



Let Your Dreams Take Flight

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Happy New Year! Happy New Year? It's 2021 and I feel many of us have mixed thoughts, feelings, and emotions as to what this new year will bring. We spent much of 2020 social distancing and remaining in our bubbles. Despite hopes that our isolation would be over by year's end, it isn't, and we're stuck with a feeling of déjà vu.

Sometimes I wonder what our foremothers - the founders of BPW - did as they started this organization during the nation's last great pandemic. If anything, it gives me hope that if we can start something during such trying times, we can help it endure over 100 years later through similar dark days.

March 1 is the deadline to submit nominations for Employer of the Year and Woman of the Year. Information on both of these awards is located on the state website under the MEMBERS ONLY section. I would love to see at least one nomination for each award from every district.

March 12-13 is our Mid-Winter Board of Directors Meeting at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center. More information will be sent this month. I still hope to be able to host the event in-person; however, I'm prepared to make it a virtual meeting if needed.

June 10-13 is our 101st State Convention at the Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry. You will find the registration form located in this issue of The Key and it will also be posted on the website. Registration will be available by mail and the website. Again, as much as I want to have an in-person event this year, I am prepared for the possibility that we may need to go virtual for another year.

Finally, we will see the first female Vice President of our nation sworn in later this month. While some members may not agree with her politics, you cannot deny that Kamala Harris will make history with this achievement. It reminds us that women have made so many strides in the last 100 years since earning the right to vote. We've come a long way, ladies.



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Stay safe, take care, and keep being
Bold Powerful Women!
President Marisa





**CELEBRATING SENIORS AND
MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE**

BPW/PA STATE PROJECT: TWILIGHT WISH - Celebrating Seniors and Making Dreams Come True

We are about halfway through our 2020-2021 BPW year, and I am excited to report that to date, the members and Locals across the state have donated just under \$2,900 to Twilight Wish. I know many Locals will have events and fundraisers in 2021 and I look forward to receiving your generous donations by April 15, 2021. My unofficial goal was to collectively donate at least \$7,000 to Twilight Wish this year, and we are well on our way to achieving that goal. **Thank you for your enthusiastic support of this worthy cause, especially during these challenging times!**

The latest fulfilled Twilight wish, which included donations from BPW members, was for Jane in Philadelphia for hearing aids. Jane used to love volunteering at the food pantry run by her church. She also loved tutoring students at Girard College. She stopped doing both because her hearing has deteriorated to the point that she couldn't understand what people were saying. She missed her great-grandson's voice, the sound of the birds chirping and listening to music. She said without the ability hear, the world was a lonely place.

Her wish arrived on her birthday and Jane wrote, "With a most grateful heart I thank each of you. Without your generous gift, my world would have remained silent. Today is my 74th birthday and I received my hearing aids today. I heard my own footsteps for the first time in years. Then I heard a bird chirping, but best of all, my great grandson sung 'Happy Birthday' to me on the phone and I heard him! You made that possible. You have blessed me beyond words and will be in my prayers and thoughts forever." The sad reality is that Twilight Wish receives many wishes for hearing aids because they are not covered by Medicare.

There is one open wish currently on the Twilight Wish website. Mabel, 79, is a disabled widow who lives on her own on a fixed income in Bristol, PA. She is a retired nurse who still volunteers for her church pantry. She is in need of a new heating and air conditioning unit. With the temperatures dropping we want to grant this simple needs wish as soon as possible. Currently \$350 of the \$3,200 needed has been raised to help Mabel. **If you like to help Mabel, please send me your form (Specify for Mabel) and check ASAP and I will process it expeditiously.**

Do you know a deserving senior who would like a Twilight Wish? To find out how to request a wish and what the criteria are, go to www.twilightwish.org/request-a-twilight-wish/. Please let me know if you nominate someone for a wish.

Also, if you can kindly help in spreading the word about our **BPW and Twilight Wish collaboration**, below is the **press release** for your use. If you get it published/posted, please send me the link for the article/post. Thank you for helping me spread the word!

Mary Weeks, BPW/PA State Project Chair



CELEBRATING SENIORS AND MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

October 12, 2020 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Farrell, Director of Community Relations, (215) 534-4977

Twilight Wish Foundation Partners with Pennsylvania Business & Professional Women's Club

Doylestown, PA – Twilight Wish Foundation, a local nonprofit that grants wishes to low-income elderly, was recently chosen by the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs (BPW/PA) as their state project.

"We will have the opportunity to share our good works and spread the word about granting wishes for seniors with this fantastic group of women and they in turn will help us grant wishes, raise funds and even pay for meals for seniors as special random acts of kindness," said Cass Forkin, founder and Chief Visionary Officer. "I can't wait to hear their heartwarming stories!"

"I'm very excited to work with Cass and the Twilight Wish Foundation to bring awareness of this great organization to our members and their communities," said Marisa Harmon, BPW/PA State President. "My corresponding secretary, Ginny Shultz, is the one responsible for finding such a worthy organization for my state project. Past State President Mary Weeks has been a fantastic state project chair and continues to encourage donations and awareness."

BPW/PA is a statewide organization of 1600+ members in 75 local organizations and 12 districts throughout the state. BPW/PA is a leading advocate that promotes workforce development programs and workplace policies to acknowledge the needs of working women, communities, and businesses. for working women in our state. They work on all issues that touch women's lives and careers.

