had five BPWPA members who requested assistance and were approved. We granted \$10,500 total. We always keep the names anonymous.

But to maintain these two funds, we rely on two ways. Every year at the State Convention, the PA BPW Foundation holds a special function for the Friday evening event, as well as, a ticket raffle. We were delighted with this year’s Friday Night Paddle Raffle as it turned out to be the “grooviest” night ever as we celebrated the 70’s. The Buzz has done a fabulous job of sharing the fun and laughter of those who attended. But most of all, THANK YOU to every district, local organization and member who donated to the wealth of items that we had to share. Those quarters were pinging away. A huge thank you to our emcees, President Missy and Sheryl Nierenberg, District 11 Director, our professional Paddle Raffle gals. And another thank you to Jean Towle, our Board Finance Chair, who coordinated the evening and had all board members participating.

The second is the generosity of the local organizations and districts and mainly, you, the member. A donation form can be found on the www.bpwpa.org web site. We are most appreciative of all the funds that we have received over the years and hope that you will continue to support the PA BPW Foundation. There was a question that I received- *What is the President’s Society?* If you can share \$100 or more, your name is placed on this list, and you receive recognition at State Convention.

Another item that I would like to mention. We do have a PA BPW Foundation Board Member application on the www.bpwpa.org “member only” section. If you would be interested in applying for a Board position, please read, complete and submit by March 15, 2024. This application should be sent to our VP, Laura Whetstone.

Another gift giving item has been brought to our attention-Benevity. It facilitates real time tax receipting and donations funds by engaging with registered charities. We are presently registering to be one of these foundations. I will place in the BUZZ when it is ready for our use.

We are continually looking for ways to share our information with you. We do have materials on the public page of the www.bpwpa.org and on the “members only” section that pertain to our work. Please take a moment and review and share with your local membership.

On behalf of the Board, Thank You for supporting the PA BPW Foundation. We are always on the job.

Nancy Werner, PA BPW Foundation Chair

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION

The BPW FOUNDATION (National) can be found on the Internet. The information that I would love for you to read and study is listed. The signature materials are there. I am talking about the **Successful Workplace** that features the WOMENonomics Forum, Employer Resources and the Successful Workplace Digest. Over the years the first topic WOMENonomics has been used by various locals and districts as a day to bring members and guests to learn how important women are to the economy. The other two programs, Employer Resources and the Successful Workplace Digest have not been in high demand. Yes, they were published almost 15 years ago but you would be able to be creative and develop a program or project from them.

BUT there is also the **Empowered Workforce** that features the Women Veterans, Young Careerist Project and the Women in the Green Economy. These three areas are part of the BPW Foundation Contest. Take some time and travel through this website and learn about these topics. All make for great ideas for a program, project, or event.

While you are there, look at **ALL** the material which is listed for us to use. If you need the BPWPA logo, it is there for you in black and white and/or color. If you are looking for any information on our BPWUSA history from 1919, it is also there. Take some time and do the peeking and reading about the information. Be prepared for your LO planning for the upcoming 2023-24.

We are just beginning this exciting new BPW year, and a lot can be accomplished if you put your mind to it. The Contest period is May 1, 2023, thru April 30, 2024. The due date is May 1, 2024 for any submissions. Please use the Contest entry form and attach it to all materials. There is a BPW Foundation Contest outline sheet to read.

A side note –The BPWPA was always a strong contributor to the National BPW Foundation but we are still looking for current information on this web site. At one time many scholarships were given across the nations from the BPW Foundation but that has stopped. Individuals are encouraged to look to their heritage federations for assistance. Hence, it was the 2017 BPW/PA Board that voted to deny any gift giving to the National Foundation as part of the State Award, the Eleanor Briner.

The coveted Grace B. Daniels Award is waiting for **YOU**. The **Local Organization** that develops the best program, project or event promoting the BPW Foundation will be honored with this beautiful gold plated statue. “Miss Grace” as she was called was our only BPW/PA member to become a National President between 1958-1960. She worked with Marguerite Rewalt, National President in 1956-58, to establish the BPW Foundation as a 501 c 3. I remember meeting Miss Grace during my early years of becoming a BPW member. At our State Conventions, when she stood, the ballroom of hundreds would go silent as she would voice her opinion. She always knew something on the many subjects that were being discussed at that session. She was a remarkable BPW leader.

Nancy Werner, BPW Foundation (National) Chair

July 2023 Legislation Report

When BPW/PA Legislation Chair, Janet Riordan presented the proposed Legislative Platform at Convention, there was a motion to remove the sentence, “Promote reproductive choice and full access to all services.” from the Health Plank. The motion was defeated but listening to the discussion, it was clear that some of our members still do not understand what the term “reproductive choice” means.

Science Direct defines reproductive choice as consisting of three broad categories of rights:

1. Rights to equality and nondiscrimination: A troubling new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds the number of U.S. women dying from pregnancy-related issues continues to climb. 1,205 deaths were reported in 2021, reflecting an increase of nearly 89% in the maternal mortality rate since 2018. While these rates significantly increased for all race and ethnic groups, Black women are 2.6 times more likely to die than White women and 2.5 times more likely to die than Hispanic women. This underscores the significant racial and ethnic disparities that continue to persist across key maternal health measures. The fact that of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, **6 were declared "Maternal health deserts"** shows why our Health Plank needs to be "supported" exactly as it appears in the Platform.
2. Rights to sexual and reproductive health services, information, and education: To maintain sexual and reproductive health, women need access to accurate information and the safe, effective, affordable and acceptable contraception method of their choice. They must be informed and empowered to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections and, when they decide to have children, women must have access to skilled health care providers and services that include family planning and can help them have a safe pregnancy and birth and a healthy baby.
3. Rights to reproductive self-determination: According to Human Rights Watch, the right to reproductive self-determination is centered on a woman's ability to make the best choices for their lives, including around the number of children they have, if any, and the spacing between their children's births. Reproductive rights include prenatal services, safe childbirth, and access to contraception. They also include access to legal and safe abortion.

Provider shortages, lack of insurance, common chronic health problems such as high blood pressure and diabetes, economic disparities, lack of access to needed support systems, and women being ignored, disrespected, and belittled by their health care providers all contribute to the high and growing maternal mortality rate.

Supporting reproductive choice means being an advocate for these women by engaging in efforts that will lead to long-lasting health improvements for every mother. Safe and respectful maternity care is a fundamental human right.

I look forward to working President Michelle and the Legislation Committee - Carole Turk, Michele Fry, and Laura Whetstone.



Ginny Bailey
2023-2024 BPW/PA Legislation Chair

ADOPTED 2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

PREAMBLE

The Equal Rights Amendment

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

The Equal Rights Amendment, as authored by Alice Paul, shall stand first, foremost and above all other items which may appear on the Pennsylvania Federation’s Platform until equal rights for women and men become guaranteed in the United States Constitution, because all statutory law derives therefrom. BPW/PA members will identify and lobby elected officials and candidates for public office who support policy and legislation advancing BPW/PA’s Legislative Platform.

