

# BEACON POINTS

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



November, 2017 Volume 18 #5

BPW related websites:

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

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

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

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## This Month's Meeting:



On November 8<sup>th</sup>, our program for the evening will be a travel log presented by two of our newer members, Kate Frame and Emily Frye. They will regale us with their recent travels to Europe this past summer.

We will be back at King's Restaurant on Route 30 West, in Greensburg at 5:30 pm.

King's Restaurant has a new menu, I am sure we will be pleased with it.

We will use a standing reservation, so if you are not attending please notify Susan Reimer.

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

## In the Beacon:

This year our interviewees for "In the Beacon" will respond to questions based on our theme for this year, "Bridge to the Future"

Part of the "Bridge to the Future" is new members. This month we will learn more about one of our new members, Debbie Redding. Debbie came to our September meeting at Gianillis II and joined that evening.

Debbie we would like to get to know you better. Can you tell us a little about yourself?

Thank you for asking me. As you know I am a real estate agent. I have lived in Youngwood for, oh about 35 years now.

My family lives close by. I have five children, of which three are foster children. These five children have given me nine wonderful grandchildren and I look forward to them coming for holidays and to visit.

I am a master gardener. In order to be a master gardener you have to continually take classes and do volunteer work. I work at taking care of the flower beds around the Youngwood Train Station.

I also foster dogs through a program called Hospaws. Due to allergies, as long as the dogs are nonshedding I will foster dogs in my home for people who are in the hospital or in a care facility until they can get back into their homes. This is very rewarding. In fact this is how I acquired my two dogs, a shiatsu and a yorkie. Their names are Brandi and Bo.

That sounds like you have a pretty full life outside of your career. You had mentioned in September

that you also volunteer with the Youngwood VFD. What do you do for them?

I have been a volunteer with the fire department for 20 years and I handle their events in the social hall. I especially enjoy coordinating weddings with the Brides and assisting in making their day special.

How long have you been a real estate agent?

It seems like forever. I had been a manager with Northwood Realty for 30 years. For the last seven I have been with Prudential Realty now Berkshire Hathaway. Berkshire Hathaway has been a great fit for me as I am not restricted to an office and it affords me flexibility so that I can spend time with my family and volunteer opportunities.

We are really happy that you have joined our BPW group and hope that you will be happy with us.

This past year I joined your group and the Hempfield Garden Club. I have enjoyed BPW so far. All the ladies have been very kind and patient with me. I was impressed with all that you do and look forward to becoming more involved.

If you have not had the opportunity to meet Debbie yet, please introduce yourself at our next meeting.

Next month we will meet another one of our new members.

## Recap of October's Meeting:



October's program was a visit to the Westmoreland County Food Bank facility located at 100 Devonshire Drive, Delmont, Pa. 15626. Ms. Texie Waddell, Director of Agency Relations, was our host. She explained that the Westmoreland County Food Bank is a non-profit organization that oversees 43 partner agencies that distribute food

one day per month in various locations in Westmoreland County. A "food bank" is the facility/warehouse where food is stored and the "food pantry" is the location where eligible individuals can go to get the food. The Westmoreland County Food Bank is the only one in the county. Seven million pounds of food are distributed annually to 7200 families which equates to 31,400 individuals. The first food banks started in 1969 with the Westmoreland County Food Bank opening in 1982 as a Partner Distributing Organization of the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. The Westmoreland County Food Bank is an affiliate of Feeding America which is a nationwide network of 200 food banks and 60,000 pantries/meal programs. She noted that food safety training is required by Feeding America. The Food Bank also works with Penn State Extension for education purposes. The Westmoreland County Food Bank is also a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organizations which requires they maintain certification through that organization. In addition the Department of Homeland Security inspects monitors and regulates Food Banks nationwide. The Westmoreland County Food Bank has established income guidelines to qualify for food assistance and eligible participants are limited to using only one food pantry. Ms. Waddell reviewed some of the programs supported by the Food Bank such as: Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Outreach & Expansion Project, Summer Food Service Program, Operation Fresh Express (OFE), Backpack Program, SNAP Application Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps) and the Military Share Program. Sources of funding are monetary donations, foundations, direct mail and social media. For every \$1.00 donated, they can purchase \$10.00 worth of food. There are also State and Federal sources of funding. Pennsylvania has a line item in its budget but not all states have that budgeted. However, the State and Federal sources of funding have decreased over the years. Ms. Waddell provided each of us with the following literature: How a Food Bank Works, Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities, Helping Those In Need (regarding income guidelines), Pantry Product Information, WCFB 2017 Facts, and information on volunteers needed for their Fall FoodShare Food Drive at local Giant Eagle grocery stores. Following the presentation,