Twilight Wish Foundation is a national nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to honor and enrich the lives of deserving elders through wish granting celebrations that connect generations. Since its founding in 2003, Twilight Wish has granted over 3,358 individual wishes to seniors throughout the U.S. Twilight Wish grants wishes to seniors who are 65 and older or a permanent resident of a nursing home and earn less than 200% of poverty level. If you would like to nominate a deserving senior or get involved with Twilight Wish, please visit the website at www.twilightwish.org or call 215-230-8777 ext. 104.

What is the purpose of PAC?

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- A) To encourage personal participation in political activity;
- B) To endorse and/or to collect and distribute contributions to support qualified candidates for elected office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who support . the BPW/PA Legislative Platform and the goals and objectives of the Federation.

The State Federation, any District, Local Organization, or a BPW member in good standing may recommend a candidate for endorsement and/or financial support. It is important that if you have a candidate in your area that would like BPW endorsement and/or financial assistance, that the application be completed and forwarded to our committee ASAP. You should also give the prospective candidate a copy of our legislative platform. Information for candidates and the PAC Application may be found on the website.

I am pleased to announce that the committee had received and reviewed four applications for support/funds from candidates since July 1st, 2020 to October 2020. After careful review we approved three of the four applications. All were notified and those who were approved were sent funds by the PAC Treasurer.

We look forward to receiving, review and endorsing candidates for the upcoming Primary election. Please keep the applications coming. And, of course, continue to financially support the PAC fund so that we may continue this good work. PAC envelopes are available online and can be mailed to the PAC treasurer Marion Waelchli.

Remember to guide prospective candidates to the website for PAC application and instructions.

Laura Whetstone

PAC Chair and PAC Committee members 2020-2021.



Legislative Report for Spring Key

Stop Judicial Gerrymandering – Make Your Voice Heard!

There's a NEW Gerrymandering Fight in Pennsylvania! Groups like Fair Districts PA, Women's Law Project PA, The Action Network, AAUW/PA and others have been fighting legislative gerrymandering and now there's a proposal to create judicial districts which will result in Judicial Gerrymandering. An unprecedented Constitutional Amendment has been proposed to create judicial districts, enabling the party in control of the PA General Assembly (the GOP) to create an unnecessary new system that would favor judges from their party.

The proposed Amendment undermines the independence of our judges. Currently, PA appellate judges, including the PA Supreme Court, are elected by statewide vote, independent of the party in power within the Legislative and Executive branches. By clearing Judicial Districts that are drawn by the legislature, there will be undue, partisan influence on our judges, upsetting the system of checks and balances.

We cannot allow this Amendment (HB38) to pass in the upcoming Legislative Session. The proposed Amendment has already passed once during the last session and must pass again in this session in order to proceed as a Constitutional Amendment. The bill has had essentially no discussion, no public comments, and most Pennsylvanians aren't even aware that it's being pushed ahead against our wishes.

We need to make our voices heard in order to defeat this bill. Whether your state representative is for or against the bill, it's still important for them to hear from you. To take action, copy and paste the following into your browser - <https://www.congressweb.com/PBPC/2#/2>

Thank you to Past State President Donna Weinstein for providing me with information on HB32 and thank you to President Marisa for allowing me to serve on her Board.

Ginny Bailey
BPW/PA Legislation Chair

PA BPW FOUNDATION NEWS

The PA BPW Foundation awards up to six scholarships per year - three for the Fall semester and three for the Spring semester. To be eligible to apply applicants can either be a member of BPW/PA or a resident of Pennsylvania for at least two years prior to application. Applications and application instructions are available on the BPW/PA website, www.bpwpa.org. The next deadline for applications is May 1, 2021. The PA BPW Foundation awarded the following scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each for the Spring 2021 semester:

1. Sarah Marsh is attending Penn State University, State College, PA. Her field of study is petroleum and natural gas energy.
2. Mireliz Bermudez is attending Messiah University, Mechanicsburg, PA. Her field of study is Elementary education PreK-4 and Special Education.
3. Keirsten LaSalle is attending St. Francis University, Loretto, PA. Her field of study is biology.

Edith Oler Flanagan (EOF) grants are also available to BPW/PA members who are experiencing emergencies such as catastrophic illness or accidents, disasters, or any other unusual financial loss. Applications and instructions are available on the BPW/PA website in the Members section.

The PA BPW Foundation Board of Directors for the 2020-21, consists of the following members: Cathy Collins, Chair; Nancy Werner, Vice Chair; Laura Whetstone, Secretary; Jean Ann Towle, Treasurer; Joyce Turner, Bobbi Dobler, Paula Maloney, Marion Waelchli; and from BPW/PA – Tiffanie Burger, Melissa Wieand, and Roxanne Pease. Any BPW member interested in applying for a Board position can send an application with qualifications to Nancy Werner, Vice Chair, by March 15, 2021. Her address is 2111 Old Barn Road, East Greenville, PA 18041. Her email address is alnancy47@verizon.net.

The PA BPW Foundation Board of Directors thanks all those members for their donations to the Foundation this past year. Anyone wishing to donate can do so using the PA BPW Foundation donation form located on the BPW/PA website. Donations are greatly appreciated and enable us to continue to provide scholarships and EOF grants.

Submitted by: Cathy Collins, Chair, PA BPW Foundation Board of Directors



Young Careerist

Members—

In this issue of ***The Key***, I simply want to remind all potential YCs in BPW/PA to keep in contact with your Local and District YC Chairs for advice on the speech portion of your submission. We may be back to “live” conferences but also may be holding Spring meetings via Zoom, like last year. Stay tuned.

