LEBANON COUNTY
Commission for Women

Annual Hall of Fame Luncheon & Awards Celebration

March 27, 2019

HONORING OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF LEBANON COUNTY

Ali Mailen Perrotto,
LCCFW Chair

Lebanon County Commission for Women

Welcome

Dear friends,

This is the time to invest in women and girls. Last year the Lebanon County Commission for Women witnessed dynamic displays of wit, might, bravery, and creativity by our sisters in the community. We are celebrating another successful year of community engagement through the Glass Slipper Project and the joy that comes with honoring a new class of outstanding hidden heroes through the Women's Hall of Fame.

We saw unprecedented growth in programs like Girls on the Run and Heart & Soul. Our commission members love to cheer on the young women in these programs across the county as they explore friendships, build confidence, push their limits, and test new boundaries. Trying new things takes courage, but with great risk comes great reward.

We too are expanding our horizons. Lebanon County is growing in diversity of culture, language, and backgrounds. The Commission strives to grow with it. We have added outreach activities at the Latino Health Fair, and developed surveys in both English and Spanish to gather better information about the needs and experiences of women and girls in our community. We launched a new Community Action Grant program so that we too can invest.

As we look to the future, we know the value of building opportunities for celebration, connection, and support for women. Be on the look out for our "Sheroes" Celebration event in fall of 2019, and consider ways that you can be a part of the change we're fostering.

Warmly,

Ali Mailen Perrotto

LCCFW Chair

About Us

LEBANON COUNTY
Commission for Women

The Lebanon County Commission for Women was established in 2003, by the Lebanon County Commissioners. It serves as a conduit to them on issues of concern to women in Lebanon County. The mission of the Commission is to promote awareness, be a catalyst for change and facilitate action in matters pertaining to women and their families.

Lebanon County Commission for Women

OFFICERS:

Alissa Mailen Perrotto, Chair
Jody Lazorcik, Vice-Chair
Brooke Smith, Secretary
Angela Shea, Treasurer
Gina Boehler
Roberta Brummel
Amanda Davis-Buie
Ann Decker
Laurie Funk
Linda Jackson
Leigh Hitz-Miller
Emmily Longenecker
Yesiann de la Torre Matos
Nicole Maurer
Elizabeth Muhiire-Ntaki, M.D.
Erin Velazquez
Donna Williams
Beth Wise
Becky Witherite
Jane Schott Yorty

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sherry Capello
Robert J. Phillips, Commissioner Liaison

Hall of Fame Pin

Our inductees will receive a Hall of Fame pin. It is an original work of art created by local artist, and past HOF award recipient, Yasmin Brown. Each pin is an original handcrafted, one of a kind creation that is as unique as the individual receiving it.

The pin base is made of multicolored dichroic glass. This type of media provides different ways to create a unique play of colors on each pin. The uniqueness of the base symbolizes the uniqueness of the award recipient.

The feminine image on the pin represents three characteristics of the recipients. The base of the image is the shape of a diamond which represents the solid foundation of the recipient. The raised arms represent the innate strength of the recipient. The heart shape of the reaching arms represents the recipient's warmth and caring.

Nominations can be made year-round.
Visit lebcounty.org/womens_commission for a nomination form and submit your form to: c4whof@gmail.com

Luncheon Agenda

10:45 am	Registration
11:30 am	Welcome – Alissa Mailen Perrotto, Commission Chair
	Invocation – Chaplain Dean Luther
	Lunch Served
12:00 pm	Opening Remarks – Bev Heishman
	Introduction of inductees – Alicia Richards
	Closing Remarks – Becky Witherite

Today, we honor women who make
a difference in our community.
Often, these women go unrecognized,
and when recognized, soon forgotten.

Each of these individuals contributes to
the history in Lebanon County.

Since our inception, we have been both
researching and recording women's history,
then posting it to our web page listed in this program.

We began recording short interviews a few years ago.
These short interviews with each of our honorees
preserves their place in history.

Mistress of Ceremonies

Alicia Richards

@arichardsabc27

Alicia Richards co-anchors ABC27's 5:00, 6:00 & 11:00 p.m. newscasts. She also does special reporting throughout the year. Most recently, Alicia is focused on the opioid crisis. In her weekly reports, she reveals not only how the epidemic destroys families, but on solutions.