PLATFORM

ECONOMIC EQUITY

Actively support pay equity, fair credit, pension reform, and protection of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Support affirmative action and equal educational, training and promotional opportunities. Increase the availability of affordable options for quality elder dependent and child care.

HEALTH

Actively support legislation that promotes ALL women’s health issues and access to care. Promote research funding for all female health issues both physical and mental. Support reproductive choice and full access to all services. Promote paid sick leave and expanded Family & Medical Leave.

CIVIL RIGHTS

To encourage and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in our communities and institutions and actively oppose all forms of racism and discrimination. Actively promote full funding of the Violence Against Women Act to combat domestic violence and the electronic and physical stalking of women. Support background checks for gun purchases that prevent domestic abusers from purchasing and keeping firearms. Actively promote full funding for protection and services for victims and survivors of domestic violence. Ensure equal funding for female and male participation in high school and college athletics. Eliminate all form of sexual harassment and discrimination against women. Support female veteran’s safety and equal treatment while in military service and in their return to civilian life. Bring ALL laws into conformity with the Equal Rights Amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution.



One of our new feature articles, in each edition of the The KEY, will be a Member Spotlight.

The Summer KEY Member Spotlight was submitted by Dr. Donna Mettler, BPW/PA State Membership Chair.

Our Summer KEY Member Spotlight is on

BEV McKNIGHT

Wellsboro Local, District 6

Bev McKnight was recently honored for her 50 years of dedicated service to Wellsboro BPW Local. In addition to chairing almost every committee at one time or another, she has served as Wellsboro BPW Local President, BPW District 6 Director and BPW/PA Historian. She also coordinated the Wellsboro BPW Student Loan Program for over 20 years. She has always been a strong supporter of the Wellsboro BPW mission and has served as a mentor for many of our local and district leaders over the years. She is the member who put together a BPW display in the window of a business in downtown Wellsboro for Business Women's Week every year for at least a decade. She always greets with a smile and her laugh is legendary. No one has been a greater ambassador for our Local than she. Her unwavering commitment to BPW and her tireless support of the community through volunteerism have been an inspiration to all who know her.

Dr. Donna Mettler, District 6 Director, presented her with an antique glass from the 1947 BPW/PA State Convention held at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh. The glass was filled with a chocolate bouquet of flowers from Highland Chocolates, a local Wellsboro business employing mentally challenged adults from the community. This commemorative glass was donated to Donna Mettler by Jane Barndt, BPW Past State President, shortly before her passing in 2019. Her wish was that we find a special occasion to use the glass. We could think of no better use than to honor our Wellsboro BPW friend on her 50 year milestone as a BPW member.



Bev McKnight, left, being presented with the antique glass from the 1947 BPW/PA State Convention, by Dr. Donna Mettler, right, District 6 Director and BPW/PA Membership Chair.

Bev was being honored for 50 years of dedicated membership to BPW.

The antique glass filled with a chocolate bouquet of flowers from Highland Chocolates.



Summer Is the Time To ...

By Dr. Donna Mettler, BPW/PA Membership Chair

The summer months, especially July and August, are the time for BPW leaders and members to reflect on what went well during the previous year and to look ahead toward a successful new BPW year. By this time, your officers and committee chairs are elected and appointed. As you move forward as a Local or District, planning and communication are keys to success. Involvement of as many members as possible in the planning is vital. Having fun while planning (picnic, anyone?) is very important. Below are some specific ideas to help get you started as you “set yourself up for success!”

- Contact members who have not renewed their membership with a personal email, handwritten note, or phone call. Hopefully, they have just forgotten to send in their renewal. After August 1st, check your Local's membership list on our BPW/PA website. Notify BPW/PA Treasurer Jean Calabrace of any discrepancies with Local records.
- Solicit ideas for engaging programs and events from all members via email in preparation for a summer planning meeting. Encourage ideas that are new and that will appeal to members of all ages and experiences.
- Hold a planning meeting to discuss the potential line-up of programs and activities. Plan programs that are relevant to the current members, not just programs that are traditional. Include social activities that encourage the building of friendships. Secure a volunteer member or committee to chair each social activity and program.
- Plan one program or activity that is specifically designed to attract new members.
- Plan the fundraisers for the year. Try to have fundraisers that engage the members in a fun activity. Secure a volunteer member or committee to chair each fundraising activity.
- Discuss and decide on a community support activity that will provide visibility to the Local within the community as well as make a meaningful contribution.
- Discuss BPW/PA President Michelle's Project and consider ways your Local and District can support it.
- Create or update your Local membership brochure to include a contact person, when & where your meetings are held, a listing of the benefits of being a BPW member, and how to join.
- Look for a fall festival that brings out lots of “locals” who are potential members. Consider setting up a table with easy sales items (homemade cookies, anyone?). Display a prominent Local BPW banner and have literature available including membership brochures and flyers listing the year's line-up of programs, events, and activities.

Ask for volunteers to form a PR team. Who will take photos? Who will compile a newsletter and/or create monthly meeting notices? Who will submit articles to social media, the *Buzz*, local newspapers, and to the District **Key** Reporter?

Meet Your BPW/PA Membership Team!

Your BPW/PA Membership Team is ready and excited to assist you in any way that we can. Do you need ideas on ways to grow your membership by attracting new members, retaining current members, and growing member leaders? Do you need a sample membership brochure? Do you need a sample flyer for a member recruitment event? Is your Local struggling to “stay afloat?” Our team is a resource.

Dr. Donna Mettler - BPW/PA Membership Chair

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Website Coordinator Report Summer 2023 KEY

Our website (bpwpa.wildapricot.org) and weekly “Buzz” e-blast serves as a resource where members can keep up to date with all things BPW/PA.

With this in mind, please encourage your Public Relations and Social Media Chairs to forward:

- Updated Newsletters
- Events or Fundraisers
- Photos of your local’s involvement in the community

The main goal of the weekly Buzz e-blast is to share quick announcements or news with our sister locals throughout the State. It is so important to continue to create “buzz” within our organization and encourage member excitement and participation. **We want fresh content on a weekly basis!** If your PR or social media liaison is posting photos of a successful event your local helped participate in (i.e. scholarship ceremony, fundraiser, community event, etc.) please remind them to Cc: bpwpawebmaster@gmail.com so that it can be included in one of our weekly Buzz blasts! Members that are excited for BPW are members that will help grow our organization!

The deadline for Buzz submissions is every Sunday by Noon. Events will not be posted more than 4 weeks in advance. All fabulous, awesome entries are to be submitted to: bpwpawebmaster@gmail.com.

*Note: The Buzz is released every Monday at 8 am. If you are not receiving your weekly Buzz, please email bpwpawebmaster@gmail.com to confirm your account settings.