As a group, bringing in younger members and encouraging their leadership skills, is one of the most important goals of BPW. Many of the members throughout our Commonwealth have participated in the Young Careerist Program and are familiar with what it has to offer. You can bring the word to the new members. Imagine how proud your LO and District will be to have one of your District’s young members speak in the Young Careerist competition, this June at the 101st Annual State Convention at Pittsburgh Marriott North. It will be an honor for your LO and District to see younger members stepping up to share their pathway to success! Most importantly, it **“is a dream taking flight”** for the Young Careerist.

This year’s speech topics are:

- What does the state theme, **“Let Your Dreams Take Flight”** mean to you and how do you currently implement the theme in your life?
- When you think of the state theme, **“Let Your Dreams Take Flight”**, how would you work to have it impact women’s lives?
- How is the state theme **“Let Your Dreams Take Flight”**, relevant to women, specifically?
- What actions or ideas should BPW/PA implement, to guarantee our organization **“Let Its’ Dreams Take Flight”**?

The Young Careerists in BPW/PA present excellent speeches at state convention. I know this year will be no different. As they give their speeches at the Local and then the District, encourage them to **“Let Their Dreams Take Flight”**.

The deadline for submission of all materials for the Young Careerist competition is May 1, 2021.

It is a privilege to serve as your Young Careerist Chair, again this year. Please contact me if you have any questions at vladika@verizon.net.

Susan M. Vladika

2020-2021 BPW/PA, Young Careerist Chair

BPW/PA PAST STATE PRESIDENT JANE N. (NILES) BARNDT PASSES AWAY

Jane N. Barndt, 94, of Wellsboro, passed away Thursday October 8, 2020, at the Green Home in Wellsboro. She was the daughter of Homer and Mamie (Spencer) Niles, and was born in Elkland, PA. Jane graduated from Wellsboro H.S. in 1944, and earned a BS in Business Education from Bloomsburg University. She also completed courses at Penn State and Rider Universities. Jane was a teacher and taught for 31 years, 27 of them in the Quakertown School District. Jane was married to E. Ralph Barndt for 52 years, until his death in 2008. She was a member of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Wellsboro, a BPW member, past president and past state president (PSP), a Rotary International member and a Paul Harris Fellow recipient, as well as a member of various local organizations and agencies.

BPW/PA PSP Nancy Werner said, "I wish that all of you could have known her. She was a true educator and a dedicated BPW mentor to all who needed her wisdom. She will be missed."



District 3

Director's Report

In September, all the members including Greater Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Latrobe, Ligonier Valley, McKeesport and Scottdale locals helped make the District 3 Lucky Labor Day Bonanza Raffle Ticket a success. All 500 tickets were sold for \$10 each with two pick three evening lottery numbers on them. We supported local businesses for 10 - \$100 gift cards, \$500 in winner's choice of gift cards and \$500 in cash. Congratulations to Latrobe BPW member Danette Meredith who was the winner of \$2000.00 in cash and prizes.

A Welcome Home Eleanor Briner Party at Bella Terra Vineyards in Hunker was held on September 20th to celebrate the accomplishments of BPW District 3 to mix and mingle with members from other locals. 23 ladies signed up to share a glass of wine, share snacks, donate to Twilight Wish and each attendee was entered with a reservation to win a \$50 Bella Terra gift certificate.

*The Personal and Professional Development Workshop led by facilitator BPW/PA State Individual Development Chair Sheryl Nierenberg, MSM had 24 participants. It was held on Sunday, October 11 from 7:30 am – 4:00 pm at the YWCA Westmoreland County Huff Mansion in Greensburg. Thank you Tracey Grace District 3 ID/YC Chair for organizing this wonderful event!

Join us as we come alongside districts and locals throughout the state who are making an incredible difference for Twilight Wish – our state project celebrating seniors and making dreams come true. We will serve them and at the same time grow in the community with others while working together in Allegheny and Westmoreland County.

As we look forward into 2021, we will continue to support each other via zoom or in person to inspire, encourage and provide assistance to our members. Our District 3 wish is for all the locals of BPW/PA to have much success in the new year and to someday see each other in person.

Remember you deserve good things. You have the magic that makes dreams come true. You've got the imagination. All you really need in addition is conviction. So toss out those self-doubts. Deep down you know you can do it. When you believe wonderful things can happen!

Dream Big
Laurie Hough – District 3 Director

District 3

*Several of our Local Chapters have been busy this December giving back to the community. Ligonier BPW donated food to the local food bank and collected supplies for Soldier Angels. Latrobe BPW volunteered several weekends to aid the Salvation Army in their Bell Ringing Campaign.

*The Greensburg Club celebrate their 90th anniversary. They received a State Proclamation.

*Scottdale BPW has had a busy few months! In October we celebrated National Business Women's week by co- sponsoring a display at Scottdale Public Library. We had a lovely meeting in November learning about our local Twilight Wish chapter. We also celebrated Thanksgiving by having a Cookie Decorating Fundraiser. December brought an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest into the mix with Tara Marhefka Steiner taking home the win!



