



The Banner

Central Montgomery County Business and Professional Women's Club
Volume XCV – September 2021

Next Meeting – Thursday, September 16, 2021
via Zoom at 7:00 pm – Details to follow

***Central
Montgomery
County
BPW Officers
2021 – 2022***

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Ginny Bailey

Vice President

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Recording

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Secretary

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President's Message:

Dear CMC BPW Members,

Since the beginning of September, there have been tributes and memorials for the 20th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001 and people on social media have shared their stories about their memories of that day. I could sit here and tell you about my memory of September 11th but I prefer to tell you about my memories of the days that followed. Unlike today, when the country seems so divisive, we all came together to celebrate each other and our differences.

One of the best examples of that occurred on September 20th when my niece Katie and I attended the first Flyers pre-season game since 9/11. After convincing my Mom we would be safe, we went down to the (then) First Union Center and as we entered the building were given small American flags. The game against the New York Rangers proceeded normally (well, as normally as it can be when two rivals play each other) for the first 2 periods and at the end of the second period, the game was tied 2-2.

Before the start of the third period, the attendance was announced at over 14,000 and instead of the usual between the period activities, one of the news channels was put on the jumbo screen right before President Bush's address to the nation. The players came out of their dressing rooms and were skating around but when the news feed was cut off to start the third period, the crowd booed and demanding the president's speech be aired instead.

Once President Bush began his speech, the arena became very quiet. Not the normal crowd response at a hockey game. It was the first time President Bush had addressed the nation since the terrorist attacks and everyone – spectators and players – wanted to hear what he had to say. The president mentioned that the number of those killed, injured or missing was estimated at over 14,000 and it hit me how instead of a vague number, all I had to do was look around the arena to imagine the faces of the victims. We cheered and waved our flags when the president talked about the bravery and courage of Todd Beamer and the other passengers of Flight 93, the firefighters and police officers who ran into the twin towers when everyone else was trying to get out, and the stories of selflessness of people helping each other in a time of crisis. If it had been any other team but the New York Rangers, I don't think the speech would have made such an impact. It

involved two of the three states where the terrorist attacks took place.

When the speech was over, the players no longer wished to continue the third period so they shook hands like they would after a playoff series, left the ice and ended the game – still a 2-2 tie. When asked why the players stopped the game, then Flyers defenseman Chris Therien said, “It would’ve been the most meaningless 20 minutes in the history of sports.” Colin Newby from Broad Street Buzz wrote, “Fans from Philadelphia didn’t need to cheer for the Flyers at that moment, and fans from New York didn’t need to cheer for the Rangers either. They were unified as Americans in a way that might never be replicated in the future of professional sports.”

I’m sharing this experience with you to show that if two of the most bitter rivals in NHL history, the Philadelphia Flyers and New York Rangers, could forget their differences for one night, we should all be able to look past our differences and disagreements in the face of the current pandemic crisis and heal this divided nation.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer!
Ginny

Meetings at Maggiano’s

At the September Board Meeting on September 2nd, it was decided that because Montgomery County has been in the substantial level of Covid community transmissions since early August and for the protection of our members, **our meeting on Thursday, September 16th will be via Zoom.**

After speaking with Maggiano’s, we agreed to keep the rest of our dinner meeting dates reserved according to our contract and CMC will be making the decision to hold our meetings in-person or via Zoom on a month-to-month basis at our Board Meetings. That way we can give Maggiano's 2-weeks notice on our intent and, if we choose to cancel, it gives them time to find another event.

This was not an easy decision to make and we took into consideration our members with health issues, taking care of elderly parents or small children. Our goal is to keep everyone safe and healthy until we can meet again in-person.

September Monthly Meeting



Our Zoom meeting on September 16th will feature Krissy Freeman from Montgomery County Community College. In addition to hearing about what’s going on at the College, Krissy will virtually accept CMC’s scholarship check. While we were hoping to meet in person, everyone will be invited to participate in “Member Milestones” – a “brag and drag” without having to pay a dollar. This is strictly voluntary but maybe you have a big event or milestone you’d like to share with the members. Past President Nancy Werner will also conduct the installation of the 2021-2022 CMC Officers.

Fall District Meeting

District Eleven’s Fall District Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 23rd at Andy’s Diner & Pub, 505 West Ridge Pike, Conshohocken, PA. Registration will begin at 8:00 am with breakfast being served at 8:15 am. The annual District Memorial Service will be conducted at 9:00 am followed by the business meeting. Cost for the meeting is \$21 which includes \$18 for breakfast and \$3 registration. If you are interested in attending, please let Treasurer Noreen know by October 11th.