we were treated to a tour of the warehouse itself. We presented Ms. Waddell with a check in the amount of \$200.00 from the Greensburg BPW from member donations. I'm sure that we can all agree that it was an informative and worthwhile visit. The Westmoreland County Food Bank can be contacted on line at [www.westmorelandfoodbank.org](http://www.westmorelandfoodbank.org) or by telephone at 724-468-8660.

### **New Greensburg Member:**

At our October meeting we had a guest join us for dinner who decided to become a member that evening.

Please welcome Emily Frye a student at Pitt. Emily was one of our Scholarship winners and has become a student member of Greensburg BPW.

### **Get Out and Vote-November 7:**



Our Legislative chair, Karen Schmeich wants to remind everyone that Tuesday, November 7 is Election Day here in Pennsylvania.

On your ballot you will have elections for state house of representatives, state and local judges, and members for school boards and municipal governments. This fall's ballot will also have two referendums.

The one referendum is state wide and it will read as follows "Allow Local Taxing Authorities to Exempt Full Value of Homestead Amendment" This is a yes or no question. It will permit local taxing authorities the ability to essentially do away with real estate taxes. It does not tell how the local taxing authority will replace the revenue from real estate taxes.

The second referendum pertains to those who live in the City of Greensburg, the Borough of SW Greensburg, the Borough of S Greensburg and the various communities that make up Hempfield Township. This referendum is also a yes or no vote.

This referendum deals with a 1 mil (\$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value) library tax to fund the Greensburg-Hempfield Library.

# THANKS FOR VOTING!



Take the opportunity this year to thank a Vet for her or his service to our country on November 11, 2017.

If you want to send a card you can find Veteran Day Cards at stores like the Dollar Tree for a \$1.

Here are some area restaurants that are offering free meals to veterans and active military on November 11, 2017. *Please note some meals may be from a limited or special menu and you should check with the restaurant before ordering.*

Applebee's, Bar Louie, Bob Evans, Cracker Barrel, Denny's (Friday 11/10), Eat n Park (10% off month of November), Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, Red Lobster, Ruby Tuesdays, Texas Roadhouse (lunch) and many others. You can Google 2017 Veteran Day freebees to find more. These restaurants may require proof of military service.



### **District 3 Fall Meeting:**

Our District's annual fall meeting was held Monday, October 16, at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh, PA. Our hostess for the meeting was the Greater Pittsburgh BPW. The meeting was very



informative. Each of the six local presidents gave a report detailing some of the things their locals have done so far this year and what they plan on doing for the remainder of the year.



BPWPA President Marilyn Tallant was present in her official capacity. She thanked District 3 for our continuing support and she also congratulated District 3 for bringing Eleanor Briner back to our district. Marilyn also discussed and suggested ways that we could bring Eleanor back for another year.

Her suggestions included: participating in the contests, getting our budgets and histories in on time and participating in the ID and YC programs. She has felt that in the past few years that we have had wonderful ID and YC candidates but we have not had a winner. She suggests that we work more with our candidates to tighten up their timing in presenting their prepared and impromptu speeches.

Our Issues Management Chair and facilitators appreciated this advice and assured her we would take her suggestions to heart.



Various District 3 Awards were on Display.