District 3



District 4

Juniata

Members of Juniata County, District IV, met on 11/30 for the annual decorating of the Juniata County Courthouse



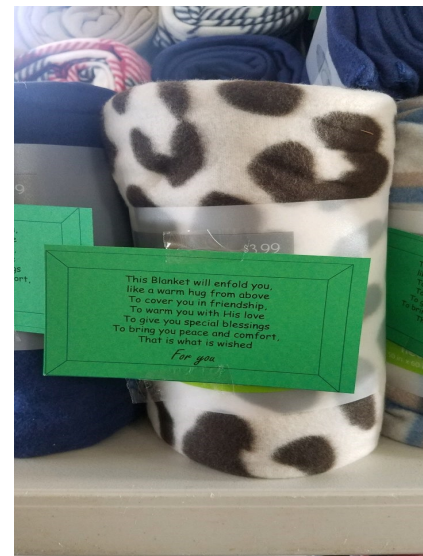
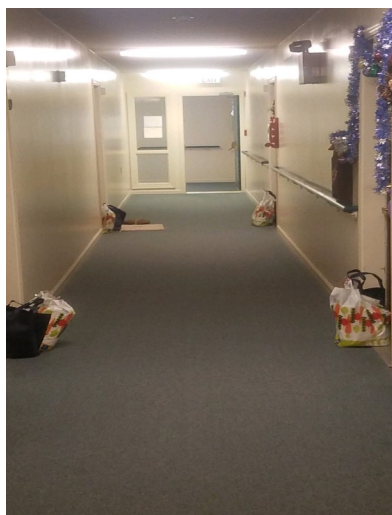
District 4

Juniata Continued

Happy Christmas week to you! Sure has seemed like a long year but we are to the greatest time of the year!

Attached are some photos of Juniata County's Senior Christmas Joy Bags. We packed 141 items for senior residents in 5 different income sensitive apartment buildings. We did this with the support of Twilight Wish to spread Christmas joy to these folks. One such resident shared during our distribution that she had lost a family member the night before we distributed the bags. She was so thankful for the thoughtfulness during a difficult time.

Between monetary donations and product donations the club brought in over \$2100 toward this project! The great thing is that there is enough money left over that we will be making a monetary donation directly to Twilight Wish! We are very proud of what were able to do with this project.



District 6

Jersey Shore

Jersey Shore: Our November meeting was a “take out” pizza dinner held in a large room where we could socially distance, and our program was presented by member **Linda Gearhart**. She showed and discussed quilts, quilt samples and quilt patterns- many had been made by her mother and grandmother. Linda explained how patterns got their names and the history of the patterns. It was a chance to highlight one of our members’ hobbies and interests.



Photo Caption:

Kristin Hamilton (L), Executive Director for Develop Tioga, was guest speaker for Wellsboro BPW's November meeting. She was introduced by member Colleen Hanson (R), Executive Director for Visit Potter-Tioga.

District 6

Wellsboro

Wellsboro: During our October meeting, member **Cath Mulcahey** engaged us in a program entitled “Use Your Strengths to Improve in the Five Essential Elements of Wellness.” Here are some nuggets of wisdom that Cath shared during her program:

1. Differences are advantages if you team up with people who have strengths that are different from yours.
2. How can you recognize your strengths? Take notice of what you yearn to do, what you seem to be able to learn rapidly, what you have learned that makes you “get in the flow,” and what gives you “glimpses of excellence” in what you do.
3. How can you turn talents into strengths? Practice, practice, practice!
4. Life purpose rises to the top of life wellness. Identify your life purpose, and use your strengths to achieve your life wellness goals.

During our November meeting, Kristin Hamilton described *Develop Tioga’s transition from primarily supporting businesses through development stages to supporting businesses and nonprofits through COVID crisis survival. Her work quickly required helping businesses to navigate the confusing and frequently changing rules and recommendations coming from the state and federal levels. She and her staff are helping the businesses to complete applications for grants and loans as well as to understand and implement the safety recommendations. She listed some of the challenges: mask wearing compliance, the dramatically rising exposure risk, and the added complications when employees test positive.*

District 10

Delaware County

Delaware County BPW hosted their virtual holiday party via Zoom on December 9, 2020. The meeting featured guest speaker Dr. Wendy A. Woloson, Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University. Dr. Woloson was recently featured on NPR and joined the club to discuss her new book Crap – A History of Cheap Stuff in America.



To celebrate the holidays, Delaware County BPW members collected donations for Pathways PA. Pictured here are Delco BPW members filling an SUV with items for Pathways PA. Pathways offers a variety of services for at risk women, families and children.



District 10

Delaware Count Continued

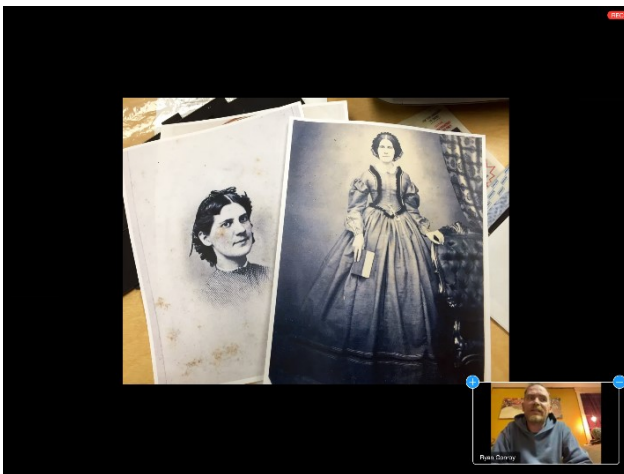
Delaware County BPW--Yet another year the weather did not cooperate with us and our ceremony for Wreaths Across America had to be postponed . That didn't stop members Ro Colantuono (also District 10 Director) Patty Snyder (Del Co BPW Vice President) and member Myra Kelly brought the wreaths to the Delaware County Veteran's Memorial in Newtown Square in time for Christmas