When Alicia turned her attention to domestic violence, she won an Emmy award after revealing that Pennsylvania does not track how judges rule in these cases.

Alicia traveled to Kosovo to report on the Pennsylvania National Guard's peacekeeping efforts. She accompanied heart specialists from Penn State Hershey Medical Center on a life-saving medical mission to Ecuador. She covered the 2016 Democratic National Convention and the 2000 Republican National Convention – both in Philadelphia. She interviewed Hillary Clinton in Harrisburg and was there as Central Pennsylvanians poured into Washington for the Ronald Reagan Memorial.

Alicia spent a decade advocating for breast cancer awareness. Her Buddy Check 27 series won two Pennsylvania Association of Broadcaster awards and she and her mother Karen appeared in public service announcements promoting the importance of early detection. In addition, Alicia was awarded a first place Associated Press award for "Lori's Story," a moving 10-part series on a local woman's determined battle against breast cancer.

Alicia takes great pride in her extensive involvement with the Central Pennsylvania community through regular speaking engagements.

Travel is one of her primary interests. With her family, she has gone on safari in Africa and has been to Egypt, Russia, Argentina and throughout Europe. Alicia has an English cocker spaniel named Lily.

Thank You

–VIDEO INTERVIEWS –

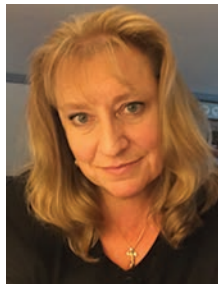
Thank you
Cedar Crest Media Class & Chris Schwalm

The video interviews for this year's Hall of Fame inductions were made by the Cedar Crest High School video production class as their semester project. The class is photographed, above, and led by their instructor Chris Schwalm, who created the video production program. He is the first place recipient of the Student Television Network National Advisors Video Production Award. He was unable to be with us today as he is currently accompanying his students to a National Video Production Convention competition in Seattle Washington. We wish Chris and his students the best of luck and thank them for their wonderful tributes!

Women Promoting Agriculture

GRETCHEN L. OBERST

Nominator – Debra Tice



Gretchen Oberst lives the motto of the FFA (Future Farmers of America) daily. She is in her 36th year of teaching Agricultural Education at Northern Lebanon High School and is well-loved by many past and present students. Teaching agriculture has allowed her to take something that she is passionate about and use it to inspire her students to achieve their goals.

She has always done her best to be a good role model for her students and her greatest joy is to see them succeed after graduation. Several years ago, one of her students was even chosen as the National FFA President, the highest office an FFA member can achieve. Another student has become an Agricultural Education teacher and now teaches alongside Gretchen at Northern Lebanon.

When Gretchen was hired, there were very few females teaching agricultural courses and she met a lot of opposition. She continued to forge ahead and has made the Northern Lebanon FFA and Agricultural Department something of which to be proud. Happily, females now make up more than half of the Ag teachers in Pennsylvania. There are only two females teaching Ag in Pennsylvania longer than her.

When she began teaching at Northern Lebanon, there were about 45 students in the program with one teacher. Now, they have 188 students and two teachers. Since her tenure, they have made significant improvements to the Ag facilities at the school. Gretchen was even a finalist in 2008 for PA Teacher of the Year.

She has served on several committees state-wide representing Agricultural Education. In addition, Gretchen has presented workshops on integrating Animals into Curriculum and How to Train a Parliamentary Procedure Team.

One of her favorite activities is working with the Parliamentary Procedure Team. She has had several teams go to the national contest, held annually at the National FFA Convention. She loves sharing her passion about the FFA with others. The FFA responds to requests to provide a variety of presentations to the elementary schools, as well as others in the community. She is even the co-chair of the FFA State Scrapbook Contest. In addition, Gretchen is a board member of the Lebanon County Fair.

Gretchen carries her love of agriculture to her home life. She lives on a 22-acre farm where she has a small herd of beef cows, a small flock of breeding sheep, and a few chickens. Yes, she does indeed live the motto of the FFA daily, and her students and our community reap the benefits of her dedication.

"I believe in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words but of deeds." – E.M. Tiffany

Women Contributing to the Arts

RENEE KRIZAN

Nominators: David Bronstein, D.O., M.A.C.O.I.; Larry Sheaf; and Joseph Giardina

Renee Krizan truly lives theatre. She caught the "theatre bug" during her first play in the 5th grade and her passion for it never waned. She is well known in the local and regional theatre world, and theatre companies know that they can rely on her for assistance when they ask. She began her theatrical journey by making significant contributions to the Lebanon Community Theatre (LCT). She volunteered at LCT by managing the box office for many years in addition to working every aspect of running a theatre including acting, directing, set construction, costuming, and serving as an Artistic Director.