PSP Emily Holgash attended our District meeting in her official capacity as our membership area representative. Emily with the assistance of PSP Bernadette Koval and various members utilized President Tallant's theme of a bridge to the future to emphasize the importance of membership.

## National Business Women's Week



District Director Tara Marhefka-Steiner kicked off our District's celebration of NBWW with a trip to Bella Terra Vineyards in Hunker PA on Sunday, October 15. It was a very pleasant day for an outing. The Winery had entertainment that day. The few of our BPW sisters who joined Tara had an enjoyable day sipping wine, eating snacks and discussing upcoming BPW events.

The following Saturday 40 BPW members from Pennsylvania, Ohio and South Carolina assembled at the Hilton Garden Inn at South Pointe for the 38<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Event.



(To the left of Marilyn is Linda Wiegand, BPW/OH President and to Marilyn's right is Rise Sheriff, BPW/SC President)

This was the first year that representatives from South Carolina had attended the event. One thing that drew them to South Pointe was meeting members of Pennsylvania. They were impressed with our website and membership and hope that they can gain insight from us in growing there federation. President Tallant and the President Rise Sheriff of South Carolina exchanged invitations to attend their respective 2018 conventions.

Next year's event will be hosted by BPW/OH and maybe South Carolina in the future.

### **Up Coming BPW Events:**

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

The District 3 fundraiser "Cutting out Cancer" at Valhalla Indoor Axe Throwing will be held Sunday November 5, 4-6:30 pm. Cost is \$35. This includes admission to the event and donation to "Our Club House" President Tallant's state project for this year.

District Director Tara still has tickets available. You may contact her at 724-309-2998.

November 5 is not a Steeler game day and the event will be held in the afternoon to allow everyone to get home from church.

It sounds like a great event. Hope to see you there.

### **BPW District 3 ID Program:**

An ID program has been scheduled for Saturday November 11, 2017 in Latrobe. This is a one day event which is designed to improve interpersonal communication skills including public speaking. Cost is: Member \$25 for material on flash drive, \$30 for printed material. Non Members add \$5.

For more information and to register contact: Theresa Rusbosin at 724-331-1010.

### **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry:**

This month, it is suggested that we donate nonperishable food items such as: cereal and/or peanut butter and jelly.

Shirley Wolinsky will collect the items and deliver them to Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry.



### **November Birthdays:**

Kathy Cullen 11/2

Patricia Rodgers 11/17

Happy Birthday to all





## Dates to remember:



- **November 1, 2017** Deadline for PA BPW Foundation Scholarship application for Spring Semester
- **November 7, 2017 Election Day - Get out and Vote!**
- **November 15, 2017** Deadline for LO copies of budget to District Finance Chair
- **November 23,** Thanksgiving Day
- **December 2017 Happy Holidays-** we will celebrate at Rodney's
- **January 15, 2018**
- Deadline for BPW/PA Candidate Application to State Nomination Chair, Susan M. Vladika
- LO and District Budgets due to BPWPA
- Proposed By-Laws Changes due to BPW/PA By-Laws Chair, Mary Ellen Bayuk
- **February 2018 women's history month**
- **March 9-10, 2018** BPW/PA Mid-winter board meeting the Penn Stater.
- **April 15,** LO contest entries due to District Chairs.
- **April 30,** Histories are due to BPW/PA Historian
- **May 1,** Contest entries are due to BPW/PA Chairs
- **May 1,** ID and YC Candidate information is due to the BPW/PA Chairs
- **May 1,** Convention Manual Reports are due to the Manual Editor

- **May 15,** Contest winner information due to BPW/PA Issues Management Chair
- **May 15,** BPW/PA Chairs report contest participation to BPW/PA Vice President for inclusion in the Eleanor Briner Calculation.
- **June 7-10,** 98<sup>th</sup> BPW/PA Annual State Convention at the Crown Plaza, Reading PA, Installation of Incoming Officers and Incoming President's Reception.



Turn your clocks back Sunday  
November 5<sup>th</sup>



*Give thanks for your bountiful blessings and pray for those less fortunate.*