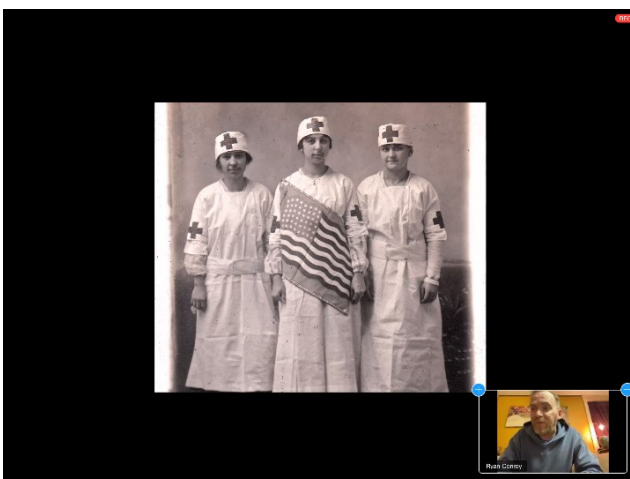
District 10

Chesmont

For Chesmont BPW's November Zoom Meeting, our speaker was Ryan Conroy, a local military historian. Ryan shared his passion to keep the history of Phoenixville area Veterans alive. He shared many photos that he has collected over the years including some notable women who helped during the Civil War, World War I and World War II.



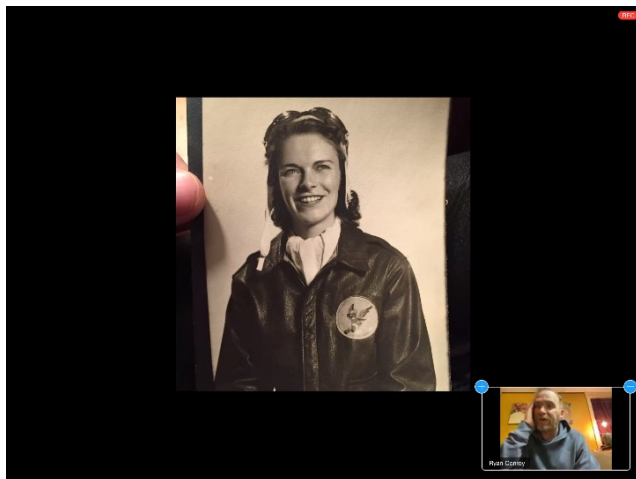
This is Rebecca Price, a member of the famous Phoenixville Pennypacker family, who served as a volunteer nurse during the Civil War. She was also a member of the Ladies Aid Society which sewed clothing, knitted socks and gloves, and collected food. She rode on a train to Washington, DC with the clothing and food to ensure that the supplies were given to Phoenixville area soldiers.



Here are three World War I Red Cross Volunteer nurses. While there were enlisted and commissioned nurse officers, our troops also relied on these volunteers to help them recover from their wounds.

District 10

Chesmont Continued



This is a photo of a World War II WASP, Women Airforce Service Pilots, a civilian women pilots' organization. These women were fully trained pilots who were used to test aircraft, ferry aircraft, and train other pilots. Their purpose was to free male pilots for combat roles during World War II.

Ryan, who you can see in the corners of these photos, has volunteered with multiple local non-profit organizations in providing historical research, and has authored articles for magazines, websites and blogs. He is currently on the boards of the Phoenixville and Spring-Ford Historical Societies and has a local history show online for Voxipop called Timeless Tales. He has also worked on TV documentaries, including one for the Nat Geo Channel on Normandy.



We all thoroughly enjoyed his presentation.

District 10

Greater Downingtown

Greater Downingtown BPW has been holding their monthly meetings via Zoom. The group has been busy despite not being together in person. The club held a Pampered Chef online fundraiser from October to December which was a success. They also supported and participated in Wreaths Across America on December 19, 2020 at Hopewell Church Cemetery in Downingtown, PA. A drive-in service was held. In addition, the club was able to support the women veterans at Mary Walker House this year. Jewelry and items were wrapped and sent to the women for Christmas.



District 11

Souderton/Telford

Souderton-Telford local has been fortunate to meet in person this year. Our Summer Board and September dinner meetings were held in the pavilion of Souderton Park. Our October and November dinner meetings were held at the Franconia Heritage restaurant. The board meetings were via ZOOM.

On the 7th of November 2020 a fun-loving group of Souderton-Telford BPW members gathered at the Country Creek Winery in Telford to celebrate the National Business Women's week. The participants enjoyed wine tasting of four amazing wines: Cayuga, Merlot, Cabernet and Concord. Hosted by the owner of the winery, Joy Klein, STBPW members felt very welcomed and well looked after. Having gotten in the right spirits for some art experiments, participants painted their own face masks. The weather could not have cooperated more. Blue sky, sunshine and a warm breeze made this outdoor event even more enjoyable! Live music from Blue Wave Ramblers, that were setting up on the outside stage as we were wrapping up our social, was a nice compliment at the end of the meeting. Looking forward to many more to come.



We have collected gift cards for a local family as actual gifts were not requested because of Covid-19. Therefore, no gathering was held for the members as is our usual event.

Also, we helped the local charity organization Angels Sharing the Warmth to collect winter clothing for families in adversity.

We wish everyone good health and an enjoyable holiday!

District 11

Quakertown

QUAKERTOWN BPW LEARNS ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The Quakertown Business and Professional Women's Club met only in October at McCoolle's Arts and Entertainment Center at Broad and Main Streets. President Linda Moskal welcomed the 18 members as we met in person.

The speaker for the evening was Christina Landis of Spinnerstown. She is a member of the Quakertown Historical Society. The Underground Railroad and its ties with Quakertown began in 1834 when the Quaker potter, Richard Moore, produced redware dishes. The red clay was abundant on his 70 acre Quakertown farm and all the dishware were fired in his 1790 kiln. But he also took his finished products northward and at the same time, he transported slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad.

