

Berkshire Business & Professional Women



December 2017

President's Message



Claire Richards

Greetings Members! Happy Holidays!

Such beautiful snow falls we have had. It certainly heightens the beauty of the holiday decorations around the county. Brenda Opperman was our key note speaker at our November meeting and what a fabulous talk. Her work in conflict zones and working to help empower women was very thought provoking and interesting. Thank you, Brenda for your work and inspiring message.

Our Holiday gathering at Hotel North was great fun and festive. See the following page for pictures of our event.

As President of BBPW, I was honored to be invited to a meeting of women in Berkshire County to discuss and brainstorm on how to help young women continue to feel they have a voice in this world. BBPW is an organization to not only make connections and lasting friends, but an organization to help women have a voice. This meeting had me thinking about BBPW and what we are here for and how we are helping each other.

Our vision, mission and value are:

- Vision:** To be the leading advocate for working women
- Mission:** To achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information
- Value:** To foster the success of working women by providing career advancement resources, work life strategies, and personal and professional connections.

BBPW members are working women seeking to advance their career goals, earn higher salaries, build stronger business, achieve pay equity and equal opportunities, and establish rewarding careers. Membership in BBPW brings many rewards but the most lasting and meaningful are the lifelong friendships. Through participation in the BBPW activities and programs, you will form supportive friendships as well as important business relationships. There is nothing quite like the feeling you get in a roomful of powerful women all focused and energized in helping each other rise and achieve our dreams.

Whether it is laughing or working together, BBPW members know how to have fun and to get the job done! I feel honored to be a part of such an amazing organization.

Please take our short member survey so that your voice is heard and we can organize events that are fun and beneficial to all of you members. We so appreciate you taking the time to answer the few questions. [Click here to take the survey](#). Thank you.

Please join us at our next monthly meeting, which will be held Monday January 8th. Details of our next event will be coming soon and please check out our website: www.bbpw.org. Our Board meeting will be held following our meeting in January. It is open to all members. Please contact me if you are interested in attending. Please also feel free to contact me any time with any concerns or suggestions.

Warmly,

Claire Richards

Claire Richards
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Board of Directors

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Programming
Sopheap Nhim Ovitsky

Vice President
Programming
Arwen Lowbridge

Vice President
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Treasurer
Donna Collins

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Jane Apkin

*Holiday fun at
December BPW Meeting*



Mark Your Calendars for these 2017-2018 BBPW Upcoming Events

- January 8, 2018—Monthly Dinner Meeting
- February 5, 2018 - Monthly Dinner Meeting
- March 5, 2018 - Monthly Dinner Meeting
- April 2, 2018 - Monthly Dinner Meeting
- May 7, 2018 - Monthly Dinner Meeting
- June 4, 2018 - Board Induction Dinner

New Year Meeting



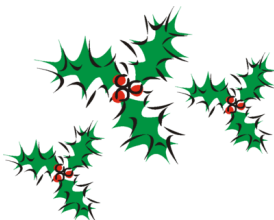
Maryann Hyatt

**January 8, 2018
Dinner Meeting
with Speaker
Maryann Hyatt,
Berkshire County
Arc
5:30 - 6:00 PM
Networking
6:00 PM
Dinner and Speaker
Cranwell Resort & Spa,**

Ring in the new year at our first dinner meeting of 2018 with guest speaker Maryann Hyatt, COO of Berkshire County Arc, who will share the trials, tribulations, and successes of her journey as a recovering woman and business woman over the last 30 years. From business ownership, education, and mentoring, to helping lead one of the largest nonprofits in Berkshire County, she has her sights set on helping women tap into their full leadership potential.

Register at www.BerkshireBPW.org

- Registration deadline: Jan 1, 2018
- Cancellations must be made by Jan 1, 2018



PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING ONE OF OUR BERKSHIRE BPW COMMITTEES

Membership Committee: Bronwyn Niece, Chair
(brwynniece@gmail.com)

Works with the Board to recruit, install, retain, and orient members. Works with the treasurer to maintain updated membership records and inducts new members. Produces the membership directory and helps to organize the membership meeting.

Programs Committee: Arwen Lowbridge and Sopheap Nhim, co-chairs (alowbridge@gmail.com and sopeaps@gmail.com)

Work with the program co-chairs to coordinate monthly meetings including identifying programs of interest to the membership and securing guest speakers or setting up the event. Helps to produce the monthly meeting invitation.

Raffle Committee: Shela Hidalgo and Christine Carpenter co-chairs (shelahidalgo@outlook.com and ccgmarketing@comcast.net)

Responsible for securing items for the raffle at the monthly events. The money raised at the raffle supports our scholarship fund. Please contact Shela or Christine to donate items or services. Items can also be gift certificates from local businesses in our County. This helps to promote and support our local businesses.

Nominating Committee: Victoria Ross, Chair
(victoriasellstheberkshires@gmail.com)

Barbara Osborne and Suzanne Engels are also on the committee. Victoria will be stepping down as chair so we will need a new chair and additional members for the committee. The committee finds and presents the selected board members. The committee assists in filling the various committees.

Technology Committee: We are looking to create this new committee. The committee will manage the website, FB, Instagram and evaluate our technology needs moving forward.

Woman of Achievement Committee: Past Chair/Advisor - Donna Collins (bbpwtreasurer@gmail.com)
Join the WOA committee to help organize our one and main fund raising event in October, The Woman of Achievement dinner. It's the event that raises most of the money for our scholarships. The committee is looking for 2-4 people to join the committee and willing to work to put this fabulous event together. Please contact Donna with any questions.

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To promote full participation, equity, and economic self-sufficiency for America's working women.



www.berkshirebpw.org

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BerkshireBPW>

The Berkshire Business and Professional Women organization provides professional and personal development and networking opportunities for working women from diverse fields. Since 1965, Berkshire BPW has been honoring local women in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, recognizing the achievements of outstanding women, developing awareness of issues important to working women and awarding career advancement scholarships.

Berkshire Business and Professional Women meets at 5:30pm on the first Monday of each month, with a few exceptions. Guest speakers are invited to each meeting to address a variety of topics that are important to working women, such as health and wellness, wealth management, public speaking and organization techniques.

To submit items to be included in the newsletter, please e-mail Lori Gazzillo at lgazzillo@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.

THE COLLECT

Keep us, Oh God, from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face
Without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.
Let us take time for all things;
Make us grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences,
that in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know the great,
common human heart of us all.
And, Oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.

- Mary Stewart

*If you imagine it
You can achieve it.
If you dream it
You can become it.*

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OUR MISSION :
To promote full participation, equity, and economic self-sufficiency for America's working women.