“THANK YOU!”

Dear BPW/PA members,

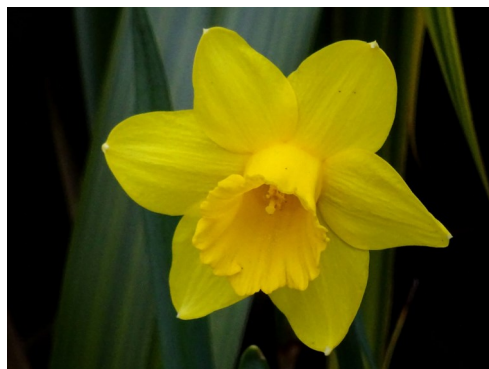
Thank you, Thank you. I want to take a moment to express my gratitude and appreciation to each of you. It has been my honor to serve as the 74th BPW/PA President. I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together.

The theme that I emphasized throughout my time as President is the power of belief. I truly believe that “good things happen when we believe.” Especially if we continue to believe in ourselves, each other, and the future of BPW/PA. Your hard work, dedication to BPW and positive mindset has been an inspiration to me and others within our organization.

Together, we have supported and empowered women in our communities and beyond, and we have made a difference in the lives of those who need it most. I am grateful to each one of you for your support, collaboration, and commitment to our mission.

I want to thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your President. I am confident that the Business and Professional Women of Pa will continue to thrive and make a positive impact in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Melissa (Missy) Wieand
Past State President
2022-2023





Ask a Past State President (Ask a PSP for short.)

Ask a PSP is another new feature that will start with the Fall Edition of The KEY.

Do you have a burning BPW question that you're dying to know the answer to?

Let our "BPW Gurus" (a.k.a. Past State Presidents) get the answer for you!

President Michelle has asked four Past State Presidents to serve on a panel to answer those questions for you via the KEY. The panel is comprised of the following PSPs:

Karen Schmiech, 2001-2002

Marilyn Tallant, 2017-2019

Theresa Rusbosin, 2018-2019

Tiffanie Burger, 2021-2022

If you have a question for us, please send them to the KEY Editor at: bpwkey@gmail.com

Send your questions anytime between now and the next KEY submission deadline date and you'll see the answers featured in the Fall 2023 edition of The KEY.



2023 Convention Recap

Dinosaurs, Doggies, and Drinks - Oh My!!
It was quite a convention this year...hope you didn't miss it!



- Please see the convention newsletters and awards booklet, located on the BPW/PA website, for full details on the business conducted and awards presented during the business meetings.
- We had a blast playing “Family Feud” on Thursday night. We had “Read Hot Chilis”, “Pay Day Equalizers”, some “She-Ros” and a bunch of “Nuts” at that game! Friday night was super-groovy as we went back to the 70s and raised funds for the BPW/PA Foundation. Outgoing President Missy was welcomed back to her District 11 with a ‘ball game’ and Incoming President Michelle was sent off from District 4 to ‘grow’ this coming year. Saturday evening we found out who our winners were for Young Careerist, Personal & Professional Development, Employer of the Year, and Woman of the Year.
- Be sure to read pages 5-6 of this KEY for information on our Legislative Platform from current Legislation Chair Ginny Bailey.
- Another important item of note is the vote on the Reorganization of the BPW/PA structure from districts to regions. After much discussion, and sharing of opinions, a motion was made to postpone the vote entirely until the 2024 Convention. This motion passed.
- One of the best highlights of the Convention was Kurt, the service dog in training, that Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor brought each day to convention. He was adorable and playful and was the main attraction in the vendor area for many members in attendance. On Saturday, we were excited to find out that we raised a total of \$31,013 for the organization! With this money, BPW/PA will sponsor a dog named “Gates”. Gates is named in honor of Margaret Jacoby Gates, a Charter Member of the Curwensville local and a nurse during World War II.
(See the front and back of Gates’ trading card on the next page.)

**Service Dog in
Training
"GATES"**
Name sponsored in
part by:
Business & Professional
Women of PA



tailsofvalor.org
info@tailsofvalor.org
267-733-7294



**"Gates" is named in honor of
Margaret Jacoby Gates
8/10/1919 - 12/14/2014**

Margaret Jacoby Gates graduated from Indiana High School in 1937 and entered Clearfield Hospital School of Nursing in 1939. Sent to Atlantic City and then Fort Dix, where she prepared to be on the front lines wearing a helmet, gas mask and carry all her equipment while sliding under barbed wire with bullets being shot over her head.

Her unit traveled to England near Melvern in a hospital until D-Day on June 6, 1944 when she was sent to South Hampton, France. Margaret was responsible for two wards treating patients with various injuries from gunshot wounds, gastro-intestinal problems stemming from tension, and broken bones and including psychiatric care. She became close to the patients, as she would help them to write letters home. They also cared for POW until they were healthy. She worked here during The Battle of the Bulge and until the war ended.

Margaret Jacoby Gates was enlisted from 1943-1946 She was First Lieutenant, in the Army Nurse Corp. European Theatre of Operations; England-1944, France – 1944 – D-Day 1945, Discharged 1946

More Convention Fun



CONTEST - Fun & Prizes!

KEY Contest

Grow Through what you Go Through

In each edition of the KEY this year we are holding a contest. We want you to read the KEY from the first page to the last, so we are giving you a reason to read it and have fun at the same time!

Each edition's contest may be a bit different, or it may stay the same, but I'll be sure to let you know what to look for in each edition of The KEY.

SUMMER KEY CONTEST

Please look for the following items within this KEY edition:

A *sunflower*,



an *owl*,



and the

Keystone Human Services Logo



To win, tell me the page number where you found each item, and the location of the item on that page. Please send your answers, along with your name, your local and your district, to me at: **bpwkey@gmail.com** You must give all three answers, including the page number and location, to win! Deadline to submit answers for the Summer edition will be Thursday, 8/3/23. The winner will be announced at the BPW/PA Summer Board meeting on Saturday, 8/5/23.

The first person to send me all three correct answers wins ~ will it be you?!?

The Meadville BPW has grown with 7 new members by the end of the 2022-23 year. Among these new members are several of the officers for the local club. The new members are excited to learn from the current members, but also bring along fresh eyes to see how the club can improve, modernize, and “Grow with the Flow”.



The 12th Annual Judith’s Jig Memorial 5K raised \$9,690 at the in-person event hosted in March of 2023. The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Crawford County CASA, and Women’s Services Inc. each received \$3,200 of the funds raised. Funds raised through the past 12 Judith’s Jigs total in the amount \$135,00! Plans are forming for the 13th Annual Judith’s Jig and excitement is hard to contain for how this can expand into even more than just an event once a year.