Renee has been involved with other theatre and art groups, as well. Along with a partner, she founded her own independent theatre company, RK Productions, in which she produced family friendly productions at various venues in the county. She maintains a seat on the Artistic Directors committee of the Hershey Area Playhouse where she directed several shows, including their inaugural play. Renee previously held a Board seat on the Lebanon Valley Council on the Arts, which she continues to support. She even taught summer kids camps for Penn State Kids College.

However, it was her relationship with Gretna Theatre where Renee accomplished considerable achievements. Her approximately 20-year association at Gretna Theatre began as a volunteer where she created the Children's Series of Saturday events and other programs. She gave youth an opportunity to learn the craft of theatre, and she formally mentored high school students who aspired to careers in the arts. She was hired full-time in 2002, and became a consummate administrator, first as Development Director, where under her chairmanship, two fundraising galas broke gross profit records. She then moved to the position of Associate Artistic Director, which she skillfully held from 2005-2019.

During her tenure at Gretna Theatre, Renee wore many hats and her initiatives have enhanced Lebanon County and Gretna Theatre greatly. She was instrumental in writing grants to support its Educational Outreach touring theatrical program. While at the helm of the Outreach program, Renee developed scripts that presented American Heroes in schools. Some students in the schools were exposed to the performing arts for the first time. Expanding on the Educational Outreach, Renee developed a program for retirement communities. Also, she negotiated a partnership to bring the Kids' Series to Coleman's Memorial Park for free. She added performing arts to the Mt. Gretna Art Show. In addition, she partnered with local historical societies to hold public showings of the touring outreach show.

Renee is truly a Renaissance Woman of theatre and has positively impacted many lives. She is most proud of having directed actors at Gretna Theatre who have made it to Broadway; as well as having exposed the youth of our community to the performing arts, an exposure which led her to embrace the arts as part of her own life.

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being." – Thornton Wilder

Women Advocating Athletics

ERIN ULRICH, MS, LAT, ATC

Nominator – Joseph Murphy PhD, ATC, LAT

Erin Ulrich has been making a positive difference in young athletes' lives for quite some time, first as a Head Athletic Trainer for various entities, and currently as the Clinical Education Coordinator for the Athletic Training Program at Lebanon Valley College (LVC). There is no stopping her desire to improve health and care for student athletes.

She began her career by serving as the Head Athletic Trainer at Valley Forge Military Academy. She then became the Head Athletic Trainer at Lebanon High School. Erin excelled in this setting, providing outstanding care for the under-served student athletes.

In 2010, Erin was hired as the first female Head Athletic Trainer at LVC. This is where she truly shined. Erin and one other colleague were responsible for providing healthcare for over 500 athletes and 22 NCAA Division III sports. She also became a non-physician faculty member at the Penn State School of Medicine, educating sports medicine fellowship physicians. In addition, Erin served as an adjunct instructor for the Physical Therapy Program at LVC. She developed the "return to learn" protocol for student athletes who sustain concussions, and she has been the co-author on peer-reviewed published presentations.

In 2015, Erin began her new role at LVC, and one of her biggest accomplishments, by developing the Athletic Training Clinical Education program and associated clinical placement sites for its students. She was able to secure clinical affiliation agreements with five of the six Lebanon County public school districts. Erin's desire is for LVC's students to learn to care for the health of local student athletes, which has the potential to have lasting positive health outcomes.

Erin is passionate about wellness. She has collaborated with LVC Health Professions students, WellSpan, and the Lebanon YMCA to hold an annual six-week program called "A Stronger You"; has partnered with Lebanon Family Health Services to provide concussion education, as well as a unit called "Exercise Away from Home" for diabetes education; and has organized LVC Health Professions students to lead two community Wellness Walks.

Also, she volunteers on committees at LVC, including one to assist students in crisis. On top of being a busy parent, Erin is enrolled in the Doctor of Health Science program, with a 3.973 GPA.

Erin's professionalism, work ethic, and compassion make her an ideal role model. Her office is always alive with students seeking advice. Erin's endeavors over the years have focused on one thing – to make a difference in improving the lives of the people of Lebanon County.

