

# KWN Community

A Monthly Newsletter for members of Kenosha Women's Network

January 2024

Kenosha  
Women's  
Network



## Growing Together, Rooted in the Community

### *A Note from our President*

Hello, KWN,

Happy New Year! I hope you're feeling well-rested and refreshed and looking forward to making 2024 the: Best. Year. Yet! Ha...who am I kidding? I'm writing this at 11:30 p.m., exhausted for the second night in a row, trying to get caught up with life. I feel ya.

We all know that New Year's Resolutions generally fail. Research says that up to 80% of us abandon our resolutions - about 43% of us in the first month. I don't know what the solution is, but I do know that it's not to try to improve. because I said I would (becausesaidthewould.org) talks about making promises instead of resolutions because we're more likely to adhere to them. The 1% challenge - and there are lots of versions of this (Atomic Habits and continuous improvement are two) - talks about being 1% better. If you already exercise, just improve by 1%; if you don't exercise, start with 1% of your day - 15 minutes. If you want to learn more, spend 1% of your day reading on that topic. You want to make more friends or do more stuff...improve by 1%. You get it.

So let's make a deal: let's do 1% better in 2024, and let's be 1% kinder to ourselves! We don't have to improve by leaps and bounds, and, honestly, if we try to, it's likely that we'll fail. Let's stop beating ourselves up, and let's really make 2024 a great year!

Before I close, a huge thank you to the Events Committee and all the volunteers who made the Holiday Luncheon an absolute resounding success! Roseann counted 73 raffle prizes, so thanks to all the donors for those, and we raised \$8,000 for our mini grants! Wow! That's amazing! Plus, it was just a good time...and I don't think we give ourselves enough credit for being a place to go for fun! Thanks for buying raffle tickets, thanks for donating great prizes, and thanks for showing up for the fun! Let's see if we can do 1% better in 2024!

See you at lunch!

*Guida*



### Susan B Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award 2024

Congratulations to our own **Rebecca Matoska-Mentink**, who has been selected by the committee to receive the 2024 Susan B Anthony-Women of Influence Lifetime Achievement Award! Becky is currently serving her fifth term as Kenosha County Clerk of the Circuit Court and she is an active volunteer and board member, serving many community-based organizations. She currently serves on the boards of the Kenosha Achievement Center, the Hope Council on Alcohol and other Drug Abuse, and the Village of Pleasant Prairie Police and Fire Commission, as well as Chairing the Gateway Technical College Board of Trustees! She was nominated by her mother in law, Kathleen Mentink, who is quoted as saying Rebecca "cares about her community and actively participates. She puts her money where her mouth is, and I consider her a real 'boots on the ground' person."

The award will be presented at the annual banquet set for March 22nd, 2024, at the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, De Simone Arena. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite at this link: [SBA Dinner 2024](https://form.jotform.com/232940210545145). The reservation deadline is March 14th. Order your tickets by February 23rd to receive the Early Bird discount.

*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.*

### January meeting

For KWN's January meeting we will be back at [Casa Capri](#).

The meeting date is January 12th, from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

The price to attend is \$18 per person and includes a delicious buffet lunch.

Please RSVP by end of day January 9th, 2024

[Click here](#) to buy your ticket. The link is also on the website.



### Early Renewals

It's time to renew your KWN membership. You have until the luncheon meeting in January to renew and get a discount. If you're ready to make the commitment, visit <https://form.jotform.com/232940210545145> for individual renewals and for business renewals, visit: <https://form.jotform.com/232940304125143!>

## Board Members and Committee Chairs

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### Immediate Past President

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## January's Wise Women Read Meeting

On Tuesday, January 9, we'll be discussing Wisconsin author Annelise Ryan's second Monster Hunter Mystery, *Death in the Dark Woods*, at our meeting at Blue House Books, 5915 6th Ave A. About the book: "A potential Bigfoot sighting is linked to a vicious murder, but skeptical cryptozoologist Morgan Carter is on the case in this new Monster Hunter Mystery by USA Today bestselling author Annelise Ryan.

*"Business has been booming since Morgan Carter solved the case of the monster living in Lake Michigan. The Odds and Ends bookstore is thriving, of course, but Morgan is most excited by the doors that were opened for her as a cryptid hunter.*

*"Recently, there have been numerous sightings of a Bigfoot-type creature in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest area of Bayfield County, Wisconsin. After a man is found dead from a vicious throat injury in the forest, the conservation warden asks Morgan to investigate.*

*"When Morgan and her dog, Newt, go there to investigate, they uncover a trail of lies, deception, and murder. It seems a mysterious creature is indeed living in the forest, and Morgan might be its next target."*

Join us on January 9 to discuss this cozy mystery!

In February we'll be discussing *Neon Gods* by Katee Robert. Just in time for Valentine's Day, *Entertainment Weekly* calls this book - a modern retelling of Hades and Persephone - "Unspeakably hot!" You probably don't want to miss it!

## January Meeting Topic

Our speaker at the January membership luncheon on Friday, January 12, at Casa Capri, is Cathy Kramer of CMIT Solutions (small business IT company) on the important topic of financial safety.

## Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

The recent Holiday Luncheon was the most successful yet, and that is partly due to our sponsors! This year, we had one Gold level Sponsor, one Silver level sponsor and four Bronze level sponsors! In addition, **Oliver's Bakery** and **Grandma's Cookie Cottage** were dessert sponsors. Sponsorship helps us to cover our expenses and provide even more money to the mini grant program. So a big Thank You is due to:

Rebecca Matoska-Mentink: Gold Sponsor



DarsHearts: Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors:



Joanna's  
DIGITAL IMAGES  
Photography - Events - Photo Restoration



THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND BUSINESSES WHO DONATED TO THE FABULOUS HOLIDAY GRAND RAFFLE!

YOU ALL HELPED TO MAKE IT A GREAT SUCCESS!

Make a donation (valued at \$10 or more) to our regular monthly raffle and get your name and business mentioned in our monthly newsletter!



Darleen Scuglik joined KWN in April 2022. Being a recent retiree, after working 30 years at Abbott Labs, KWN was a great way for her to meet other women in the community. She became a board member shortly after she joined and is looking forward to being co-secretary with Jodie Needham in 2024. Darleen says she has met so many amazing women since joining KWN and learned a lot about nonprofits. Darleen's creative outlet is a business she calls DarsHearts, where she crafts wooden hearts decorated with buttons and gems.

Outgoing Treasurer, Ann Hooper, has been a member of KWN for 3 years. After working in corporate accounting and auditing for 15 years, Ann started her business, Clear Profit Solutions. Ann is an accountant and financial coach and works with women to help them understand their business finances so they can have growing and successful businesses. To learn more about Ann's business, go to [Clear Profit Solutions](#).

KWN members: We want to put you in the spotlight! Share with us, in 50-60 words, something about your business or your experience as a member of KWN. Look for the sign up sheet at the next meeting to get your name on the list!

In case you missed it, here are a few pictures from the Holiday Luncheon!!



Thank you to all who helped and especially to the Events Committee for their hard work!!

