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Wealth Management/ Website Development
Writers, Authors & Speakers

2021
2022

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Southeastern Connecticut
**WOMEN'S
NETWORK**

The History of Southeastern Connecticut Women's NETWORK

The Southeastern Connecticut Women's Network was organized in early 1976 by Mildred Devine, then Trust Officer at Connecticut National Bank in New London. The group consisted of six or seven professional women in New London who wanted to meet once a month and share with each other their professional experiences, setbacks, goals, and hopes for the future.

The group grew to approximately 40 members by 1978 when discussion began as to the purpose and goals of the group. After some months of debate, the Network membership of 1978 concluded that:

The purpose of the Network shall be to provide its members the opportunity to meet business and professional people in our community, to communicate and exchange general and career information, to promote personal visibility and to develop a constituency for the purpose of examining and speaking out on issues of concern to the membership.

Today the Network has grown to over 150 members. It meets the third Wednesday of every month for lunch at Langley's at Great Neck Country Club in Waterford to network and hear guest speakers. The membership includes individuals from a diverse range of businesses and professions.

The Network provides support throughout the year to Safe Futures (formerly Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut) with donations of food and gifts for use by residents of both the Genesis House Women's Shelter and Phoenix House transitional housing.

The Network also awards annual scholarships to returning female students needing financial assistance to continue their education at each of the three local public colleges/universities: the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, Three Rivers Community College, and Eastern Connecticut State University.

The Network conducts a variety of special events, including Network @ Night, which provides networking opportunities to individuals who are

unable to attend the lunches. The Network's primary activity, however, remains the monthly luncheon meetings during which members take the opportunity to acquaint themselves with other professionals in an informal and congenial atmosphere. This regular occasion offers an effective way for members to assist one another in networking for professional and personal gain and enrichment.

The Network maintains a cooperative relationship with the Chambers of Commerce of Mystic, Norwich and Eastern Connecticut.

This directory is for the use of Network members only. Any reproduction or publishing of this directory for commercial advertising or mailing lists is strictly prohibited. The Network assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the directory's contents.

**For more information about the Network visit
www.sectwomensnetwork.org**

**Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/SECTWomensNetwork**



**YouTube link “HerStory”
<https://youtu.be/T0EKE4VFfJc>**

**Southeastern Connecticut Women's Network
PO Box 921
Groton, CT 06340-0921**

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Southeastern Connecticut
**WOMEN'S
NETWORK**



Founded in 1976, we meet on the
third Wednesday of the month
for a luncheon

Inspiring talks are offered
by guest speakers.

Members and guests are welcome.

For reservations visit our website
anytime (24/7) before
midnight of the preceding Sunday.

For Powerful, Personal & Professional Relationships

www.sectwomensnetwork.org

Past Presidents

Denise Howard.....	2019-2021
Kate Lee Bellandese	2018-2019
Patti Rodgers-Longo.....	2017-2018
Kathy Greene	2016-2017
Phyllis Nelson	2015-2016
Deb McGrath	2014-2015
Susan Dombrowski.....	2013-2014
Leslie Karen Hammond.....	2012-2013
Denise Nott.....	2011-2012
D'mitra Gomez Waheed	2010-2011
Barbara "BB" Smith	2009-2010
Chris Lautz.....	2008-2009
Jill Adams	2007-2008
Kasey Goss	2006-2007
June Strunk.....	2005-2006
Susan Pochal	2004-2005
Cora Murphy.....	2003-2004
Trina McCandless.....	2002-2003
Connie Plessman	2001-2002
Ellen Bothamly-Fossum.....	2000-2001
Linda Mariani.....	1999-2000
Donna Kirby-Reynolds	1998-1999
Vicki Anderson.....	1997-1998
Kathleen O'Beirne.....	1996-1997
Joyce Schmidt.....	1995-1996
Marjorie Taggart Dedrick	1994-1995
Lois Palmer-Alderson.....	1993-1994
Linda Mariani.....	1991-1992, 1992-1993
Barbara Gager.....	1989-1990, 1990-1991
Nan Crowley	1987-1988, 1988-1989
Dr. Margaret Mummert	1986-1987
Faye Vathauer	1985-1986
Barbara Quinn	1983-1984, 1984-1985
Mildred Devine.....	1981-1982, 1982-1983

For our 30th Anniversary, in 2006, we created a DVD history of the Women's Network which is available for purchase at our luncheons. For our 40th Anniversary, in 2016, we celebrated with a special evening and recognized our founder, Millie Devine, with The Mildred E. Devine Lifetime Achievement Award. "The Millie" will be the SECT Women's Network most prestigious award to honor an individual who has reached the pinnacle of her career in the Network. It recognizes a current or former organization member who has made extraordinary contribution to the Network over a sustained period of time; therefore, it may not be awarded annually.