It is estimated that Mr. Moore had a role in saving more than 600 fugitives. Ms. Landis provided many interesting stories about the travels of the runaway slaves and how they reached Quakertown. There were many "signs" to look for as the slaves traveled at night. Some were the candles in the windows or quilts that were with hung on the wash line. Looking for Quaker homes was their mission when they came to Quakertown. Tunnels were dug under a few homes as an escape route if needed.

One can visit the Underground Railroad Station at 401 South Main Street, Quakertown. In March 2018, the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission awarded the Quakertown Historical Society a city marker that was placed in front of the house. There are also artifacts displayed in the Burgess Foulke Home from the Moore red clay era.



Christina Landis from the Quakertown Historical Society shared the story of the Underground Railroad that traveled through Quakertown.

President Linda Moskal, President, and Jeanne Schlicher, VP/Issues Management chair, welcomed Christina to our October meeting.

District 11

Greater Conshohocken



GC BPW Rosies at Fall District Meeting Donna, Mary and Rosie donating blankets/sundries to Mary Walker House

To date, our Local is making great progress this BPW year. We have improved our membership, loved the responses to our Zoom meetings, donated homemade blankets and sundries to the Mary E. Walker House, Twilight Wish and Colonial Neighborhood Council, supported other locals, and made a great dent into funding our Scholarship Funds. **Our thanks to all BPW/PA members who supported our Michael Kors bag fundraiser. The winner was Noreen Morello from Central Montgomery County BPW.**

We continue to routinely post to our Facebook and have maintained a good following. We've had some fun Facebook challenges, including November's "Where's Rosie?", and not only had our members participating, but members from other locals and districts. 2021 will have more fun Facebook events, including January's "This Year" - pictures of members working on their new year's resolutions.

Looking forward President Donna has set up a Fitness Challenge for 2021. Each month she will walk for various charities and organizations. In February, she will walk for the American Heart Association in her Dad's memory. If anyone wishes to get up and move and join her in this endeavor, and support your favorite charity/organization, just let Donna know. It's been 9 months of being stuck in the house and she needed to motivate herself to get away from the computer and get back moving again!

Sadly, we have also lost another of our long-time members, Joni McCormick. We received such an outpouring of love for her and Louise Hepburn. They were both mentors to a number of us and kept our local going with our fundraisers and our presence in the community.



JOAN M. MCCORMICK (MARCH 4, 1935-DECEMBER 18, 2020)

TRIBUTE TO JONI AND LOUISE FROM PAST STATE PRESIDENT NANCY WERNER

I can't believe that I received another sad news from our sister Local, Greater Conshohocken. They have lost Joni McCormick. Many years ago, Louise Hepburn and Joni McCormick, were on my District Eleven Board. Both were full of energy and enthusiastic with all that we attempted as District 11. Joni was the best member gatherer and the selling of any raffle tickets. She had the BPW spirit. This would have been back in 1990-1992. Adored them both.

It is with a heavy heart to learn that Joni has left us. Maybe you remember a few months back that we lost Louise too. I don't want to short change Louise for she too loved BPW and had the gift for finances like none other. Lots of memories of the Conshohocken Club and the fun I always had when I visited them. Joni and Louise were inseparable. Hoping that they are sharing BPW forever. Just wish that all of you could have met these wonderful women.

District 11

Central Montgomery

Central Montgomery County BPW is zooming along for their meetings of October, November, and December. We were delighted to welcome Amanda Owen, Justice Bell Foundation Chair, for sharing her 19-minute film called “Finding Justice: The Untold Story of Women’s Fight for the Vote.” She provided the story of the Justice Bell that was forged to motivate the women of Pennsylvania in 1915. Katharine Wentworth Ruschenberger of Chester County contacted the Meeley Company in Troy, New York and the Justice Bell was created. (It was a look alike to the Liberty Bell.) Amanda shared that the bell traveled through all 67 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It was placed on a truck equipped to handle its weight. It stopped at the factories, farms, churches, and even bars so the women could talk to the men about receiving the right to vote. The Election of 1915 did not yield a victory and the women knew they had to continue their suffrage movement. Finally, on September 25, 1920 in the city of Philadelphia, the Justice Bell was rung for the Nineteenth Amendment was passed. But the rest of the story is riveting as to how the Justice Bell ended up in the Valley Forge Memorial Church after decades of obscurity. I do not wish to give it all away as it was indeed an outstanding presentation that was seen on Zoom.

That very evening, we awarded Amanda Owen, the CMC BPW Woman of the Year Award. Her dedication to researching and creating a timely subject of the Justice Bell was applauded by our members. She was deeply appreciative of our recognition as she is continuing to write the book on the Justice Bell.

Zooming along, our November meeting was with honoring the “Women Joining Forces.” We had our member, Alexis Werner, share her work with Bunker Labs. This entity empowers veterans to achieve their entrepreneurial dreams. Also, we had Veteran Commander Karen Flaherty from the Michael Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia share what is happening with our Veterans. We are still visiting and providing journals, arts and crafts projects and hot meals to the women veterans at the Mary Walker House in Coatesville. We are also still stopping by the Veteran’s Administration Office in Norristown to provide aid when needed.