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall

Women Creating Community

JENNIFER BOWER

Nominator: Cindy Heisey

Jennifer Bower does not hesitate before helping others. Once she committed herself to giving back to the community, she became a whirlwind of energy. Her first endeavor started with a chance encounter with Mayor Sherry Capello. One Saturday morning while at their Dominos franchise, Jennifer and her husband, John, noticed the Mayor sweeping the downtown sidewalks. They immediately pitched in to help on that day, as well as many other Saturdays. Those work details were a catalyst for property pride which caught on to others in the downtown community.

Jennifer is a very active and hard worker in the Community of Lebanon Association. She contributes many hours of work at downtown events. She is a member of the Image and Beautification Committee and can be found weeding, planting flowers, picking up trash, and painting. She volunteers every night at Holiday Lights in the Park and served as the Volunteer Coordinator this past year. She orchestrates the registration for the Lebanon Holiday Parade, operates a children's booth at the Holiday Festival, and assists with the community tree assembly, as well as the tree lighting event. She operates the food booth for the Lebanon Octoberfest. She handles the registration for the Lebanon Classic Car Show. She volunteers at the Downtown Beach Party, Trunk or Treat, and the Cherry Pie Festival. If there is an event downtown, Jennifer will be there, working to bring the community together.

Somehow, Jennifer finds time to help other organizations, too. She is the Co-Chair of the Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center's Lebanon Community Council. She is involved with their fundraising and is a member of the Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes Committee. Also, Jennifer volunteers in the Cornwall-Lebanon School District. She was an active member of the Cornwall Elementary PTO and chaired the food section for the school's carnival. In addition, she helped with her daughter's Girl Scout Troop. Currently, she is a member of the Cedar Crest Middle School Music Aides.

Her sense of community extends to her church. Jennifer is part of the St. Cecilia's crew that prepares the summer festival dinners and helps with their famous fastnacht sale.

When asked what makes her tick, Jennifer said that she just wants to do her part to make people happy. She wants to be a good role model for her children, teaching them that giving back is an essential part of living in a community. She is a driven and caring person who does all she can to bring her community together for the happiness of all.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." – Anne Frank

Women Creating Community

JAN WESSELL

Nominator: Donna Williams

Jan Wessell is committed to helping individuals and families in the community. She has provided invaluable assistance as a volunteer extraordinaire to two different human service agencies, Support Connections of Lebanon County, Inc. (SCLC) and Lebanon Family Health Services (LFHS). Her contributions over the past several years represent significant personal sacrifice.

She is one of the founding members of SCLC, formerly known as the Circles Program. SCLC is an anti-poverty program working to help low-income families make progress in their journey towards self-sufficiency. In addition to being the secretary of the board and volunteering on a weekly basis, Jan pursued her passion for healthcare access for low-income families. This connected her to LFHS at a time when they were expanding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance program. Both organizations continue to be impressed with her intelligence and her dedication to assist those living in poverty.

A few years ago, both SCLC and LFHS undertook major initiatives and Jan was invaluable to the success of each. SCLC was awarded a United Way community needs impact grant and then began the process of expansion from one location in Palmyra to an additional location in downtown Lebanon. Jan was actively involved, beyond her usual 30 hours a month commitment, by establishing new connections and creating new promotional materials. At the same time, LFHS was awarded a national grant to do health insurance enrollment. Jan immediately took the opportunity to become a Certified Application Counselor (CAC) which was 20+ hours long training.

Volunteering over 20 hours per week, Jan was the primary enrollment specialist on the LFHS team. On her own time, Jan participated in webinars, attended conferences, and read endless articles to become a more skilled application counselor. Back at SCLC's weekly meetings, Jan shared what she learned with program participants to help them better understand their healthcare options. Jan genuinely cares about people and will do whatever it takes to help them.

Jan has worked tirelessly to provide ACA enrollment assistance to those in need. It is because of her commitment that countless individuals are now able to access life-saving healthcare. What has she done for others? Quite a lot, actually.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Women Providing Leadership in Education

CINDY VAN AKEN

Nominator: Kathy Snavely

Cindy Van Aken has been metaphorically lighting candles for almost the past two decades as the Family Engagement Coordinator at the Lebanon School District. She bridges the gap between the school and the community for at-risk families as it is difficult for children to learn when they lack basic daily needs. She links those families in need to community agencies and programs to assist with housing, food, and clothing.

