



ADVOCACY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipient: Professional and Business Women of Rome
Nominated by: Lucille Argenzia

Nominating Statement:

Over the past 12 years, the Professional and Business Women of Rome Chapter have co-hosted community open forums with Lucille Argenzia serving as Moderator of each Forum, at a breakfast meeting co-sponsored with the Rome Chamber of Commerce. Usually, the forums are held during National Business Women's Week. In October 2012, PBWR invited the candidates running for the 22nd Congressional district, to participate in an open forum. Both candidates agreed. There were over 200 attendees at a meeting that began at 07:30 a.m. 91 students attended from nine local schools. Our local PBWR sponsors two high school students attending the forum. Also, the PBWR has an agreement with the Rome Chamber to receive \$1.00 per ticket sold to assist our scholarship fund.

To acquaint the audience with the local PBWR, during the opening remarks, Lucille describes what the Chapter's purpose is, when we meet and invites attendees to join our organization. To ensure the forum runs smoothly, the local PBWR provides the timekeepers, ensure that each table has 3 x 5 cards to write their questions and has the pages collect the questions and people read the questions presented for appropriateness (no personal questions are allowed). This is a joint venture, in a live environment, and has worked extremely well over the past years. Our Chapter receives a great deal of publicity in the local papers and media stations. The candidates begin with opening remarks and have liberty to touch on many topics within the 3 minutes they are provided. The audience submits written questions on a variety of topics pertaining to congressional issues. The students also submit questions concerning school loans, high taxes, and the "local job situation." The juniors and seniors are very concerned about returning to Rome following college graduation due to the current economy and lack of employment. The student questions were as astute as the business owners, board members of several large firms, and others in the audience.

The format used for the forum is: 1) each candidate upon entering draws for starting and ending position; 2) they have 3 minutes for opening remarks; 3) then attendees write their question, raise their hand and a member of PBWR collect the questions; 4) the moderator reads the question to the person identified on the card; 5) the candidate has 3 minutes to respond; 6) the opposition responds with a 3 minute rebuttal; 7) some questions are for both candidates to give their opinions as what should be done depending on what the question is; 8) closing remarks at the end of the hour are 3 minutes each. This past October the audience asked for more time and we allowed an additional 10 minutes. The topics are extremely diverse. The responses were on the topic only.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipient: Mohawk Valley Chapter
Nominated by: Helen Rico

Nominating Statement:

The Mohawk Valley Chapter has partnered with the Oneida, Madison, Herkimer BOCES in the New Hartford, New York area. They have presented two Reality Stores this year (5 overall) to the Oriskany Junior Senior High School students in December 2012 and due to the overwhelming success presented a second program in April 2013 to the Westmoreland School. In each school, they offer two sessions to over 70 students. Students can be from either 9th or 10th grade. Additionally, the members of the Mohawk Valley Chapter solicit sponsorships to man the vendor's tables based upon the vendor's specialty. The vendors volunteers to assist the students on the day of the event and explain to them about their profession. This gives the students first hand information and can easily answer any question the students might have. Outstanding feedback has been received as well as newspaper and television coverage. Plans are being prepared to continue with Richfield Springs School for the Fall of 2013.

Recipient: Richmond County Chapter
Nominated by: Maria Barnas

Nominating Statement:

In an effort to provide a leadership program to the youth of Staten Island, the Richmond County Chapter's mentoring group developed and facilitates a 10-session program for the 12-18 year old participants of the Staten Island Youth Justice Center's Alternative to Detention Program, Project READY. Each week, the youths participate in an interactive session that focuses on:

- 1) Leadership: empowering the youth to use their imagination and creative thinking skills to develop ideas and work independently and as a team. In the first session, they are asked to set goals and create a journey board.
- 2) Service: through service learning projects such as creating holiday cards for deployed members of service, the youth are exposed to the value of service on both a local and global level.
- 3) Empathy: through the mentor's lessons and activities the youth experience the warmth and concern for their well being. Additionally, the youth mirror this kindness when interacting with staff and their peers.
- 4) Life Skills: the youths learn valuable life skills including budgeting, cooking, sewing, job readiness and medical awareness. For example, one of the mentors, a Physician Assistant discusses health issues and each youth completes a wallet size 'medical card' for emergencies.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipient: Yates County Women
Nominated by: Debbie O'Neil

Nominating Statement:

An activity this chapter takes great pride in every year is the Miss Penn Yan contest. It is open to girls from ninth to eleventh grades in Penn Yan local high schools. It is a scholastic contest requiring applicants to be sponsored by local clubs and non-profits in which school and community activities are the basis of consideration of applicants. The top three applicants are chosen after giving a speech about their sponsor club or group as well as a 50 word essay about what they would do if they could run Penn Yan for the day.

Last year we had 13 applicants. This was quite a special group with diverse interests and things they would like to see accomplished in our community. Some of the ideas for projects included community clean-up days and park beautification; working with senior citizens; helping those with low incomes learn to make nutritional, cost effective meals; and counseling on bullying. The 2013 Miss Penn Yan court would also continue the work of the 2012 court in renovating a playground in the community (local merchants also assist). Our chapter uses the "Youth Leadership" program started by the New York State Women as an education experience for our young women candidates interested in attending a Regional Youth Leadership Day.

Investing in our young women at the high school level will afford them building blocks and tools to build their careers and life in the future. It will also give them leadership opportunities and communication abilities with local groups and government. Early education for young women is paramount for our organization. Our youth is our future. When given the right tools and skills the future can be bright for them as well as those they touch.