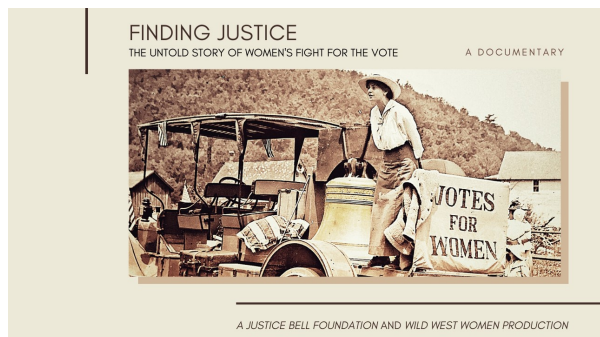
We are also proud that we have two members who are representing us on the Delaware Valley Veterans Consortium. Maureen Gillen and Cheryl Decoteaux are both retired veterans and are sharing what they are learning at these meetings.

Lastly, who says you cannot not have fun on Zoom especially for a Holiday gathering. The CMC membership shared a fun evening as we guessed, “Who Was the Beautiful Baby,” did a Scavenger Hunt, and finally a Holiday Trivia. Ginny Bailey, our VP, planned and hosted the evening activities. It was what we all needed – some laughs, some fun and yes, some smiles from everyone as we welcomed the Holidays. Oh, and everyone was dressed in their Holiday clothes. We are most thankful to Zoom for keeping us together during this challenging time.

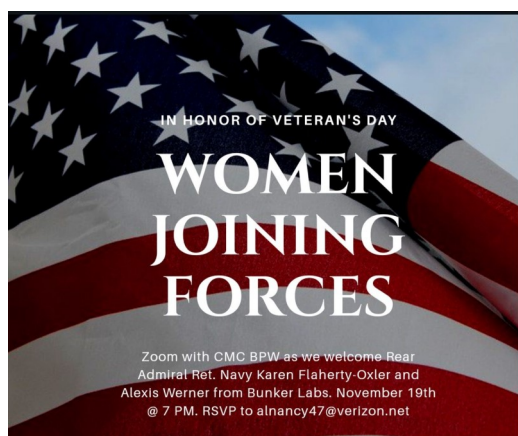
Nancy Werner

District 11

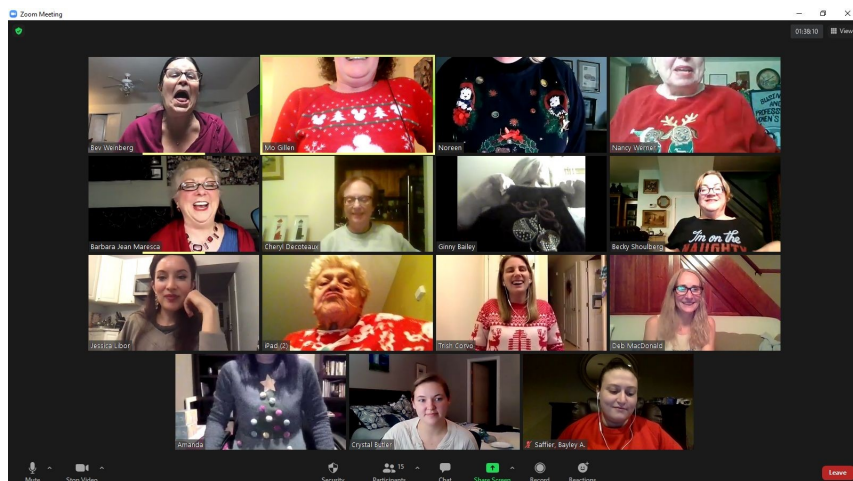
Central Montgomery Continued



CMC BPW proudly announced Amanda Owen as our Woman of the Year. She also shared her 19-minute film - "Finding Justice-The Untold Story of Women's Fight for the Vote."



November Meeting – Alexis Werner and Bunker Labs



District 11

Upper Perk

Upper Perk held their annual Christmas party via Zoom. The ornament exchange still happened as well, we just picked names, shopped for the ornament we wanted to give and dropped off or mailed the ornament to the recipient. Even though it was a Zoom meeting, it still was a lot of fun. Upper Perk is working on organizing the first Monday meal for the community scheduled in May. We are also having a fundraiser with Upper Perk Printing, every month there is something added to the store to shop, from sweatshirts, leggings, t-shirts, masks, sweaters, polos, and much more. Check out the website.

<https://upbpw.spiritsale.com/products>



District 11

District Meeting Event



The Fall District Meeting/Memorial Service was held on October 31st at Caitlyn and Cody's Diner in Pennsburg. Attendees were urged to dress up as Rosie the Riveter in support of Mae Krier's 40-year goal of having Congress award all the Rosies who supported the war effort the Congressional Gold Medal. Mae, age 94, lives in Bristol Township, PA. UPDATE: On Friday, December 4, 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act that will award the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the women who served as Rosie the Riveters during World War II.

After the Memorial Service was held for our deceased members, including Past State President, Jane Barndt, the Fall District Meeting was called to order at 9:31 am by Director Van Ingen. There were 31 voting members and 2 guests in attendance, including 2 first timers. Reports of the Officers, Chairs, Special Appointees and Local Presidents were given. New business included approval of the amended budget; an update on the State Project, Twilight Wish (Director Van Ingen's goal is for every Local to Adopt a Senior); Spring District Meeting information (April 24, 2021 at Maggiano's Little Italy, King of Prussia); endorsement of Melissa Wieand for BPW/PA President Elect; approval of the District Nominating Committee; awards; raffle; and remarks from Tiffanie Berger, BPW/PA President Elect. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am after the Good of the Order, Announcements and Dates to Remember.

