



The Banner

Central Montgomery County Business and Professional Women's Club
Volume XCIV – April 2021

Next Meetings – Thursday, April 15, 2021
via Zoom at 7:00 pm – Details to follow

President's Message:

Dear CMC BPW Members,



Spring has surely arrived. Love seeing the many flowers, birds, and everyone just so happy to be outside enjoying the weather. Wonderful feeling is in the air for everyone. But here we are with only 3 more months for our BPW year to take a rest for the summer. Hard to believe how fast the year passed but look at all we accomplished even during these challenging times. Yes, I have missed all our camaraderie with meeting together at Maggiano's but we have shown the greatest virtue of them all – patience. We are slowly waiting to hear how many of you are receiving the vaccine and feel comfortable on coming to an indoor venue. We will be together soon but for now Zoom has been the best solution for our needs.

I must go back a month to express my gratitude to the members who came forth and helped to participate in the play, "Women of the Suffrage Movement." We enjoyed their acting talents of Trish Corvo, Maura Gillen. Deb MacDonald, Renee Golden, Becky Shoulberg, Bev Weinberg, Crystal Butler, Bayley Saffier, and Amanda Mortimer. Ginny Bailey did the narration and Nancy Werner gave us an introduction and epilogue to the importance that these women provided for us. Take a bow everyone.

Now let's look ahead to our April 15th Meeting and welcome Barbara Price of the AAUW/PA to our group. She is dynamic, knowledgeable and knows so much about the Equal Pay for women. We are so fortunate to have her come to our CMC BPW. Please put April 15 on your calendar.

One last topic that I wish to address is the value of our membership in CMC BPW. During this past year, I have tried my absolute best to keep you informed with emails. Ginny Bailey, our Banner Editor, has published an excellent monthly newsletter that has kept you informed of committee reports, district and state reports and just news in general. We have tried our best to provide to our many community affiliates with our many gifts cards. Thank you Becky Shoulberg for all you hard work in securing them. We have been able to support the State Project of the Twilight Wish with a thank you to Barbara Jean Maresca. Our mission with the veterans has continued and to Maura Gillen we offer another thank you.

**Central
Montgomery
County
BPW Officers
2020 - 2021**

President

Nancy Werner

Vice President

Ginny Bailey

Recording

Secretary

Cheryl Austin

Treasurer

Noreen Morello

Corresponding

Secretary

Vanessa Perez

Parliamentarian

Cheryl Decoteaux

We have learned to master the Zoom and I thank you everyone who have tried to attend. Huge shout out to Bev Weinberg for our monthly Zoom meetings. We have really worked to keep the time frame to one that is acceptable to our attention span and our derriere. But you must admit, we have had exceptional programs this year. Zoom kept us together. We have become a “shining star” to the BPW/PA for our use of this platform.

But now we come to the decision-making time of will you renew your membership? We have an expression, “May Days are Pay Days.” This coming month is when we ask that you renew your dues if you wish to be a member. Now we know this past year has been difficult. We all know it, but we need for you to really think about it. Treasurer Noreen Morello needs to hear from you on your intent. Our dues are \$50 and student dues are \$20. Please send to 504 E. Fornance Street, Norristown, PA 19401. We are investigating Pay Pal so that it will be workable for our treasurer. Once we learn the details, we will pass along to you.

We would really enjoy receiving your dues during May. You are dropped from the BPW/PA membership roster on August 31 but Noreen needs time to prepare her membership list and send to the State Treasurer. It is work for her. So please consider rejoining with us. Just know that we will have a fantastic year ahead of us. We have 94 BPW years behind Central Montgomery County alias Norristown BPW so we must be doing something right. Have a wonderful day and thank you everyone.

Warmest Wishes,
Nancy



Musical Talent Wanted

Anyone interested in leading our members in singing the *Emblem Benediction* at the close of our meetings?

No auditions needed, just be ready to sing to the tune, *Blest Be The Ties That Bind*. If you're interested, please send President Nancy an email.

Thank you Susan Parsons Knab for being our guest vocalist at CMC's March meeting!

April Dinner Meeting



Our speaker this month will be Barbara Price who is the Public Policy Chair of the American Association of University Women of Pennsylvania. Barbara has been a member of AAUW for 45 years, serving in various board positions at both the state and local level. She is a long-time advocate for women's rights and will speak to us on Pay Equity. **NOTE: Barbara will begin her presentation at 7:05 pm.**

Also at our April meeting we will hold the election of the 2021-2022 officers. The following slate of officers has been put forth by the Nominating Committee:

President – Ginny Bailey
Vice President – Deb MacDonald
Recording Secretary – Vanessa Perez
Treasurer – Noreen Morello
Corresponding Secretary – Trish Corvo



Nominations for all offices may be accepted from the floor.