During the 2022-23 year, the Meadville BPW club enjoyed visiting various women-owned small businesses in Crawford County. They explored the benefits of a salt room at The Salty Spa; relaxed with paraffin wax gloves at Remedies Wellness; enjoyed shopping at The Niche, The Kilted Kiln, and Lavender Blue; and melted into their frozen yogurt at Cup n' Spoon. In March, the annual Pay Equity event was hosted at Chateau Christine, a local, member-owned small business, challenges faced by minorities in



where members and visitors learned about the relation to equality in career development.

Jennifer Stevenson, Key Reporter

GREATER PITTSBURGH

On Saturday April 29, 2023 the Greater Pittsburgh local of Business and Professional Women, Inc. hosted the Linda A. Cobb Memorial Scholarship Luncheon. The afternoon luncheon was held at the Riverside Land ings Event Center in Oakmont, PA. This event is an annual fundraiser for the purpose of raising monies to provide three women of all ages the opportunity to each win a \$1000.00 scholarship for the 2023 school year. This scholarship was established by our past member, Attorney Linda A. Cobb. Linda understood the importance of education for women and girls as she served as a mentor and role model to so many.

During this luncheon, GPBPW hosted a panel of professional women who serve as President, Chairperson or CEO of local chambers of commerce. Our guests were President Kanak Iyer, Ph.D of the founder of the Asian American Chamber. The second panelist was Lisa Franklin-Robinson, Executive Director of Mon Metro Chamber of Commerce & President of Council, North Braddock, PA. Our third panelist was President & CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania.



An additional highlight to the luncheon was to recognize the recipient for the 2023 Gwen Elliott Empowerment Award. This year's recipient is Christine Haas, Executive Director of the Midwife Center for Birth & Women's Health since 2002. The MidWife Center is recognized as the largest freestanding birth center in the United States. The Gwen Elliott Award is named after the late Commander Gwen J. Elliott, a retired Commander with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and founder of Gwen's Girls, Inc.

This year's luncheon was a success to 53 BPW members and approximately 115 guests. It also served well as a recruitment drive where approximately six new members joined the Greater Pittsburgh member ship. We look forward to our next luncheon in the spring of 2024.



LATROBE

We kicked off the month of April with our infamous Spring Tea at The Venue at Live! Casino. This event is our club's largest fundraising activity. We had a record number of raffle baskets, special boards, 50/50 and mystery envelopes. The money raised supported our scholarship fund and end of year charitable giving. At our monthly meeting, we welcomed Allison Nespoli who educated us on Organ Donation.

In May, we inducted 28 new members into our local with a Mister Roger's Neighborhood theme at our monthly meeting. Members and guests enjoyed a game of Kahoot during dinner. President Tracy Grace presented awards at Latrobe, Derry and Eastern Westmoreland Career and Technology Center schools. In total, four \$1,000 scholarships and eight \$250 achievement awards were given to selected senior girls to be used towards furthering their education after graduation.

We had eight members attend state convention. Our beloved Georgia Pavlick was recognized for her 62 years of sisterhood. First time attendees, Alice Brasili and Dawn Hughes, offered their perspectives of the event in a cute poem that they shared with members during dinner. We learned about the United Way and their 211 program from our guest speaker, Amy Frans. During a fun and cheerful 'Mixology of Leadership' ceremony, all current club officers were installed into a second term for 2023-2024.

On Saturday, June 17th the town's Miss 4th of July was crowned at a pageant held in downtown Latrobe. Eight young ages 15-19 from Latrobe and Derry school districts competed for the title. For the second year in a row, we sponsored this event with a \$1,000 scholarship and funding towards the crowns and sashes. Our local will walk behind the Queen and her court in the town's Independence Day parade on Tuesday the 4th.

We will take a break from our regular monthly dinner meeting in July and will instead hold our crossover meeting on July 20th for new club year. We will be welcoming several new committee chairs and co-chairs and look forward to making plans for state project fundraising, guest speakers and special events including our club's 95th anniversary party in 2024.

18th Annual Spring Tea – April 1, 2023Georgia Pavlick,
62 year member

2023-2024 Officer Installation



New Member Installation – May 18, 2023

SUMMER ISSUE 2023

DISTRICT 3

LIGONIER VALLEY

Some of you may be heading into a summer break, but not BPW of Ligonier Valley!

We had a successful “regifting event” in January at the Gray Goose Restaurant (our 3-month alternative site while the Ligonier Valley Country Club is closed) that netted the club \$150.00 and redistributed several very cool unneeded items!

In February, we heard from STAT, Inc – Ligonier Therapeutic Center – that heals with horsepower! We also met Shela Gornick of HeroesNeverAlone, providing homes in Ligonier for homeless vets.

March brought Ligonier Valley High School principal Rachel Kurdziel to our meeting to tell us of the upgrades at the high school. We continued to provide raffle baskets whose proceeds supported Tails of Valor. Several of our members attended the Mid-Winter BPW/PA Board Meeting in State College and brought back PA news to our club.

In April, we honored our Woman of the Year, Laurie Hough, who also won District #3 Woman of the Year at the District Meeting! Laurie presided over the installation of the new District Officers also. Our Employer of the Year was Donovan Veterinary Clinic, and our New Member of the Year was Carol Wolford!

May brought us to the New Member Induction – Ligonier Valley was delighted to have 13 new members join last year! We also co-sponsored a Crawfish Boil at VFW Post 734 in Ligonier – the event earned \$1500 for Tails of Valor, bringing our contribution total this year to over \$3,000!

We are looking forward to a busy summer selling tickets for our Bash which will be live on Facebook on September 16! We hope you all buy tickets with 3 chances for 30 wonderful items and watch us live that day!

MCKEESPORT

The McKeesport local was pleased to have three members attend the State Convention and they were excited to bring home four certificates. These included: The Foundation’s Katherine S. Carpenter Award for Outstanding Community Service with youth, aged, or special needs individuals and the Foundation Gold Award for donations in the \$250-499 category. Also two membership awards, one for 6 new members and one for 18% growth increase.



The picture to the right of President Bernadette Koval presenting a \$500.00 check to Johnna Zacharias from Positive Pathways/Pride. The organization offers support to women who are struggling to change their life style. The local also donates various personal items each month to these women in an effort to ease their transition and make coping easier.



District 4 held their annual Spring District Meeting in late April. Juniata County local received the traveling award and their President, Lynlee Richmond was awarded the President of the Year award. Woman of the Year was awarded to Donna Veihdeffer from the Curwensville local (photo far right.)



Left: Incoming officers for 2023-2024 year include: Jan Reisinger, Director; Tiffanie Burger, Asst. Dir; McKala Ehrenzeller, Rec. Sec.; Sandy Bowery, Treasurer; Jeanne Cashman, Corr. Sec. and Kathie Graham, Parliamentarian.



CLEARFIELD & CURWENSVILLE

Clearfield BPW held their Woman of the Year banquet in May at the Cooper Cork Event Center in Clearfield. They honored Ann B. Wood, a local attorney, who upon graduation from law school in 1976, became the first woman attorney in private practice in Clearfield County.

