

# Network

For Professional and Executive Women

## NETWORK NEWS

### President's Message

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Kim Rozycki  
2016 NPEW President

I want to share a couple of stories the Jim Blanchard Leadership Forum last week that really stuck with me. Both have to do with diversity and acceptance of others. We, as leaders, need to set the example for others when it comes to the ignorance of racial bias. The CEO of MasterCard, Ajay Banga, discussed an incident when he and Marc Olivie' traveled abroad for a business meeting. Marc said that a group of guys confronted Ajay, who wears a turban and they joked about the situation but imagine that this man is judged by a turban and yet he is the CEO of one of our largest corporations!

Bonnie St. John, a wonderful lady who lost her leg at age 5, became a Paralympian (skier), advisor in The White House, is a bestselling author and motivational speaker. Bonnie had a white father and a black mother and when she was young, her father died. His family wanted nothing to do with Bonnie since she was half black. As an adult, after she had her own daughter, she contacted her white uncle in New York to see if she and her daughter could meet with him. He agreed to meet her but told her not to bring her daughter. She said, "I will bring her next time". He said, "There won't be a next time!" Imagine this man had so much hate and prejudice that he could not see his niece for the amazing person she is and the accomplishments she has made despite what many would call unsurmountable obstacles.

These two examples really made me think that there is still a long way to go for most people to be accepting of those that look different than they do. I hope these stories will inspire you to be a shining light at work and to influence those around you to look to the inner beauty of everyone we meet. I look forward to seeing you all on Friday!

### Meeting Must-Knows



Our featured speaker for the September 23 meeting will be Tina Davis with Total Definition Fitness. She'll share some secrets of her success and how she can help you get in the best shape of your life.

Our Member Spotlight for September will be co-owner of Bright Salon, Laura Brooker.



### Member Announcements & Just for Fun



**In the News** Network member Carmen Dudley was recently featured in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. Carmen and her husband recalled being near the Pentagon during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Click [here](#) for the story.

**Congratulations** to Kim Rozycki. She has been accepted into the Republican Leadership of Georgia Class of 2017!

**How We Can Help** Our own Erika Lockette is asking for a hand in providing "incentives" for individuals in the Juvenile Drug Court. Young people appreciate gift cards to major stores or chain restaurants, movie tickets and whatnot. Parents prefer gas, restaurant or shopping gift cards; checks payable to GA Power or Liberty Gas Utilities, etc. are also appreciated. The incentives are given to participants when they complete their required service or classes. Tax-deductible donations can be made to: Juvenile Drug Court through the Community Foundation.

Neil Richardson with *SafeHouse Ministry* gave a phenomenal presentation in July. As a result, NPEW collected several items for his organization. This month we are still accepting toiletries, coffee, creamer and, of course monetary donations.

**Giving Props** It's time to start thinking about who you feel would be our Network Member of the Year. We'll need a honoree named by October so we can have plenty of time to give that lady her time in the spotlight during our annual meeting in November.

#### Take Note

- The 14th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon will be held Tues., Oct 4 @ 11:30AM at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center. Contact Nancy Williams at [nancy.williams@columbusregional.com](mailto:nancy.williams@columbusregional.com) for details.
- Our November fundraiser will focus on holiday needs for children at the Open Door Community House. Stay tuned for details...

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