Membership Chair Noreen will induct our newest members – Laura Miller, Kourtney Walter, and Allison Stanco-Aguilar. Welcome to new members!



Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and our need for social distancing, Central Montgomery County BPW will discontinue in-person meetings at Maggiano's until further notice.

Our meetings will continue via Zoom. Zoom invitations for meetings, held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm, will be sent out by President Nancy Werner.

State Theme:

May Your Dreams Take Flight

District Theme:

Just Be

CMC Theme:

Nevertheless, She Persisted

Spring District Meeting

Spring District Meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, April 24th at 9:00 am. Since CMC is the hostess for the meeting, it would be nice to have many of our members attend. If you're a new member, attending Spring District Meeting is a great way to see what happens at the District level and how the 5 locals in District Eleven make our District a success. The meeting is open to all members.

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9151292062>



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Documents needed for the meeting will be emailed to those registered closer to the meeting date.

In Memoriam

Past State President Constance Rhodes McGarry (1982-1984)



Constance "Connie" Rhoads McGarry, 86, of Clearfield, passed away Monday, March 22, 2021 at her home. She was born July 5, 1934 in Clearfield, the daughter of Fred L. and Bernece (Chilcott) Rhoads.

Mrs. McGarry was a graduate of Clearfield High School, class of 1952.

She was the office manager for TAFCO, where she retired in 1987 after 32 years.

Mrs. McGarry was a lifetime member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Clearfield where she had served as treasurer for several years, was on vestry and president of the altar guild for 17 years.

Connie was the first member of the District 4 Pennsylvania Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club to become state president. She also served as state treasurer twice and on several committees as chairwoman. On the district level, she had served as treasurer, assistant director and director. Mrs. McGarry also served as parliamentarian several times as different chairs. She joined BPW in 1953 and held every office of the club over the years.

Mrs. McGarry served as the first chairwoman of the Clearfield Borough Recreation Committee. She served on the Clearfield Borough Zoning Hearing Board as vice chairwoman for several years and the Clearfield Planning Commission several years and was chairwoman at one time.

News from Laurel House

New Domestic Abuse Text Line



The Laurel House domestic abuse text line is now live! If you need support, text “Hope” to 8511 to connect with trained staff and volunteers. The text line is open between 5pm and 10pm, Monday through Friday. If you are in immediate danger, call or text 911.

Text line volunteers are needed! Contact Laurel House at volunteers@laurel-house.org for more info.

More details:

<https://laurel-house.org/about/our-programs/hotline-2/>

Laurel House Working to End Domestic Violence

TEXT LINE VOLUNTEERS

- 45-hour mandatory training provided for *free*
- Can volunteer remotely - you just need a computer & internet
- Monday - Friday, 5PM - 10PM
- Able to commit to at least one shift/month

Email volunteers@laurel-house.org
www.laurel-house.org

Text Line Volunteers Needed

Our Text Line is up and running! To support us as a volunteer, please reach out to volunteers@laurel-house.org.

Safe Place For Pets

Purple Shelter Project

Keeping pets safe while survivors are in transition

49-71% of survivors report that their pets had been threatened, harmed, and/or killed by their partners

Laurel House Working to End Domestic Violence

Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals
Helping save animals since 1909

© 2020 All rights reserved. Animal Welfare Institute, 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003. Phone: (202) 331-2332

When fleeing, clients often choose to leave their pets behind or stay in an abusive relationship.

Knowing this information has led to the creation of the Purple Shelter Project! We now have an animal safe haven, through Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals, for cats and dogs of clients who are leaving an abusive relationship.

Our hope is to help clients overcome the barrier of staying in a dangerous situation, for fear of what could happen to their furry family members, by having a safe place for their pets to go while clients are in our shelter program.

Please contact Sam at skwasniuk@laurel-house.org for more information!

Food Pantry Tips

1 in 5 families with children have food insecurities and food pantries need our help now more than ever due to the pandemic. Families are hungry not just at the holidays but year round and now, when donations tend to drop off, here are some tips to remember if you wish to donate food.

Sharing wisdom from a food bank volunteer:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box. But it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from food banks,
2. Boxed, shelf-stable milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned foods should be pop tops OR donate can openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, salt and pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring and summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamberger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.*
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.
21. Pet food if the food pantry accepts it.



Bonus: CASH makes it possible for the food bank to buy what's missing and buy in bulk.

*17. What a Great Idea!