Woman of the Year, Ann Wood, 2nd from the left, pictured here with (L-R) Kristin Duttry, Kathryn Wood (Ann's daughter), and Angela Chew, Clearfield BPW President.



Clearfield and Curwensville BPWs both participated in Clearfield Relay for Life. Clearfield's own Mary Jane Rowles lead the Luminaria ceremony and walk to remember and honor those who strive to survive or who are no longer with us (photo right). The Survivor and caregivers walk was led by Curwensville's own Priscilla Barrett.



JUNIATA COUNTY

Juniata County Local was hard at work since the Spring. In March, three of our members, Glenda Auker, Jan Reisinger and McKala Ehrenzeller took [#BPWEQUALPAYNOW](#) to Harrisburg. They distributed between 175 - 200 Equal Pay Day awareness postcards and Pay Day candy bars to offices of State Senate and House Representatives.



In May, we awarded our Woman of the Year Award to McKala Ehrenzeller. McKala was the 2021-2022 Young Careerist winner for BPW/PA and has been an very active member of our local since joining just a few short years ago.



We had loads of fun at convention in June. We were excited to learn that we won a few contests this year. For our member's efforts with the Pay Day bars at the capital, we received awards in three different contest categories - one each for issues management, legislation, and public relations. We also received a membership award for growing our membership by 13% .



Our local, and district, were also very proud to 'send-off' our own Michelle Holler to be installed as the next BPW/PA President. We presented Michelle with a sunflower that we "grew" for her from her legacy of good will. We can't wait to see how Michelle helps to grow BPW throughout this next year.

At our June meeting we heard from one of our two high school scholarship winners. We also held a new member ceremony for three of our five new members for the year and we installed our officers for the 2023-2024 year. We are looking forward to growing even more throughout this next year.



Michele Fry, treasurer with scholarship winner, Shirley Symmerman.



New member ceremony conducted by (L-R) Membership Chair McKala Ehrenzeller, with new members Cari Kilmer, Rachel Noss, and Lia Mort.



Newly Installed Officers for 2023-2024 (L-R): Jan Reisinger (performed the installation,); Officers: Michelle Holler, Parliamentarian; Tiffanie Burger, Rec. Sec.; Michele Fry, Treasurer; Rachel Noss, 2nd VP; McKala Ehrenzeller, 1st VP; and Danielle Shellenburger, Incoming President.

BEDFORD

Our club met on May 9th at Bella Terra, local restaurant, and awarded 3 scholarship awards: two to graduating senior girls and one to a non-traditional applicant. (Non-traditional is an applicant who has graduated, is in the work force and enrolled in college.) Our senior girls are: Macy Elaina White from Bedford High School and Ava Rene Whysong from Chestnut Ridge High School. The non-traditional winner is Courtney Elizabeth Shaffer (no photo available.)

We want to congratulate Emily Holgash, Windber Local, District 5 for being named Woman of the Year at convention and Young Careerist winner, Kristyn Rivera, District 5 from Carbondale.

Bedford Local is planning a bingo on September 17, 2023 at the Bedford Elks. Hope to see many bingo players there. And, we're thinking ahead to our Fall Festival the first two weekends in October. We'll be selling our famous big gobs (whoopie pies.) Our bingo and gob sales support our annual scholarships. This year we awarded three \$2,000 scholarships.



Ava Whysong, left, is a senior at Chestnut Ridge High School. Her school activities include: National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Senior Executive Committee, Yearbook committee, Cross Country and Track teams. Ava will be furthering her education at Shippensburg University, where she has been accepted into The Woods Honors College. She will be majoring in mathematics, and will continue running on the Shippensburg track and cross country teams. Ava plans to continue on to graduate school for biostatistics to pursue a career in public health research.

Macy White, right, from Bedford High School.



During our Spring District 6 meeting on April 15, 2023, we celebrated surpassing the milestone of 50 members in our two Locals, Jersey Shore with 20 and Wellsboro with 31 members.

A memorial service was held for 54 year Wellsboro member, Marian Smith-Weimar, at 99 years of age.

Bev McKnight was honored for her 50 years of dedicated service to Wellsboro Local and District 6.

District Director, Dr. Donna Mettler (far right), installed our 2023-2024 officers: (R-L) District Director, Priscilla Walrath; Assistant Director, Barbara Schmouder, PSP; Jennifer Campana filling in for Recording Secretary; and Treasurer, Georgia Tracy. Since the Spring Meeting, Catherine Mulcahey, Wellsboro Local, has accepted the position of District Recording Secretary.



Outgoing Director, Dr. Donna Mettler (right) passed the gavel to incoming Director, Priscilla Walrath.

JERSEY SHORE

In March, Jersey Shore hosted its monthly meeting at Venture Inn, Jersey Shore, PA. We were happy to welcome Donna Mettler, District Director, who gave an overview of the proposed reorganization of BPW/PA Districts from 12 districts to 4 regions and provided a map of the new regions. Club members truly appreciated District Director Mettler's traveling to our meeting and presenting the reorganization proposal. This gave our members attending the State Convention the knowledge needed to vote on the proposed reorganization.

At our March meeting, we also welcomed as our speaker, Dilonna Coran, Greater Hope Care Center in Jersey Shore, who gave an overview of her facility. The center offers free and confidential services to women regarding parenting classes, pregnancy testing, childbirth preparation, and options counseling.

In April, we welcomed Leona M. Palski, a very talented author and children's book illustrator. She shared several books that she has completed as well as many of her illustrations. Several of her books are available on Amazon.

In May, we hosted our Girls of the Month Dinner. We honored 10 seniors from Jersey Shore Area Senior High School. Each girl shared their accomplishments and their future plans and introduced their mothers. Gifts were presented to the girls and flowers were presented to the mothers.



In June, we installed officers for the coming year: (Photo L-R) Barbara Schmouder, PSP, President; Linda Roller, Vice President; Nancy Lucas, Treasurer; Kim Shaffer, Recording Secretary; Luann Yohn, Parliamentarian; and Abbey Welker Yoas, Corresponding Secretary. Deb Leonard will be Historian.

Jersey Shore is happy to report that 3 members attended the BPW/PA State Convention.

WELLSBORO

In March, Trudi Dibble, physical therapy assistant and Tai Chi instructor, involved our ladies in basic Tai Chi moves that can help with relaxation, balance, and general well-being.



In April, member Ann Serva (photo, right) introduced Sarah Callahan, owner of Flower Girl Florist. Sarah (on left) guided us in creating beautiful floral arrangements. Sarah is now a new BPW member!

In May, we honored our “Young Women of the Month,” with a dinner, certificate, and a gift. Each Wellsboro Area High School senior shared their plans for the future and presented their mother with a long stem flower.