PROGRAMMING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipient: **Region Four**
Nominated by: **Carol Moyer**

Nominating Statement:

On October 27, 2012, Region Four had its Fall Meeting. There were 12 members from the 3 clubs were present. Tina Facticeau, RN from the Glens Falls Hospital was our keynote speaker and spoke on Diabetes. She has been at the hospital for over 20 years, and at their Diabetics Center for 8 years. The program at the hospital is certified and accredited with the American Diabetes Association.

She stated that 10% of the population in the United States has diabetes. She gave out several pamphlets for us to give to our local chapters. She recommended The Calorie King - Calorie, Fat, and Carbohydrate counter by Allan Borushek. Details of the program were on the local radio station, WCKM.

Recipient: **Region Three**
Nominated by: **Amy Kellogg**

Nominating Statement:

Region Three was not formally nominated, but after reading the submission for the Programming Award from Town and County Chapter, I felt that Region 3 was very deserving of a Programming Award for inspiring a whole year's worth of programming for the Town and Country Chapter. This is the type of dedication and activity that should be recognized and encouraged.

Recipient: **Adirondack Chapter**
Nominated by: **Beverly Sprague**

Nominating Statement:

For 15 years plus, our chapter has held a chocolate festival in conjunction with the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival. Members bake chocolate goodies for sale and we obtain chocolate signature pieces (such as a chocolate purse and chocolate jewelry box) from Paul Smith's College Culinary Department as well as from local restaurants and hotels. These pieces are auctioned off. The moneys made, which range from \$500 to \$1,000, go to support our scholarship fund. Each year, we give a scholarship to a deserving high school student or some years, it went to an older woman who was returning to college.



PROGRAMMING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipient: Town and Country Chapter
Nominated by: Joan Young

Nominating Statement:

In 2012, the Town & Country officers were installed by District Director Jen Charron using the theme of Wonder Woman. Each officer received a portion of Wonder Woman's costume or tools by the District Director as part of the installation ceremony. We were so inspired by this, that for our theme for the following year, we decided to focus on and spotlight a local Wonder Woman at each of our subsequent meetings. Our first local Wonder Woman is Marilyn Schrader, the first woman president of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. She has held every office in the entire volunteer firemen's structure beginning as a volunteer firefighter – she was the first woman volunteer firefighter in her company. The next Wonder Woman is Veronica Kosich, an attorney who returned to college as an adult student to specialize in Geriatric Law. She provided insight into ways to protect our estates as we enter our senior years. Attorney Jan Perlin followed as our next Wonder Woman. She has been active in the movement to eradicate violence against women, having spent time in foreign countries where women are not valued and suffer from serious inequalities and lack of rights. Theresa Schaffer, who is one of our Wonder Women members, is an educator and the proprietor of Curves. The emphasis at this meeting, held at her Curves Studio, was health and fitness programs designed specifically to address women's needs. Wonder Woman Tina Gagliardi was our next presenter. She is the proprietor of Mahalo Gift Shop and promotes local businesses through her leadership position as the President of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce and as President of the Heart of Catskill Association, a more localized group promoting business in Catskill. Mary Ellen Gallagher, professor of nursing at Columbia Greene Community College and a volunteer docent for the Thomas Cole Historical House, is the Wonder Woman who will be speaking next on her role as a docent and the information she shares regularly about Thomas Cole, one of the foremost American artists and founder of the Hudson River School.

Through the generosity of our Wonder Women members, our group has annually provided many desperately needed items for use of the women and children who need to seek the safety of the Battered Women's Shelter that is maintained by Greene County Domestic Violence.

Additionally we promote tomorrow's Wonder Women by providing scholarships to qualifying college bound young women from three local high schools.

Each one of the above named Wonder Women was presented with a gold coil of rope to signify Wonder Woman's Lasso of Truth, and the power and positive influence that women can have on others.

In keeping with our theme, our meetings are held at different local restaurants where women are a primary entrepreneur or where the restaurants are solely owned and managed by women.



PROGRAMMING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipient: Susquehanna Chapter
Nominated by: Kathleen Pernice

Nominating Statement:

(Two submissions for Programming)

1. Each year the local museum in Owego hosts a major fund raising event during the holiday season. The museum encourages businesses and organizations to decorate a Christmas tree to be displayed from mid-November to the weekend before Christmas at which time the decorated trees are auctioned off to the highest bidder. The Susquehanna Chapter of NYS Women Inc uses this display and auction as an opportunity to raise awareness of the activities of the Chapter and highlight a women's theme. For 2012, the theme was "Where's My Million?" The tree was decorated primarily with green and gold ornaments, a garland of million dollar bills cascaded from a green gift box tree topper with million dollar bills poking out from the red gift ribbon, a placard discussed why we asked "Where's My Million?" and highlighted the disparity in pay between the sexes and the fact it was not just current income lost but included a difference in future income caused by pay disparity in Social Security payments and retirement income, adding up to over a million dollars in income lost over a women's lifetime.

Past years themed decorations highlighted the red purse and the 90th anniversary of the Women's Right to vote

Many members helped with the theme and the decorating of the tree, building comradery. The display allowed people to be aware of the issue of pay disparity and allowed the community to get information about the local club.

2. For Women's History Month the Susquehanna Chapter of NYS Women honored women in history in one big way. On March 9, 2013 in conjunction with the Tioga County Historical Society and the National Park Service the public was invited to presentations by NYS Women Member Patricia Yoder Clark portraying a aged Belva Lockwood, who was the first women to officially run for president of the US and also the first women allowed to present cases to the US supreme court. During her monologue she talked about how hard it was to raise a family, run a business, get her law degree and more. The presentation was followed by a brief questions and answer period. The second part of the program was presented by a ranger from the Women's Rights National Historic Site in Seneca Falls. The ranger presented a program about how political cartoons were used to influence opinions during the time women were fighting for the right to vote.