Want to share some joy? Make a birthday kit for the food pantry: cake mix, icing, sprinkles, candles, wrapped in a disposable pan! In these tough times, wouldn't it be great to enable parents to give their child a birthday cake?

Smart School House, March 30, 2021

BPW/PA News

Mark your calendars! The BPW/PA State Convention will be held via Zoom, June 10 – 12, 2021. The Pre-Convention Board will be held on June 10, the YC and ID candidate speeches on June 11, and the Convention on June 12. You will need to register to attend. As soon as President Nancy has more information, she will pass it along. More details to follow.

District Eleven News

Locally Grown Showcase



Souderton-Telford will be holding their annual Locally Grown Showcase on Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Upper Salford Park in Schwenksville. There will be face painting, food trucks, local meats, goods, and produce, beer and wine vendors, handmade arts and crafts, homemade bath and body items, non-profit and service groups and more!

CMC Members Spotlight

This month's Member Spotlight is highlighting Patti Klemp. Patti is the director of Crayon Kids and is a past CMC Employer of the Year recipient. She is married with 2 adult boys and her daughter may soon be a CMC member as Lizzy graduates high school this year. Patti and Christian enjoy their wine and cabin on the Finger Lakes.

Crayon kids has been operating for over 25 years serving the Norristown community. They are proud partners of the federal Early Headstart program and have early Headstart classrooms and two preschool classrooms. It is the mission of crayon kids to provide the children of the Norristown area the opportunity to develop academically, physically, emotionally, and socially in a cheerful, stimulating, and safe environment. Through kind and caring guidance their professional staff will teach children to develop to their potential with self-esteem and the necessary skills for future growth and relationships. Crayon Kids is dedicated to the development of young children and strive to have all Children ready for their formal education.

Standing and Special Committee Reports

In order to conduct our Zoom meetings in a timely manner, President Nancy will be asking all committee chairs to submit a brief report to be included monthly in *The Banner*. Whether you have some news to share or would just like to give our members (especially our new members) a brief overview of your committee, all reports are welcome.

CMC Directory

Please make note of President Nancy's new email address – nancy.werner73@gmail.com
Don't forget to add the period between Nancy and Werner and please use this email address for all correspondence.

Membership – Noreen Morello

May Days are Pay Days! Can't believe that the year has passed but we are back to renewing our memberships. It is \$50.00 for Members and \$20 for Students. Please send your checks to Noreen Morello at 504 E. Fornance Street, Norristown, PA 19401. We really appreciate it if you would send during this month. Our Treasurer Noreen must send to the State Treasurer in June. We have listed 45 members to date but we need all of you to consider rejoining for retention.

Twilight Wish – Barbara Jean Maresca

The deadline for contributions is Thursday, April 15th and CMC has donated over \$1,000! Thank you for your generous support of our State Project.

Social Media

Just a reminder that the CMC and BPW/PA Facebook pages and websites are open to the public. If you're on Facebook, enter Central Montgomery County BPW or BPW/PA in the search bar. Many locals in District Eleven and Pennsylvania also have Facebook pages which provide interesting information about their locals. The Central Montgomery County website is www.centralmontgomerycountybpw.org and for BPW/PA – www.bpwpa.org. Reminder: Any information that you supply can be seen by many individuals.

Public Relations – Becky Shoulberg

CMC expects more great members, opportunities for fundraising and partnerships to come from our renewed membership with Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. Your CMC membership gives you access to their amazing speakers and programs, Business Card Exchanges, Meet your Legislator forums, Town Halls,...on and on. I am volunteering for Chamber May 25th Golf event at 1912 course in Plymouth Meeting. Anyone have a foursome or know one? I encourage you to follow Chamber on social media and read their weekly newsletter to be invited to other member events too! Our meetings are listed in there.

Don't forget, be sure to like and follow CMC Facebook page and share with your tribe!

Ways and Means – Becky Shoulberg

Save the date! BINGO for MCCC Scholarships is Sunday December 5th, 2021 from 2-5 PM @ Maggiano's Ballroom! We hope to be able to utilize 120 capacity but we all know we gotta' wait for the Fall and pray we have squashed this Covid monster. We raised so much at our 3rd Bingo in 2019 that we could afford to cover our annual donation of \$2, 000 to two women, over 25 years old, studying at Montgomery County Community College.

Thank you to our Barbara Jean who put together a successful fundraiser for us in December to fill that 2020 Bingo void. She has some more ideas in the works, so we don't have to wait until December to fundraise. We do financially support multiple Norristown non profits and veteran programs, in addition to scholarships. Afterall, we are Women Helping Women and Women Joining Forces!