In June, we celebrated a hugely successful year with a picnic. President Susan Graver involved us in a hilarious game called “This or That”. We learned a lot of fun things about each other.

We were excited that six Wellsboro members attended BPW/PA State Convention in June.

District 10 held their Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Uno Pizzeria in Newtown Square. The 2023 -2024 slate of officers were installed by Chesmont member and past director, Linda Landis.

Our district's "Phillies Night" fundraiser held on April 26, 2023 was a winning event for District 10 and the Phillies, despite the rainy night.

District 10's fourth and final Legislative Platform Forum for the BPW 2022-2023 year was held on May 9, 2023, the topic was the Equal Rights Amendment NOW. Nancy Werner, our BPW PA Sister shared her comprehensive knowledge with us about the ERA's history and current status both in the courts and Congress. We are working on continuing these Legislation Platforms Forums for next year.



2023-2024 Slate of Officers –left to right: Linda Landis, Parliamentarian; Keny Holman, Treasurer; Terry Miller, Corresponding Secretary; Lois Hall, Recording Secretary; Carole Turk, Assistant Director; and Donna Weinstein, Director

CHESMONT

Chesmont Local Organization receives the 2022 – 2023 Joyce L. Bresee Outstanding Local Organization Award.

The Joyce L. Bresee Outstanding Local Organization Award was established in 1992 at the completion of Joyce L. Bresee's term as BPW/PA President by her parents. It was established in recognition of her commitment to service and dedication to BPW/PA. This award is presented to the Local Organization that in the opinion of the District Director best shows the goals and spirit of District 10.

In announcing the 2022-2023 winner, District 10 Director, Lois Hall, explained that this was a hard decision to make because the District 10 locals all support District 10 goals by celebrating women, supporting the BPW mission and women's issues in many different ways. However, while this local is small, the members are energetic. They use their talents and abilities in many ways to support the district. They have great programs - their program during Women's History Month was to donate books to their local library about women in history to inspire young readers. They have given much time and energy to the District's newly formed Legislative Forums. They have two members representing District 10 on the local, district and state level and they support High School seniors for improving in their educational goals. They continue to learn about local women in their area that made a difference in our history. They have attended District and State meetings consistently. They even participate in the BPW book club. And, in addition, they found time to reward their local with a night out of entertainment.

They celebrated their 76th Anniversary by enjoying "Sister Act" at the Dutch Apple Dinner theatre followed by dinner at Miller's smorgasbord.

Director Hall, during the District 10 Spring District meeting, said, "Therefore, it is my pleasure to present the Joyce L. Bresee Outstanding Local Award to Chesmont and their President, Carole Turk, for all of their efforts. Congratulations."

DELAWARE COUNTY

Delaware County BPW is pleased to announce the establishment of a Nursing Scholarship in memory of long time and devoted Delaware County BPW member, Lorraine M. Jones, a compassionate nurse who spent her life in the care of others in hospitals, skilled nursing settings and in home health care. The scholarship was funded by a joint effort of Lorraine's family and friends as well as Delaware County member donations. The scholarship will be awarded to a female student accepted into the Delaware County Community College Nursing Major program with a grade point average of 3.0 or above who exemplifies dedication and willingness to use her talents for the benefit of the Delaware County community. A scholarship of \$2,500.00 will be given to the student over the course of her studies at Delaware County Community College. The scholarship was facilitated by Carol Dougherty, Scholarship Committee Chair of Delaware County BPW.



Delaware County BPW continues our consistent run of wonderful speakers each month. In March we heard from Officer Kim Haganir of the Haverford Township Police Department who spoke on "Safety for Women and Avoiding Scams". Her presentation was well received and members gained a lot of valuable safety information.

Seen here (left photo) is Officer Kim & Delaware County BPW President, Patty Snyder.

In April, our speaker was Anna Keffer, Certified Senior Move Manager for Wayforth, a full service home transition, moving and relocation concierge company. Anna's topic was "Decluttering, Downsizing and Rightsizing". Anna is a new member to Delaware County BPW and we are glad to have her! Pictured here (photo right) are member and speaker Anna Keffer and Delaware County BPW, President Patty Snyder.



In May, Delaware County members were pleased to hear from Alena Marcianti, cousin of member, Rachelle Nocito. Alena is employed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. She spoke about her life's journey from the Republic of Belarus to become a United States citizen. Her presentation was inspiring and heartwarming and reminded Delaware County BPW members how fortunate we are to be citizens of the United States.

GREATER DOWNINGTOWN

Greater Downingtown did well on our Texas Roadhouse fundraiser held on March 23, 2023.

Our local ended the 2022-2023 BPW year with two more inspirational and informative guest speakers, at our April meeting. Senator Carolyn Comitta, of the 19th District spoke about her educational and political beginnings and her legislative platform in support of young people, and the environment. She was also the first woman mayor of West Chester. In May, Nancy Barker, MSN, EdD, RN from Penn Medicine spoke on the Health Screenings that older women should have to maintain good health.

At the 103rd BPW/PA Convention, Greater Downingtown BPW received two awards for Issue Management Contest for Categories 1 - "Good Things Happen When You Believe" Chair of Chester County Board of Commissioners, Marian Moskowitz was our inspiration for this contest entry and 2 - Promoting National Business Women's Week we chose Wings for Success which our local supported this year.

At our June 14th meeting member Paula Gambrill installed our 2023-2024 slate of officers.

Wishing our BPW sisters a happy and healthy summer.



President Lorraine Tindaro and PA Senator Carolyn Comitta

2023-2024 Slate of Officers: left to right Paula Gambrill (Parliamentarian), Carole Gallo (Corresponding Secretary), Keny Holman (Treasurer), Lois Hall (Recording Secretary), Fran Farrell (Vice President) and Lorraine Tindaro (President)



“KUDOS” to the LO Presidents and members of District 11 for a well-run and fun 2023 convention! We were excited to be a major part of the convention process...we learned, we laughed and may just a couple of times we cried. But...it was an amazing weekend. We are indeed staying in tune with our District theme of, “COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS”.

Here are just a few thoughts from our D11 LO Presidents:

Mary Montroy, Souderton/Telford: “It is amazing to see all the moving parts and the teamwork that BPW embraces.”

Becky Shoulberg, CMC: “Sheryl, Missy and crew, you created a great convention!”

Mo Gillen, CMC: “I was awed by more than 100 women, from all across the state, standing together singing our Emblem Benediction!”

Judy Guise, Quakertown: “It was our pleasure to help make it a great convention.”

Donna Jones, GC: “Thank you for keeping all of us on the right track and everything moving smoothly”

We are grateful for our BPW sisters and the opportunity to serve President Missy and her EC. It has been an inspiring and enlightening year. They have indeed proven that “GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE BELIEVE”!

We are looking forward to supporting President Michelle and her team as they move us into our 2023-24 year. Her “Keystone Human Services” project offers so many ways to get involved and make a difference. So, let’s get busy and start fundraising!

