

KWN
Kenosha
Women's
Network

KWN Community

November 2015



A Monthly Newsletter for members of Kenosha Women's Network

Women Supporting Women in Business

A Note from our President:

Hello Ladies,

It is the time of year that we count our blessings and give thanks for all that we are grateful for! I would like to stop and thank all of you for all that each of you has contributed to KWN. Our members are truly the best, and make KWN AMAZING! This time of year, our focus at KWN is on our holiday fundraiser. Nothing fills my heart with gratitude like the joy of giving back to our community! Melissa Sebetic is doing a great job as our fundraising chair; however, the success of this event really depends on the support and generosity of the membership. With that said, I would like to ask that **each of you commit to selling at least 60 tickets** (\$2 each or 3 for \$5). If you didn't already pick up your tickets at last month's meeting, they will be available at our November meeting as well. If you are unable to attend please contact Melissa Sebetic and we'll make sure to get tickets to you. When you ask people to buy Raffle tickets, let them know that ALL PROCEEDS from ticket sales go to the organizations we support in Kenosha County.

We are so grateful to all of you, our members, for being so generous with your time and donations for the Holiday Luncheon.

Be sure to share the gift of KWN with everyone you meet. Remember, they can attend up to two meetings before becoming a member. The timing is perfect for them to join in December or January and have their dues count for the whole of 2016. Also, remember that, as a renewing member, you can save when you renew before the New Year. Early bird renewals are only \$60!

While we still have a few months to go, now is a good time to start thinking about volunteering for our board. In February, we elect our new officers; however, we have openings now. We are still in need of a replacement for Melissa Sebetic as our Fundraising Chair. The position of Secretary has also become open. The Secretary takes notes at our luncheons and board meetings along with heading up the mini-grant committee. I want to take a moment and thank Donna Thew-Funk for her time and dedication as our past Secretary. She has done wonderful job organizing the mini-grant program. We will be looking for someone to step in and fill these positions, so start thinking about whether that may be something you are interested in. If you would like more information about joining the board, please speak to a current board member for more details.

I look forward to seeing you all on November 13th!
-Amanda



November Meeting:

Friday, November 13, 2015

11:30AM to 1:00PM at
Agave Luna Azul Restaurant
2227 60th St, Kenosha

RSVP by Wednesday, November 11,
9pm to Anne Robbins at:
Kwn-lunch@hotmail.com and put
"attending" in the subject line.

The meeting fee is:
\$12.00 with Reservation,
\$15.00 at the door.

The fee includes your meal.

Our Mission:
To promote and encourage the professional and personal growth of our members in a supportive environment, where women's efforts are recognized and encouraged.

New Members

KWM Welcomes:

Alicia Albarran, Accountant
Gordon J Maier & Company,
LLP

Cathye Evans, RN

Holiday Luncheon and Raffle

It's the hottest ticket in town! The "Just What I Always Wanted Holiday Luncheon" will take place on Friday December 11th, 2015, in our normal time-slot: 11:30-1:00. The location is the **Kenosha Country Club**, 500 13th Ave, Kenosha. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Choose from three delectable entrees when you buy your ticket: Chicken Piccata or Roasted Pork Loin served with Mashed Potatoes and Green Bean/Squash Medley or Pasta Primavera with Marinara Sauce. All meals include ice tea, coffee, milk, house salad, dinner rolls and dessert.

Raffle Tickets for the event are ready to sell! We need your help to sell as many raffle tickets as you can. The tickets are now available for pick up Monday through Friday at Platinum Systems, 4600 Green Bay Road, Kenosha from 8-5. We will also have them at our next luncheon on Friday, November 13th. We also need your Raffle donations! Gift baskets, gift certificates/cards, anything you would like to win in the raffle, others will want to win as well! Melissa Sebetic is accepting your donations now. Top Prizes so far include: *Women's Bling Basket - Roseann Baldauf-Shales, Wilderness Dells Vacation - Educators Credit Union, Hair Unlimited Products and Services - Mary Herbert, HP Slate Tablet - Platinum Systems, A Golf Package for 4 - Kenosha Country Club.*

If you have any questions about the raffle tickets, raffle donations or the luncheon, please contact Melissa at melissa@platinumsystems.net or call her at 262-620-7554.