Remember you can raise funds for CMC every day by using Benefit Mobile phone app to pay or Escrip, if you shop on computer. I raise more than \$10-15 a month with my regular spending at Target, Dunkin, Starbuck's, Old Navy, PetCo, PF Chang's, Boscov's, Home Depot, Lowe's and many more. PLEASE SIGN UP AND EARN FOR US! No cost to you. The merchants who participate donate a percentage of your purchase amount to the non profit you designate when you sign up. We are listed as "Central Montgomery County BPW".

Website Coordinator – Becky Shoulberg

Our Mo Gillen has joined your Social Media team! Just in time as Squarespace launched some new & free tools to improve our website! Win - win!

Legislation – Cheryl Decoteaux

May 18th is Primary Election Day. Polls are open 7:00AM – 8:00PM. May 3, 2021, is the last day to register to vote or update your voter registration before the May 18, 2021, primary election. If you're mailing a signed voter registration application, it must be **received by your county election office 15 days before an election**. Any voter can choose to vote by mail ballot in the upcoming election using either an absentee or mail-in ballot. Both absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are considered mail ballots. The main difference between the two mail ballots is: Absentee ballot: you need to provide a valid reason to vote by mail ballot. Mail-in

ballot: you don't need to provide a valid reason. You can simply choose to vote by mail ballot. Both absentee and mail-in ballots are equally safe and secure ways to cast your vote. Your completed ballot must be returned by 8:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021.

At the primary Election on May 18, voters will decide two constitutional amendments on the governor's emergency powers, which have been a point of conflict between the Republican-controlled Legislature and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf during the coronavirus pandemic.

Below is a link to copy into your browser to read the four ballot questions including three proposed constitutional amendments that will appear on the May 18 Municipal Primary ballot. All Pennsylvania voters regardless of party affiliation may vote on statewide ballot questions during primary elections.

www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Pages/Joint-Resolution-2021-1.aspx

Below is a link for the judicial candidates in this primary election. Copy into your browser.

why.org/articles/a-voter-guide-to-pennsylvanias-2021-judicial-elections

Lets VOTE!

A Springtime Retreat for Women Veterans – Maura Gillen



The Flower That Shatters the Stone: A Springtime Retreat for Women Veterans

Online

April 17 @ 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

About the Retreat: Each spring, blossoms fill the eyes of our hearts with hope. After a year of hardship for so many, we will awaken to newness in the gift of one another. This morning of respite will hold quiet reflection, sharing, music and creative response. Come, discover the resilience we share...

Legislative Virtual Forum held by the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition

BUCKS COUNTY WOMEN'S ADVOCACY COALITION
INVITES YOU TO JOIN

**LEGISLATIVE
VIRTUAL FORUM**

Join us in a discussion surrounding the issues and opportunities in areas of basic needs, childcare and education, and healthcare.

April 30, 2021 @ 10:00A est

Sign up by visiting
<https://bcwac.org/events/upcoming-events>

Legislators and social service leaders in Bucks and Montgomery Counties will discuss the issues and opportunities in areas of basic needs, childcare and education, and healthcare. Mark your calendar and register today to join us on Friday, April 30 at 10 am for this important discussion.

Click the link for more information and registration.

<https://bcwac.org/events/upcoming-events/>

Happy Birthday to our Members!



April

Amy Kokoles – April 2

Ginny Bailey – April 10

Deb McDonald – April 10

Nancy Werner – April 11

Cheryl Decoteaux – April 15

Jacqui Watson – April 19

Dates to Remember

April 15 – CMC Monthly Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm

April 15 – Contest entries for Issues Management, Legislation, Public Relations



April 22 – Earth Day

April 24 – Spring District Meeting via Zoom

April 30 – Arbor Day



May 6 – CMC Board Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm

May 9 – Mother's Day



May 15 – Armed Forces Day

May 20 – CMC Monthly Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm

May 31 – Memorial Day

June 10-13 – BPW/PA 101st Annual State Convention via Zoom

Save The Date

Sunday, December 5, 2021 - BINGO! This is our fund raising event for our two scholarships for the Montgomery County Community College. At Maggiano's. More information to come later.

Important Websites:

- Pennsylvania Business and Professional Women's Clubs – www.bpwpa.org
- Central Montgomery County BPW – www.centralmontgomerycountybpw.org
- Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce – www.montgomerycountychamber.org
- The Patch – patch.com/Pennsylvania/Norristown
- Benefit Mobile App – www.benefit-mobile.com
- Twilight Wish Foundation – twilightwish.org