District 12

District 12 News

District 12 is planning a Zoom Spring District Meeting in April. It will be so nice to see everyone again, even if it is remotely! More details will be available soon.

Canonsburg BPW is saddened to report the recent deaths of two of our members. Violet Bender had been a member for over 50 years and rarely missed a monthly meeting. She was a cheerful, calm presence and was always encouraging to new members. Vi was a Past President, a past Woman of the Year, and last served on the Reservations committee. Jill Shook was a very active member, having served two terms as President, was a past Woman of the Year, and was currently serving as District 12 Treasurer. She recruited many new members and participated in every fundraiser held by Canonsburg and the District. Jill was also very involved in community organizations and in her church. Both these members will be greatly missed.

Washington BPW has also lost a member recently. Carolyn Colvin, the daughter of long-time BPW member Ruth Walters, passed away. Carolyn was a relatively new member and had not yet had the opportunity to meet many of us. She will be sorely missed.

This has been a rough year for all of us. We've been unable to meet as we would have liked due to the COVID virus and we are all getting tired of staying home and not seeing our BPW sisters. There does seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel with the formulation of vaccines by several companies. Until we can conquer this disease, please stay safe. Someday we'll all meet again.



Business and Professional Women / PA

To achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information.

www.bpwpa.org

102nd ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

WELCOME

District 12 is pleased to welcome you to the 102nd Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

President Marisa Harmon and Her team have been diligently working with District 12 Executive Committee and Convention Committees to make this Convention productive and enjoyable for all attendees.

This years Convention has something for everyone and looks to be an exciting opportunity to meet face to face to reconnect with long-time friends and to make new ones.

District 12 members will be available throughout the Convention to assist you and can be identified by the Unicorn headbands.

We are honored to be this year's Convention's hostess and we will do our very best to make this a memorable and out of this world's (Mars is name of town) experience for all.

Denice Robinson and Bobbi Dobler

Convention 2021 Co-Chairs



Bobbi Dobler
District 12 Director
595 Old Pittsburgh Road
Smock, PA 15480
(H)724-439-4608
dearie1@atlanticbb.net

PA Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc

2021 ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**Let Your Dreams Take Flight**

June 10 through June 13, 2021

100 Cranberry Woods Drive

Pittsburgh Marriott North Cranberry

Cranberry Township, PA 16056

Name _____ Date Joined _____

Mm/Yyyy

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

L.O. _____ District _____

_____	_____	State Officer	_____	_____	YC Contest-	_____	_____	25 Yr. Member
_____	_____	State Chair/	_____	_____	ID Contest-	_____	_____	50 Yr. Member
_____	_____	Past State President	_____	_____	LO President	_____	_____	50+ Yr. Mem-
_____	_____	District Director	_____	_____	Member	_____	_____	Guest

Note: only those in attendance at the convention will receive a certificate for 25, 50 and 50+ yearsRegistration may be completed online at www.bpwpa.org**Advance Registration (post marked on or before March 13, 2021)**

Full Time: \$60 One Day: \$45 (circle one Friday Saturday) \$ _____

Regular Registration (post marked after March 14, 2021 and before May 10, 2021)

Full Time: \$70 One Day: \$55 (circle one Friday Saturday) \$ _____

On Site Registration (Friday Night Event and Saturday Banquet not guaranteed)

Full Time: \$95 One Day: \$75 (circle one Friday Saturday) \$ _____

Friday Night Event (includes food) \$35 \$ _____
*Benefits PA BPW Foundation & BPWPA Special Programs***Saturday Night Banquet (Circle choice) All entrees include** \$50 \$ _____**Iceberg wedge salad, rolls and butter, coffee, tea and iced tea**

Apple Cider Brine Chicken Breast

Honey rosemary glaze, roasted fingerling potato, green beans, caramelized shallot

Seared Fresh Atlantic Salmon

Ginger soy scallion butter, lemon zested brown rice, steamed asparagus

Cauliflower Steak

Roasted cauliflower steak with Cajun seasoning, starch and vegetable

PLEASE WRITE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM

Total enclosed

\$ _____

Registration is not complete until payment is received: the method of payment can be done either using Wild Apricot AffiniPay or a credit card via our website (bpwpa.org) or by making your check payable to BPWPA and mailing it along with this registration form to: **Lois McDonald, Convention Registration Chair, 101 Cedar Drive, Uniontown, PA 15401.** by the above-mentioned due dates. **No email reservations will be accepted.** All tickets will be distributed at the time of registration check-in at convention.

Refund Policy for Convention Pre-Registration/payment: There will be a **\$10 service fee** for processing refunds. A written refund request should state the pre-registrant's name, address, L.O. and District and to whom the check should be made payable. No request will be honored if such request is postmarked after **May 10, 2021 (30 days prior to the opening session).** In the event of a death or hospitalization of the member or in the member's immediate family after the 30 day limit, the registration fee will be refunded after verification and approval by the BPW/PA President and/or the State Finance Chair.

PA Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc
2021 ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Let Your Dreams Take Flight

June 10 through June 13, 2021
Pittsburgh Marriott North Cranberry
100 Cranberry Woods Drive
Cranberry, PA 16056

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Each attendee makes her own hotel reservations. Room rate is \$119.95 plus applicable state and local taxes per night. Breakfast is included with hotel room reservation. A block of rooms has been reserved for BPW/PA. Please use Reference Group Code Number: **BPW** when making your hotel reservations. Please call the hotel directly at 724-772-3700 to make your room reservations.

The above room rates are guaranteed until **May 21, 2021**.

Directions

Address for your GPS: 100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township, PA 16066