***Officers and Board of Directors for the
Southeastern Connecticut Women's Network
2021-2022***

Officers

Denise Howard, President - Best Wellness 4 You
Susan Domrowski, Vice President - Entrepreneur
Susan Hackett, Treasurer - Women's Business Development Center
Carol Burgess, Secretary - Primerica
Kate Lee Bellandese, Immediate Past President

Board Members

Three Year Terms

Susan Napiany - Pampered Chef
Deb McGrath - Backyard Bracelets

Two Year Terms

Kathy Greene - Kathy Greene LLC
Judy Jenks - Jenks Network LLC

One Year Term

Holly DePerry - Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Lisa Giordano - Emerson Theater Collaborative
Kathy Pooler - Publications Plus

Members at Large

Sheree Wujtewicz - Sheree Wujtewicz Holistic Nutritionist
Judy Ricketts-White - Ricketts-White Design

Committees & Liaisons

Administration/Business Office	Kate Lee
Community Outreach.....	Kathy Greene
Directory	Kathy Pooler
Historian.....	Cora Murphy
Mastermind	Judy Ricketts-White
Membership	Kathy Pooler
Newsletter Editor	Judy Ricketts-White
Nominating Committee.....	Kate Lee
Photography	Sheree Wujtewicz
Program	Susan Dombrowski
Publicity	Lisa Giordano
Safe Futures Liaison	Connie Plessman
Scholarships	Denise Nott
Woman of the Year Committe.....	Deb McGrath

Southeastern CT Women's Network Mastermind Groups *Network Support for Achieving Your Dreams*

The concept of the *Mastermind Group* originated in the early 1900's in Napoleon Hill's book "Think and Grow Rich". He defined the Mastermind principle as: "coordination of knowledge and effort by two or more people, who work toward a definite purpose in the spirit of harmony."

The Network Mastermind program began in 2004. Participation is voluntary and free as part of your Network membership. It is a growing, evolving program intended to give Network members an opportunity to connect and support each other even more intimately in achieving personal and professional objectives.

Network Mastermind Groups generally meet once a month and have numbered as few as three members and as many as fifteen. Each Group chooses a name for itself, its own agenda, time and place to meet. Participants support each other to achieve professional objectives and brainstorm ideas with total honesty, respect and compassion. A commitment is important.

Additional groups will be formed in different locations as demand and desire indicate. If you would like to visit a group, please call the host of the meeting to determine if that group is accepting visitors and to confirm place and time. Further information is on our website.

Woman of the Year

The Network's Woman of the Year is nominated from the membership at large, and selected by a committee made up of previous recipients. She must be an active member of the SECT Women's Network, attending luncheons and participating in other functions. She must be active in her community and within other professional organizations and must express an interest in helping other women and men achieve professional status and public exposure through networking in the community.

2020 Deb McGrath	2005 Elaine Bono
2019 Kathy Greene	2004 Lois Andrews
2018 Emma Palzere-Rae	2003 Marjorie Taggart Dedrick
2017 Susan Dombrowski	2002 Vicki Anderson
2016 Donna Yother	2001 Kathleen O'Beirne
2015 Louisa Ketron	2000 Millie Devine
2014 Connie Plessman	1999 Judy Woodman
2013 Camilla Ross	1998 Joyce Schmidt
2012 Chris Lautz	1997 Barbara Quinn
2011 Gail Weber	1996 Lois Palmer-Alderson
2010 Jane Moriarty	1995 Linda Mariani
2009 Kasey Goss	1994 Barbara Reed Collins
2008 Beth Glynn	1993 Barbara Gager
2007 Susan Pochal	1992 Nancy Hillary
2006 Cora Murphy	1991 Nan Crowley

Heron Award

The Heron Award was established in June of 1996 by Kathleen O’Beirne to honor women who have exemplified outstanding leadership skills. The Great Blue Heron is the hero/heroine of Kathleen’s book, *Birds of a Feather: Lessons from the Sea*, which examines behavior patterns in the workplace, as well as in family and volunteer settings. Fishing in deeper waters than others, the Heron often has the company of many smaller birds, because she is not in competition for their food and they enjoy what she stirs up. Her patience and collegial bearing make her a metaphor for remarkable leadership.

Award Winners:

- | | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 2019 | Denise Howard |
| 2018 | JoAn Collins |
| 2017 | Kathy Greene |
| 2016 | Phyllis Nelson |
| 2015 | Deb McGrath |
| 2014 | Judy Ricketts-White |
| 2013 | Patti Rodgers-Longo |
| 2012 | Susan Dombrowski |
| 2011 | Marilyn Dayton |
| 2009 | Chris Lautz |
| 2008 | Susan Pochal |
| 2007 | Kasey Goss |
| 2006 | Jane Percy |
| 2005 | Marjorie Taggart Dedrick |
| 2003 | Connie Plessman |
| 2002 | Jean Caron |
| 2001 | Vicki Anderson |
| 2000 | Linda Mariani |
| 1999 | Barbara Ross |
| 1998 | Nan Crowley |
| 1997 | Joyce Schmidt |
| 1996 | Pam Griffin |

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