Also, Cindy coordinates literacy development for at-risk families. She provides family involvement programs to enhance literacy among the Lebanon School District's diverse population, including family nights out, parental groups, multi-cultural festivals, and drug & alcohol informational events. She even offers individualized programs for at-risk youth during summer vacations since some students require year-round assistance.

In addition, Cindy coordinates with the Child Accounting and Business Office to provide appropriate services to the school's homeless population. Thus, Cindy was the perfect point person to coordinate services to meet the needs of the influx of hundreds of children into the school district following Hurricane Maria. This was a monumental task which Cindy handled with her usual grace under pressure.

Cindy desires all children to value education and strive to meet their goals. She even challenges herself to succeed. She attended Lebanon Valley College as an adult, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a minor in Art History with a 3.8 GPA. Obviously, she wanted to improve upon that because she then received her Masters of Education in English as a Second Language from Turabo University with a 4.0 GPA. Cindy is also a Leadership Lebanon Valley graduate.

When she is not at work, she can still be found lighting candles in other aspects of her life. She has served the mental health and emotional needs of people for many years. She is actively involved with the Halcyon Activity Center as an Executive Board Member and she is a former Compeer Board Member. Cindy previously worked at Philhaven Hospital as Director of Access Services, managing the Care Management Team for clients needing mental health and drug & alcohol treatment. In addition, she worked with a Family Support Group while her husband's military unit was deployed to Iraq. Cindy even finds time to serve on various committees at Cornwall United Methodist Church.

Cindy is an exemplary woman who exudes warmth and compassion. She always chooses to find a ray of light to give hope and assistance to others.

"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." – Eleanor Roosevelt

Women Promoting Healthcare

SUSAN SZYDLOWSKI

Nominator: Holly Dolan

Susan Szydlowski is dedicated to ensuring that everyone has access to affordable health care. When interacting with others, Susan speaks with great passion about the mission of Lebanon Family Health Services, an agency of which she is a board member. She continually demonstrates her knowledge and commitment for health care accessibility.

Susan has been a loyal and active member of the board at LFHS since 2001 and chairs the Outreach Committee where she leads its members in activities that span the county. These activities include being present at numerous health fairs. There, she helps to educate community members about the various services at LFHS. Two months of the year, Susan attends the food distribution programs at Lebanon County Christian Ministries so that patrons know about LFHS services. She hosts two lunches each year to inform key community leaders about LFHS. Also, Susan volunteers for the annual "Farm to Table" event and the semi-annual "STI Walk-In Day". In addition, she attends countless events around the county throughout the year to distribute information about LFHS. When she is not out talking about healthcare services, she is engaging legislators in the importance of access to healthcare, particularly reproductive healthcare.

Beyond promoting LFHS's services, Susan volunteered to become a Certified Application Counselor (CAC) in 2015-2016. This was in order to assist LFHS clients and the community-at-large in enrolling into health insurance through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace and State Medicaid program. This required 20+ hours training and up to 10 hours per week working with clients through the open enrollment season. Through this very challenging task, Susan never complained and was always eager to learn more so that she could better serve her clientele. It was commented by LFHS staff that Susan received the most hugs from clients who were so grateful for her assistance and for the fact that they finally had health insurance.

Susan assisted other organizations, too. Prior to being a board member at LFHS, she was a longtime volunteer with the Girl Scouts of America. In addition, Susan is a passionate music teacher having taught weekly Kindermusik classes.

Throughout all of her work over the years, Susan has never wavered in her in her dedication to make a positive difference in the lives of others. She has done so with unending grace.

"The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers." – Juliette Gordon Low

Women Advocating Justice

PAMELA A. WEISS, ESQUIRE

Nominator: Jannifer Weiss

Pamela Weiss has been setting precedents and inspiring women in Lebanon County for decades. She is the epitome of a strong female role model in her career as an attorney in our community.

She was the first woman lawyer in Lebanon County to practice family law, and the first woman to practice law in the county for longer than two years. Indeed, prior to her retirement, Pamela was an attorney for 40 years, dispensing sage legal advice to her clientele. The law firm was started by her father, and she joined him in practice, along with her brother and sister, to form Weiss, Weiss & Weiss, truly a family business. She carried on the legacy of the firm impeccably. She has a spunk and sparkle that made her clients love her and they were fiercely loyal to her. Even now, her former law firm gets calls requesting her! She was also the first woman to run for Judge in Lebanon County and, although unsuccessful in that endeavor, it opened the door for other women to follow suit.