Wishing you all a summer filled with positivity, safe travels, and lots of blessings!

Warm BPW Wishes,

Sheryl A. Nierenberg, District 11 Director

CENTRAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Spring has been engaging for CMC BPW members!

In April, we continued to support service animals for veterans while preparing for Military Appreciation Month in May. Our speaker was Erica Webster, an Army Veteran and local small business owner who works with Team Foster. She encouraged us to “Rise and Dominate!”



Many of us also attended the Montgomery County ChamberFest in April, where Co-President Becky was recognized with a service award! CMC BPW has been a member of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for several years, and many of our members have come from this connection – including Bev Weinberg, who also got an award!



May was our Member Month – we focused on getting to know each other with games and challenges. We inducted a bunch of new members and voted in our officers for the 2023-2024 year. We also had a very engaging discussion about our plans for the upcoming year!



We were excited to be part of the host district for Annual Convention – big thanks to our swag bag sponsors! Many CMC members attended – Co-Presidents Mo and Becky, and Treasurer Noreen Morello, plus Bonnie Dudley, Mercedes Petrellis, Ginny Bailey (BPW/PA PR Chair), and Nancy Werner (PSP, BPW/PA Issues Management Chair, PA Foundation Chair, and dual member with Quakertown BPW). Another member, Jessica Libor, was a vendor; she is on her way in July to an artist residency in Normandy, follow by a solo show in Paris! Fabulous!



CMC was happy to host a “get-together” on Friday night with friends new and old. *And of course, we were super excited to honor our member Amanda Mortimer and her woman-owned business, Innovative Development LLC, as BPW/PA Employer of the Year!*



At our June meeting, we reported on convention and highlighted our awards – especially the



Grace B. Daniels award! We got our annual update from Crib 4 Kids Montgomery County and provided them with a donation from our Bingo fundraiser. We also installed our new officers and took another look at our plan, breaking the year into quarters with a combination of in-person meetings, virtual meetings, and community events. “Through others, we become ourselves,” is our theme. Here’s to another great year! – Mo & Becky

Please follow us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/groups/CentralMontgomeryCountyBPW

GREATER CONSHOHOCKEN

During the last three months, GC BPW members have had the pleasure to support multiple BPW and community events (photos in order below). In April, the District 1/Meadville Meeting, Pottsville’s 91st Birthday Party, BPW District 11 Spring Meeting, Quakertown’s BPW Paddle Raffle, Conshy GreenFest and Scranton BPW’s 100th anniversary were attended.

DISTRICT 1/MEADVILLE BPW



POTTSVILLE 91ST



BPW DISTRICT 11 MEETING



DISTRICT 11**QUAKERTOWN PADDLE RAFFLE****CONSHY GREENFEST****SCRANTON BPW 100TH**

At our April meeting, Jamie R. Mogil, Esq., League of Women Voters, discussed the upcoming May primary elections. During May, GC BPW members participated in several District 11 Local events, including Quakertown's 70th; Souderton-Telford's Locally Grown Showcase and CMC's June meeting.

JAMIE & PRES. DONNA**QUAKERTOWN 70TH****LOCALLY GROWN SHOWCASE****CMC JUNE MEETING**

Our May meeting speaker was Domenic Rocco, Chair, Conshohocken Environmental Advisory Council (GreenConshy). The members learned how GreenConshy develops and coordinates initiatives to help promote environmental education and sustainability.

June was very busy with our District 11 hostessing the State Convention in Langhorne. GC BPW was responsible for reservations and registrations. Seven GC BPW members, including four first timers and one 45-year member, Susan, attended the Convention (see photos below). Our nominee, PA State Rep. Mary Jo Daley won the Public Servant Award and our Resolution to support PA SR 46, Establishment of a Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care was adopted unanimously.

GC BPW also had winning entries for the BPW Foundation, Issues Management, Legislation, Membership and Public Relations contests. The Local was also recognized for its PA BPW Foundation contribution and for Plus 5 members (8 new members).

CONVENTION REGISTRATION**GC BPW FIRST TIMERS AND PRESIDENT MISSY****LONG- TERM MEMBER SUSAN****PA REP. MARY JO DALEY
PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD****LEGISLATION
AWARD**

After our Summer break, GC BPW is looking forward to another eventful year, **including our 75th birthday celebration in March 2024!** Several members are planning on attending the BPW/PA State and District Summer Board Meetings in August. Two GC BPW members will serve on the BPW/ PA Board of Directors: Mary Weeks, Parliamentarian and Donna Jones, Issues Management Chair. At the District level, Donna Jones will serve as Assistant Director and Susan Knab will serve as Parliamentarian.

QUAKERTOWN**QUAKERTOWN BPW DOES IT AGAIN**

Our April gathering at the Arts and Entertainment Center of the McCoolle's Restaurant of Quakertown, we welcomed David Shallcross from the PA Attorney General's Office. His presentation, "How to Avoid Scams and Frauds," was an eye opener. He shared important information and tips to keep us alert. Some his stories were hair raising and how easy you and I can fall into a situation. Our President, Judy Guise, knows David from previous gatherings and were delighted with our speaker. We learned more than we wished but at least we now know what is happening around us whether on the computer or telephone. (If you need a speaker, may I recommend asking the Attorney General's office on this topic.)

Cannot forget our Annual Paddle Raffle Day, Sunday, April 16, 2023, was the talk of the community. Holding it at Benner Hall, Richlandtown, we were thrilled to have so many guests. Our baskets were stupendous, and our bag raffle had over 50 items. The Coach bags were all being coveted, and the tickets flowed. We had our seasoned hostesses, Missy Wieand, our very own BPW/PA President, Sheryl Nierenberg, our District 11 District Director and our own Vanna White, Karen Creghan entertain us for the two hours as the quarters were ping, pinging into the buckets. Our guests went home more than happy and maybe not so happy for others. But we are thankful for the leadership of Crystal Smith, Jessica Mann and Toni Rubic for all their hard work in chairing this event. With the proceeds we help

many outreach community groups that need assistance.

May 6 was our celebration of our 70th anniversary at the Indian Valley Country Club, Telford, PA. We were so excited to have over fifty guests and all wearing their special "Derby Hats." The room was decorated with memorabilia relating to the Kentucky Derby and the centerpieces were hats adorned with roses, roses and "70." Mint juleps were the house drink. The fun activities all centered on the derby. Our hat contest was won by member, Linda Bender. But the showstopper was a montage of over 100 photos of the Quakertown BPW history that were gathered and featured on a power point presentation. This event was a winner, place and show all in one special afternoon. Thank you to the committee of Toni Rubic, chair, Linda Moskal, Gail Jancsics, Linda Lokay and Nancy Werner.

If it's May, we were again looking at the Quakertown Alive Festival that was being held in downtown Quakertown. Again, our Jeanne Carcanague, chair, was able to gather baskets for raffling. Our visibility with membership materials sure helps to have visitors ask about the BPW mission. We are always prepared.