Fall District Meeting is open to **ALL** members and 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.



Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and our need for social distancing, Central Montgomery County BPW meet via Zoom in September.

The CMC Board will discuss the feasibility of meeting in-person each month and will make a decision on a month-to-month basis.

State Theme:

May Your Dreams Take Flight

District Theme:

Just Be

CMC Theme:

**With the right words,
you can change the world.**

Honoring Her Dad



"As a child, Josephine Smith often told her dad she would be fighting fires right beside him when she grew up. It was her lifelong passion. But, that day never happened. Her father, Kevin Smith, a 23-year veteran of the FDNY and a charter member of its Hazardous Materials Company 1 (HAZMAT), was one of the 343 FDNY members who perished after responding to the September 11, 2001

attacks on the World Trade Center.

FDNY HAZMAT shares their quarters with Squad 288 in Maspeth, Queens, and the two units work closely with one another. They lost a combined 19 men (11 from HAZMAT) on 9/11, which was the greatest number of firefighters lost from a single firehouse that day. At the time of the attacks, HAZMAT had 39 members (four officers and 35 firefighters). A total of 51 children were left fatherless when the firefighters of HAZMAT and Squad 288 lost their lives while saving others. Kevin, who earlier in life served as a corporal in the United States Marine Corps, was the father of eight.

Josephine was 21 years old when she lost her dad. But, her desire to follow in his footsteps never abated. In fact, after 9/11, Josephine became even more driven to fulfill her dream of being a member of the FDNY. Fast forward 13 years and the promise she made to her dad was fulfilled. In November of 2014, after 18 weeks of intense, vigorous training, Josephine graduated from the Fire Academy and became the first daughter of a fallen 9/11 responder to join the ranks of the FDNY. Today, Josephine is the lone female firefighter in the FDNY's Engine 39 Ladder 16 located on the upper east side of Manhattan. She epitomizes what the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation's StandTall mantra represents. Josephine is devoted to a life of putting service before self. Not only does she honor her father each day she puts on the uniform, she's serves as a tremendous role model, encouraging and inspiring women interested in becoming firefighters to follow their dreams."

Posted by A Mighty Girl, September 11, 2021

"Our first teacher is our own heart." ~ Cheyenne

BPW/PA State Project – Girls on the Run



Girls on the Run (GOTR) is excited to announce they are hosting LUNAFEST film festival on September 25th! Join them at the Venice Island Performing Arts Recreation Center for socializing, raffle prizes, and the screening of short films made by and about women. Claim your spot for \$25 at <https://www.gotrphiladelphia.org/lunafest>.

What is LUNAFEST? It is a fundraising film festival dedicated to promoting awareness about women's issues, highlighting women filmmakers, and bringing women together in their communities. By hosting this event, GOTR Philadelphia will support women in film while raising funds to empower girls here in Philadelphia!

We'll have a brief introduction to Girls on the Run at our September meeting.

Standing and Special Committee Reports

In order to conduct our Zoom meetings in a timely manner, President Ginny 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.

Legislation – Cheryl Decoteaux

Our President Ginny had shared this in an email to a few of us and I wanted all of you to be aware of this Petition and encourage everyone to sign it through the Link below.



Petition: Advance the Family Care Act out of the Labor & Industry Committee

The Family Care Act would establish a paid family and medical leave insurance program accessible to all working Pennsylvanians. Yet since being referred to the PA Senate Labor & Industry Committee in May 2021, the Committee has not called up SB 580 for a vote.

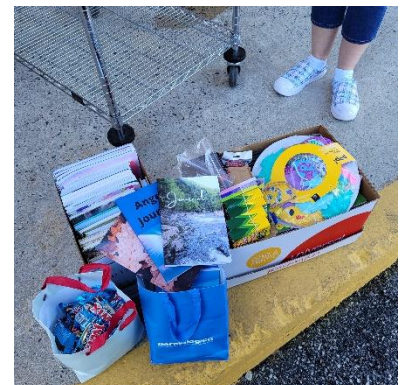
Sign this petition to demand a vote to advance the Family Care Act out of committee. Caring for yourself or a loved one in the wake of a serious medical concern isn't an issue that can afford to wait -- working Pennsylvanians need paid leave NOW. Copy and paste the link to sign the petition: <https://p2a.co/Jg9kQcu>

Joining Forces – Maura (Mo) Gillen

Quick “Ding, Dong, Dash” at Mary Walker House this month!