She has utilized her legal expertise in various venues. Pamela was a Founding Member of the Women in Crisis Rape Center in Lebanon, later becoming the Sexual Assault and Resource Counseling Center. She was an attorney for the Board, pro bono, in excess of 15 years. Pamela was on the Board of the Central PA Legal Aid Association and volunteered there for over 20 years. While at Legal Aid, she represented indigent clients, especially in domestic abuse and protection from abuse cases. All of the work she did for Legal Aid was pro bono. She contributed her time and legal expertise to many for free so that she could promote justice. Pamela served as a Judge for Trial Moot Court Teams in regional and national tournaments. She has always been ready to lend a helping legal hand. When the Vietnamese refugees were at Fort Indiantown Gap in the late 1970's, she assisted in answering their legal questions about getting licenses, certifications, etc.

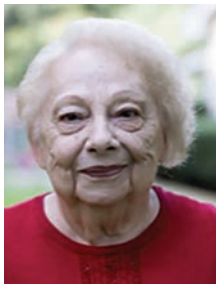
Her passion for empowering women extends to other areas of her life, as well. Pamela was a Girl Scout Leader of Cadets and Seniors in Lebanon County, helping to shape the lives of young ladies. Also, she was on the Board of Trustees for the Central Region of the Girl Scout Council. She is always willing to share her knowledge and experience and has been a speaker at a variety of organizations and events. Pamela has always been an avid traveler and continues to be so in her retirement.

Throughout her career, Pamela has used her yearning for legal justice and her concern for women to help set positive precedents in our community. Present and future generations owe her a debt of gratitude.

"The glory of each generation is to make its own precedents." – Belva Ann Lockwood

GLORIA EBLING

Nominator: Beryl Hoffman and Karen Miller



Gloria Ebling has spent her entire adult life as an active leader in the Myerstown Community and the Lebanon Valley. She has the distinction of being the first elected woman on the Myerstown Borough Council, serving on the council for more than 40 years, and being chosen as the first woman council president. Gloria is currently in her sixth year as the first woman Mayor of Myerstown.

She also serves as the president of the Myerstown Planning Commission. Her duties this past year consisted of planning and executing the celebration of Myerstown's 250th Anniversary. It was quite an undertaking. The events included: a family picnic, banquet, block party, 5K run, chili cook-off, and fireworks - just to name a few. Gloria also helped to organize the memorabilia. These events spanned over several months and were well attended. She even served as Grand Marshall during the holiday parade.

Gloria has been a member of the Women's Club of Myerstown for more than 50 years. She has served in most of the offices, including two terms as club president. In addition, she served two terms as president of the Lebanon County Federation of Women's Clubs. As part of the County Federation, Gloria was instrumental in helping to raise more than $700,000 under the Federation Days Program. Some of the beneficiaries include, but are not limited to, the Lebanon County Firefighter's Association, Burn Building, Youth for Christ Retreat Camp, playground equipment, Renova Center van purchase and wheelchair trail, and Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County Shelter. Gloria stated that she really enjoyed working in the past with Mr. Albert Boscov during Boscov Federation Days.

She has been recognized for her community contributions by the Pennsylvania Borough Association for more than 20 years of outstanding service. Furthermore, she has received an award from the Firefighter's Association for service throughout the year.

Gloria began honing her organizational skills in a working partnership in Ebling's Meat Market while raising five active sons. Now, instead of retiring and taking it easy, she continues to assist others. The past nine years, Gloria has volunteered with On Fire Ministries helping youth in the community. She is a tireless worker doing everything from serving on committees to planting the flower boxes along Main Avenue. She is an excellent role model for young women encouraging them to be active and take on leadership positions in their church and community. Indeed, Gloria has served Myerstown and the Lebanon Valley in an exemplary fashion.

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made...It shouldn't be that women are the exception."
– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

MARGARET WILSON, MSN, RN

Nominator: Douglas A. Etter

Margaret Wilson's calling in life has been to serve and protect our nation and its people. She has done so admirably. Margaret has led an exemplary life of service; first as an officer in the U.S. Navy for approximately 30 years, and then as a senior leader at the US Department of Veterans Affairs for an additional 10 years.

