

Berkshire Business & Professional Women



November 2018

Don't forget to exercise your right to vote...

It's been an eventful 2 years, and you're determined to #RememberInNovember, we encourage you to join us November 5th for this non-partisan discussion led by Andrea Sholler, President of The Central Berkshire League of Women Voters, to discuss the abundant items on the ballot for Massachusetts' November 6th election.

The Central Berkshire League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan grassroots organization that aims to encourage, inform and mobilize the participation of citizens in government. The League works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Andrea Sholler currently serves as the President of the Central Berkshire chapter, and during the League's first year in operation, served as the Chair of the Legislative Caucus and worked with members of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters and other civic organizations to bring Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) to Massachusetts. AVR was signed into law in 2018 and should be fully implemented in time for the 2020 election.

The next meeting will take place the day before the election, so the timing is perfect! Don't miss it!

Next meeting...

November 5, 2018

- **5:30 - 7:30 PM Dinner & Networking, Cash Bar**
- **Patrick's Pub, 26 Bank Row, Pittsfield, MA Monday,**
- **Registration Deadline: November 1st**
- **Speaker—Andrea Sholler**

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NFBPWC Virtual: Election FYI: Midterms, Proposals, Governors, Oh My!

- When: 25 Oct 2018 7:30 PM
- Where: Virtual Webinar

It's that important year when a change in leadership will change everything that happens in our city, state, and country. Some important proposals will be voted on. Some states will pick a new governor or keep their incumbent. Even a few congressional seats are up for grabs. Yet, not as many people participate in the midterm elections as they do in the presidential ones. So, why does this happen and what are we doing to increase voter turnout? The event is free and open to all interested.

- Join by phone - Call US Toll Number:(530) 881-1212; Enter Meeting ID:155-373-584
- Join on your computer and use your computers audio by entering the following URL in your browser:
- Meeting Wall URL: <http://www.startmeeting.com/wall/155-373-584>
- Use * 6 to mute or unmute your line.
- For Start Meeting 24/7 customer service please call (800) 644-9070
- For more information or any questions concerning NFBPWC Virtual please contact President Carol Comito at ccbpw@aol.com



Donna Haight

October Meeting Highlights The Women's Fund of Western Mass

Thanks to Donna Haight, CEO of the Women's Fund of Western Mass, for serving as our October keynote speaker. Donna highlighted the many programs of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, which strives to create a climate of economic empowerment. Donna said, in our society, gender powerfully affects experience and opportunity. She added, The Women's Fund believes that investing in strategic collaborations on behalf of women is the most powerful way to build a sustainable movement for gender equity.

Among the programs that Donna discussed was The Women's Fund's Leadership Institute for Political and Public Impact, or LIPPI. It is a non-partisan initiative that provides women with the tools, mentors, and confidence they need to become our region's community leaders and elected officials. LIPPI trains women in the nuts and bolts of impacting policy from a citizen perspective, and develops leadership confidence through eleven intensive workshops held in downtown Springfield over ten months. Donna noted that several Berkshire County women have taken advantage of the program and benefited from it.

Another program outlined was the Young Women's Initiative, YWAC, which consists of up to 20 young women, ages 14-24. Through a leadership development program and mentoring relationships with adult Steering Committee members, these young leaders will investigate barriers, explore solutions, and make recommendations for change in their community. The YWAC forms task forces to implement projects in partnership with community organizations in western Massachusetts. Participants are encouraged to share their knowledge with school and peer communities by launching clubs or hosting workshops.

Donna also outlined her path to her current position as well as the history of the formation of the Women's Fund. Again, thanks to Donna for taking time to be with us during our October business meeting.



**October Business Meeting
at Mazzeo's Ristorante**

NEW - MEMBER SPOTLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

As a benefit to being a member of Berkshire Business and Professional Women, we are providing members with a couple of opportunities to showcase their businesses.

NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT – Each month, one member will be selected to briefly spotlight her business or organization in our newsletter.

NETWORKING DINNER SHOWCASE – At selected monthly dinner meetings, 1 or 2 members will have the opportunity to set-up a showcase table for her business or organization. We are asking for a \$15 donation to our Scholarship Fund when selected for this opportunity.

Please e-mail Donna Collins, VP Membership at bbpw.membership@gmail.com if you are interested in pursuing a MEMBER SPOTLIGHT OPPORTUNITY.

Congratulations to member Karen O'Donnell**Professional Certified Coach from Richmond Delivers Program at 17th Annual Women Leaders in Healthcare Conference**

Local professional certified coach, Karen O'Donnell (PCC) addressed over 300 healthcare attendees at the 17th Annual Women Leaders in Healthcare Conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Thursday, September 27, in Framingham, MA. Karen, a Richmond resident, discussed *Mastering the Art of Non-Verbal Communication*.



The Women Leaders in Healthcare Conference strives to enhance the learning and development of health professionals across the region. MHA's Annual Women's Conference is a power-packed day consisting of sessions created to help participants achieve success at any level of their career through programming, career support, and networking.

A professional, accredited coach and consultant, Karen O'Donnell helped participants at the Conference with background understanding of body language, how to notice clusters of non-verbal communication, and launched many into their own explorations of how to work with body language effectively as healthcare leaders.

Karen O'Donnell is a long-time resident of Richmond, MA and a certified coach and HR professional. She worked at GE Plastics and other GE divisions before launching her coaching business here in the Berkshires in 2013. She works with multiple clients in Berkshire County and across Massachusetts, CT, NY, and RI.

To learn more about Karen O'Donnell visit www.autonomyllc.com and LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/in/autonomyllc. To learn more about the MHA, visit <https://www.mhalink.org/>.



Berkshire BPW

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING
ONE OF OUR
BERKSHIRE BPW COMMITTEES**

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 Kiely at bbpwnewsletter@gmail.com by the 10th of the month.

Membership Committee: Donna Collins, Chair
Bbpwmembers@gmail.com and joinbbpw@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: Shela Hidalgo and Sopheap Nhim, Co-chairs
bbpwprograms@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: Christine Carpenter, Chair
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 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.

Scholarship Committee: June Roy-Martin, Chair
juneroy0417@gmail.com

June is seeking members to serve on her Committee.

Works to recruit applicants and select recipients of the Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to working women continuing their education.

Nominating Committee: Kim Baker and Sharon Connors, Co-chairs

The committee finds and presents the selected board members. The committee assists in filling the various committees.

OUR MISSION :

To promote full participation, equity, and economic self-sufficiency

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www.berkshirebpw.org

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