It takes a village (or a bunch of women)!

Here's how our drop off on September 2nd came together: As chair of the CMC BPW's Joining Forces for Women Veterans program, I had mentioned to others that I would be going out to Coatesville on September 2 (my turn to pick up our community veggies from the farm out there). I thought maybe I could pay a visit to the Mary Walker House. I would love to have visited or sent something in conjunction with Women's Equality Day in August, but alas, the calendar did not support me.



I then learned that CMC BPW Past President Nancy Werner had received a LARGE box of crafts from Emily Holgash, BPW/PA president in 2015-2016, who had Mary Walker House as her state project during her tenure (BPW PA donated more than \$12,000 to MWH that year!). That box was delivered to Nancy by Joanne Hogue of the Cresson BPW, in District 5. Nancy passed the crafts and a whole bunch of journals (including some very nice self-published journals with original photo covers from Nancy's hairdresser!) to me at the District 11 Fall Meeting at Maggiano's.



Then Becky received a very generous \$50 gift card from the Target in Plymouth Meeting to be used for the MWH ladies, and she snagged some Twix bars and fruit and nut packets. She was able to meet up with me on Tuesday in Neshaminy and make that transfer.

I had been in contact with Jackie DeGeso, clinical supervisor for both Walker House and LZ II (the men's program) and learned that MWH was on quarantine due to a staff member testing positive for COVID! So we VERY

CAREFULLY planned the quickest possible drop off that Thursday morning! The sneakers and arms you see are of the Resident Assistant "Tina" who was able to meet me at the loading dock and whisk all the goodies away.

For all the moving parts and pieces, the delivery went very smoothly.

As much as we miss the ladies and look forward to getting together in person one day soon, they know we are thinking of them! There are twelve ladies in residence there now – please do keep them in your thoughts. And mark your calendars for our November meeting, when we will hear from the chairman of the board of a similar program, Haven Women, in Philadelphia. (Fun coincidence – Cheryl Decoteaux and I were able to meet some of the Haven residents while attending a retreat for Women Veterans at Cranleith Spiritual Center last week – it's a small world!)

Foundation – Nancy Werner

Green Project – We are still collecting used medicine vials. If you have a quantity and would like to get them to Nancy sooner than later, give her an email or call. Nancy will make arrangements to come and retrieve them. Nancy has contacted the company in Cincinnati, Ohio and they are still in business and would welcome what containers that we can send them. Thank you.

Public Relations – Becky Shoulberg

Everyone can participate in PR by talking about why you are a BPW member and inviting other women to come to a meeting. Be sure to steer people to our Facebook and website at:
Central Montgomery County BPW.

Ways and Means – Becky Shoulberg

Monthly raffles will support our guest speaker's non profit organizations. When this is not applicable, at board we will designate a community program we normally donate to (Patrician Society, Laurel House, Vet Center, MWH, etc) . We will do raffles when we Zoom. People can make a pledge and we will keep a tab.

Save the date! Bingo for MCCC scholarships is December 5th 1-4 PM at Maggiano's! More deets will be announced at October meeting)

Website Coordinator – Becky Shoulberg

Jacqui, Becky and Mo are looking into new free formats Squarespace offers. We love free!



District Eleven PPD Workshop

District Eleven will be holding a session of BPW/PA's new Personal and Professional Development Workshop to be held at Caitlyn and Cody's Diner and Restaurant in Quakertown on Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 7:30 am to 4 pm. Cost is \$34 which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon break and all workshop materials. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let us know. Sheryl Nierenberg, MSM, creator of this PPDW, will be the Workshop Facilitator for the day.

To register, please make you check payable to BPW/District 11, write "PPD Workshop" on the memo line and mail to District 11 PPDW, P.O. Box 744, Blue Bell, PA 19422-9998.

Happy Birthday to our Members!



March

Norma Zarfoss – September 20

Ana Ferreira – September 23

Dates to Remember

September 16 – CMC Monthly Meeting via Zoom

September 22 – First Day of Fall



October 7 – CMC Board Meeting via Zoom

October 16 – Personal and Professional Development Workshop, Caitlyn & Cody's Diner, Quakertown

October 19 – CMC Monthly Meeting

NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE

October 23 – Fall District Meeting
Andy's Diner & Pub, Conshohocken, PA

Save The Dates

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