After Margaret retired as a Captain in the United States Navy, she could have chosen to relax and take it easy. After all, following 30 years of active honorable service to our nation and receiving multiple military awards and decorations, she deserved it. Instead, she took a position at the Lebanon VA Medical Center, eventually becoming the Associate Director of Patient Care Services and the Nurse Executive. Margaret is directly responsible for the leadership of six different departments at the hospital: Nursing Services, Nutrition and Food Services, Clinical Education, Chaplain Services, Voluntary Services, and Sterile Processing Services.

Margaret's departments at the hospital directly impact patient care, safety, and satisfaction; thus, making the Lebanon VA Medical Center one of the highest ranked VA medical centers in the nation. Her Sterile Processing Services department was recognized as a Best Practice nationally in 2016. She has demonstrated considerable leadership in health care and policy issues while integrating clinical practice and education. Margaret has established and/or improved professional standards of patient care and practices not only at the Lebanon VA Medical Center, but also within the region and the entire U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Last year, Margaret was designated as the Acting Medical Center Director when the Lebanon Director was assigned to a seven-month temporary duty position. During her tenure, the Lebanon VA Medical Center was voted as one of the best places to work in the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Margaret is often referred to as the conscience of the medical center due to her strong ethical convictions.

When she is not at the Lebanon VA Medical Center, her commitment to serving others continues. She is the President of her church board and has overseen the hiring of a new pastor, as well as renovations in her church. She was the full-time care giver for her mother for two years prior to her mother's passing. In addition, she assists both of her daughters in community service.

Margaret is a woman of courage and integrity. The ripple effect of her leadership and service is impossible to calculate due to the numerous lives she has touched. We salute you, Margaret, and thank you for your service.

"There is no greater gift you can give or receive than to honor your calling. It's why you were born."
– Oprah Winfrey

CINDY HEISEY

Nominators: Nori Fisher and Kimberly Kreider Umble

Cindy Heisey's optimism is readily apparent in all aspects of her life. She was with TempForce for 38 years, being co-owner for 19 years, until her retirement last year. Her integrity and honesty in her everyday work have always been evident throughout the community. Indeed, Cindy received a TempForce Community Service Award in 1998, one of many awards she has received in her lifetime.

She is well known in the Lebanon Valley and her positive outlook has been a driving force on all of the projects and organizations of which she has been a part. She was a founding member of the following: Lebanon County Commission for Women (LCCW) which promotes awareness and action in concerns facing women and their families; Financial Literacy Project which provides education and counseling to get credit on track; LCCW's Glass Slipper Project which provides beautiful $10 prom dresses for high school girls; 100 Women Who Care Project that raised $10,000 for the YMCA Child Care Center; White Scrub Drive to help Nursing Assistant students with uniform requirements; and these very LCCW Women Hall of Fame Awards that recognize hidden heroes in our community (quite apropos).

Cindy has also served on several inaugural steering committees for organizations bringing innovative ideas to our community. Lebanon Christkindl Market raised funds for Coleman Memorial Park. The Mayor's Downtown Lebanon Visioning Project created the Lebanon City Business Improvement District (BID). CLA Holiday Lights in the Park's proceeds benefit Lebanon City residents. In addition, Cindy functioned as the Volunteer Coordinator the first year for that project.

Numerous committees and Boards of Directors have been graced with her presence. This includes the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce where she served as Chair in 2004, only the 4th woman to serve in that position. Cindy was appointed to the State Workforce Investment Board (SCPA Works). She served on search committees for Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon Valley Economic Development Corporation, and the Business Improvement District. All of these are premier business organizations whose leaders are an integral part of the growth and well-being of our community.

Cindy can always be found involved in a project or an event in the Lebanon Valley, all with a smile on her face! Indeed, she has received various awards that include 2013 CLA Business Person of the Year; 2013 Central PA Women of Influence; 2012 LV Chamber Small Business Person of the Year; 2001 Athena Award; and 1999/2000 Lebanon High School Friends of Education Award.

She is definitely a role model for women because she has demonstrated that a successful business person can also maintain a healthy home life. She balances her time impeccably. Cindy possesses all of the qualities for which we should strive: leadership, honesty, integrity, generosity, patience, and caring about people in general. Yes, her optimism and dedication have created wonderful accomplishments.