Our May 24 meeting was held at a new venue named Dominick's Pizza in downtown Quakertown. Having a fabulous meal, we then set off to visit the famous Tails of Valor just north of Quakertown. We were met by Heather Lloyd, the owner and operator of the Tails of Valor. We met Tucker, Decker, Myers, JJ and Barney, the dogs currently being housed. We received a tour of the facility and the background of how the facility was established. It was a joy to meet Heather and these special dogs. Heather also shared how appreciative they are of our support, BPW/PA, during this past year. We are patiently awaiting to hear if there may be a puppy coming our way as we are still collecting funds for the State Project. We were also delighted that the State Chair, Diane Lewis, traveled from Fleetwood to join us that evening.

The State Convention was a huge success as we had many members in attendance. Let's start with our very own BPW/PA President, Missy Wieand, Sheryl Nierenberg, District Eleven Director, Nancy Werner, PA BPW Foundation Chair, BPW/PA Issues Management Chair and PSP, Judy Guise, President, Linda Moskal, Jeanne Schlichter, Linda Lokay, Toni Rubic, Gail Jancsics, Jeanne Carcanague, Janet Bonekemper, Diane Sodano, and Lyn Treffinger. Our Local ran the Convention Business Office and kept it humming. Lots of stories will be shared.

Finally, we come to our closing moment of the year. Meeting our recipients of our Quakertown Community High School scholarships for the year. We had Kayra DeVries, who will be studying industrial engineering at Messiah College, and Mary Barbour, studying aeronautics, at Kansas University. We met their parents also. Linda Moskal did the honors of presenting outgoing President Judy Guise, a gift from the club and praise for a job well done. We also had Toni Rubic present an inspirational installation with the theme, "Butterflies." Installed were: Jeanne Schlichter and Linda Moskal, Co-Presidents, Georgia Wilson, Vice-President, Nancy Werner, Recording Secretary, Crystal Smith, Treasurer, Gladys Benner, Corresponding Secretary, and Diane Sodano, Esq., Parliamentarian.



DISTRICT 11



New Quakertown Officers 2023-24: Nancy Werner, Georgia Wilson, Linda Moskal, Jeanne Schlicher, Toni Rubic, Crystal Smith, Diane Sodano and Gladys Benner

Nancy Werner, Quakertown BPW KEY Reporter - June 28, 2023

SOUDERTON-TELFORD



On May 21, 2023, Souderton Telford BPW held our Locally Grown Showcase. It was an amazing event, where we bring together local vendors, non-profit organizations and community service groups to connect with the community.

On May 23, 2023, eleven members went to help stuff bags for The Bean Bag Program. This organization works with food insecurity in the local community. At our June meeting, we voted to also give them a monetary donation to help with their mission.



June kept us busy as we were the host district for the State Convention. Souderton Telford helped with doorkeepers, pages and tellers. It was quite the experience and a learning process for the pages and tellers. A special shout out to a few ladies from other clubs that helped us with this.

Eileen Gillin, Dana Vesey, Lindsey Menzen, Nancy Thomas and Mary Montroy

On June 16, 2023, several of our members assembled Welcome Home Baskets at Keystone Opportunity Center for our WHW initiative. The baskets contain many items for families transitioning into a new environment along with Wawa gift cards.



We closed out June with a new member induction and change of our board for 2023 – 2024.





Sunshine SISTERS

WHAT DOES A SUNSHINE SISTER DO?

A sunshine sister will be randomly assigned to you, and you'll only need to send that sister some sunshine over the next year. Sunshine could be a note, a card, or even something small that you think will brighten her day.

WHO CAN BE A SUNSHINE SISTER?

Any one of our members can sign up to be a sunshine sister!

WHEN DOES SUNSHINE SISTERS START?

Registration deadline: Tuesday, 8/15

You will be contacted by Sunday, 9/3 with your sunshine sister's name and details.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Simple! Please email Annie Skoraszewski at annie.nothwehr@gmail.com with your name, address, email address, local, district and birthday



KEY Editor's Note

Just a note to remind members that the KEY is YOUR BPW/PA state newsletter. We want to keep you informed on all that is happening across the state from your state level officers and chairs, as well as, those from your district and local organizations too. Please share your information with your local KEY editors, who will share that to your district's KEY editor, who in turn, shares the information with me as the state's KEY editor, to include in the latest edition of the BPW/PA KEY.

I appreciate your patience with this first edition of the KEY. Since I am new to the position, it has taken me a bit longer than anticipated to revise this edition. It takes a bit more time than I imagined to change out photos, update information, add new features, and remove outdated information. Please remember that the KEY's submission deadline date is just for information submission, it is not a publishing date. After I receive all the information, my work begins with preparing the next KEY. Once finished, I send to the President for review and approval. After that, necessary changes are made and then we publish the KEY. This process can take awhile.

I did note a few items since working on this first edition that would be helpful to me as KEY editor. I found with my computer system, it is easier to work directly with .DOCX files. If you have the ability to send your information/reports that way, please do. If not, I can extract information from PDF files, it just takes a bit longer. In addition, I use Times New Roman font, 12 pt. and if you can format your information that way, that also saves me some time with reformatting items. (And a gentle reminder to check your spelling, typos, and monetary figures...if it looks 'funny' and I can make an informed determination as to what it should be, I will correct it; however, sometimes I can not and the item will remain as it was sent to me. Thanks for your understanding.)

I know everyone is always anxious to see their information in the KEY as soon as possible. After talking with President Michelle, we decided that a minimum grace period of 3 weeks, after the submission deadline date, was appropriate. I plan to make every effort to publish the KEY prior to the 3 week mark, but I ask for your patience if it does happen to take the full 3 weeks. (And with this first edition...its actually been a bit longer.)

I hope you find this, and future editions of the KEY, fun and informative. If you have any questions or concerns with anything KEY related, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Tiffany E. Burger, KEY Editor

Summer Board Meeting

Red, White, & BPW!

August 4-5, 2023

The Graduate State College

Friday Night Fun & Business

Network & Socialize with Dinner & Drinks

*Always a great time to make memories
with your BPW sisters!*

Signature
Drink Name
Revealed!

Saturday Business & Fun

BPW/PA State Board Meeting

Reminder: For a board member to receive their mileage reimbursement, she must be present for the Saturday morning roll call.

Ticket Raffle to Support our State Project
KEYSTONE HUMAN SERVICES

Items of Note

- For anyone who received a *BPW travel mug* at Convention, President Michelle has offered to put your name on it with vinyl ~ just bring it with you to Summer Board.
- We are once again collecting binders to re-use for the 2024 Convention Manuals. If you want to free up some space and recycle any of your previous convention manual binders, we will take them! Please empty out any papers from the binders and bring them to Summer and/or Winter Board meetings.