Board Members:

President:
Amanda Blommel
262-995-5932

Vice-President:
Joanne Horner
847-337-2778

Secretary:
Open

Treasurer:
Wendy Gauss
262-942-0163

Contact the board:

KWN.Board@gmail.com

**Standing Committee
Chairs:**

Communications:
Linda San Filippo
847-361-2678

Membership:
Kathy Duberstine
262-818-8098

Newsletter:
Joanna Carlberg
262-891-3110

Fundraising:
Open

Hospitality:
Anne Robbins
262-818-8569

*Getting to Know You
Nancy Bjerstedt - Travel on Park*



New KWN member Nancy Bjerstedt has been in the travel industry for a long time! She is currently the owner of Travel On Park, a home-based travel agency. The picture you may have of a travel agency is probably a storefront with lots of glossy brochures, but, in fact, home based agencies are becoming the norm today! As Nancy says, most people look for deals on line and no one goes to the mall to look for a travel agent these days. Having her business in the home allows her to cut her overheads and still service her customers. She is associated with a large "Host Agency" called Uniglobe, which allows her to get better pricing for her clients, just like the big companies do.

So what are the advantages of using a travel agent when there are so many web based companies that allow you to "do it yourself"? Well, you are dealing with a real person, an expert, who will help you book your dream vacation through reputable companies. Nancy is concerned with getting you value for your money, rather than just the cheapest price. And, despite what you see in commercials, you are not paying extra for the expertise; agents are paid commission by the travel companies!

Nancy was born and raised in Waukegan and is a graduate of Iowa State, with a degree in history. She worked on the Delta Queen steamship after college, cruising the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, and rising to the position of Chief Purser. Among the celebrities she met on the ship were Jimmy and Roselyn Carter! After she left that position, Nancy worked in tourism in Natchez, MS, dealing with convention services for Chicago and New Orleans. When her mother began to have some health problems, Nancy knew it was time to return home to Waukegan. She worked for a couple of travel agencies in Illinois, starting in about 1990. In about 2005, the job of caring for her mother made her decide to move her business into the home. Her Mom passed away in 2008 at the age of 101!

Nancy lives in Waukegan with her two cats. She keeps active in her church and likes to travel when she gets the chance. Working at home can be solitary, so she joined KWN to meet other business women and make connections. Welcome aboard, Nancy!

November Speakers

The 10 minute speaker for November is Joan Fergus who will be talking about Surviving Holiday Stress and Blues.

Our 3 minute speaker Sue Erato of Home Instead Senior Care.

If you would like a chance to speak at one of our up-coming meetings, please contact Joanne Horner at 847-337-2778 or e-mail her at: teamhorner@mindspring.com. Promote your business in the 3 minute slot, or speak about an educational topic beyond just business in the 10 minute slot.

Quarter Auction Update

Our 1st KWN Quarter Auction was a resounding success! Everyone had a great time! Thank you to all of the members who helped at the event, donated auction items and brought food! We could not have done that without you! We brought in over \$1,375.00! That is more money for mini-grants in 2016. Another Auction is being considered for the Spring. Joanne Horner, Vice President

Renewal Time is here!



It's that time of year again: time to renew your KWN membership early and save money! If you renew by January 8th (the January meeting), your 2016 membership will cost \$60.00. From January 9th to March 1st, the regular renewal price of \$65.00 will apply. After March 1st, you will pay \$75.00, the same as a new membership. Don't delay, renew today!



Thank you to our members who donated raffle prizes at the October meeting.

*Joanne Horner-Send Out Cards

*Kristie Mattieu-Habitat for Humanity

*Peggy Gallo-Shaklee

*Joyce Erickson-KRW Tri-County Tobacco-Free Coalition

*Roseann Shales-Imaginative Consulting LLC

Have you considered making a donation to our monthly raffle? Get your name and business mentioned in our monthly newsletter!