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement."
– Helen Keller

Writing Women Back Into History

The National Women's History Project Theme for 2019

Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence

The theme for 2019 is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence." This year we honor women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society. These Honorees embraced the fact that the means determine the ends and so developed nonviolent methods to ensure just and peaceful results.

For generations, women have resolved conflicts in their homes, schools, and communities. They have rejected violence as counterproductive and stressed the need to restore respect, establish justice, and reduce the causes of conflict as the surest way to peace. From legal defense and public education to direct action and civil disobedience, women have expanded the American tradition of using inclusive, democratic and active means to reduce violence, achieve peace, and promote the common good.

From women's rights and racial justice to disarmament and gun control, the drive for nonviolent change has been championed by visionary women. These women consciously built supportive, nonviolent alternatives and loving communities as well as advocating change. They have given voice to the unrepresented and hope to victims of violence and those who dream of a peaceful world.

Special Thanks

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CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU to the Hall of Fame inductees for the countless important things that you do to open doors, improve lives and inspire others!

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Special congratulations go to the following women:

Jan Wessell - Women Creating Community
Sue Szydlowski - Women Promoting Healthcare
Cindy Heisey - Trailblazer

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LEBANON COUNTY
Commission for Women

ANNUAL REPORT COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

YEAR IN REVIEW - 2018

We celebrated another successful year of community engagement through the Glass Slipper Project and the joy that comes with honoring a new class of outstanding hidden heroes through the Women's Hall of Fame. We saw unprecedented growth in programs like Girls on the Run and Heart & Soul.

Lebanon County is growing in diversity of culture, language, and backgrounds. The Commission strives to grow with it. We have added outreach activities at the Latino Health Fair, and developed surveys in both English and Spanish to gather better information about the needs and experiences of women and girls in our community. We launched a Community Action Grant program so that we too can invest in the women and girls in the community.

Happenings

Glass Slipper Dress Sale

This year's dress sale was a great success. 158 dresses were sold to local high school students, and over 800 dresses were donated by the community.

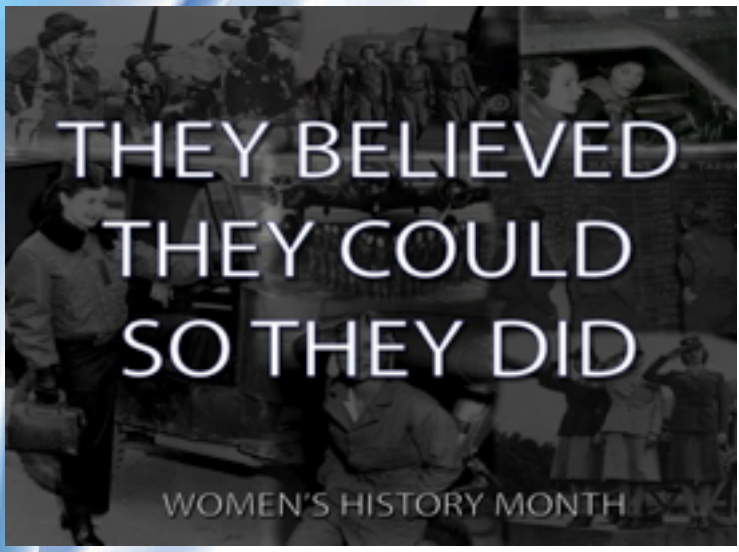
Hall of Fame Luncheon

Despite snowy weather, we honored our 2018 Inductees at the Lebanon Country Club on March 21. Over 40 lunches were donated to the Lebanon Rescue Mission.

Commission members dedicated their time and talents at Girls on the Run 5k events, Glass Slipper Project, United Way Day of Caring, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and Holiday Lights in the Park. Latino Health Fair Commission members tabled at the event, and gathered survey feedback in English and Spanish on Women's needs in the community.

Revenue to support programming comes from our events. Glass Slipper and the Hall of Fame raised over $10,000 last year.

This year's plans are to connect with past and current commission members and Hall of Fame Inductees by joining us at our new "Sheroes" Celebration event! This is a new event sponsored by the Commission for Women. The event will take place on Sunday October 6, 2019 at All About You Catering. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event, and tickets can be reserved by contacting us at lebanonc4w@gmail.com.



LEBANON COUNTY
Commission for Women

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