



Business and  
Professional  
Women/MD

*News from...*

**Maryland Federation of Business & Professional Women (BPW/MD)**

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**For Immediate Release March 30, 2016**

**Maryland Business and Professional Women**

**Celebrate “The Power of YOU – Women Taking the Lead!”**

**At Annual State Conference to be held in Frederick**

***Financial and Legislative Workshops, Luncheon with Keynote Speaker County Executive Jan Gardner, Film “Cyberbully,” Networking, Leader Dogs for the Blind Charity, Complete Weekend Program***

Members and guests of the Maryland Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/MD) will hold their annual State Conference on April 29-30 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 7226 Corporate Drive, Frederick, Maryland. The theme of the conference is “The Power of YOU – Women Taking the Lead!”

The conference begins with a luncheon at noon on Friday, April 29 featuring Susan Bonura speaking about the “Leader Dogs for the Blind Canine Development Center.” Leaders Dogs for the Blind was founded in 1939, and is creating a Canine Development center where dogs are trained as guide dogs for the blind. A financial workshop for women follows at 2 p.m., presented by Carla Palamone of Edward Jones. The public is invited, but reservations are required. Cost is \$30 for lunch, but the two-hour financial workshop is free.

On Friday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m., members and guests will view the film “Cyberbully,” about a teenage girl who is a victim of cyberbullying, and shows how innocently bullying can start on social media and how quickly it can escalate. A discussion will follow that includes proposed cyberbullying prevention legislation.

A highlight of the conference is a luncheon on Saturday April 30 from noon to 2 p.m. and includes keynote speaker Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner. Ms. Gardner will share her journey to her current position as Frederick’s first County Executive. The public is invited, and reservations are required. Cost is \$35 for lunch.

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A workshop presented by Diane Fink, Executive Director of Emerge Maryland, will follow the luncheon at 3:00 p.m. on April 30. Attendees will learn how they can be engaged and informed in the 2016 election, and how to become leaders and take on new challenges. The public is invited to participate in the free 90 minute workshop.

Maryland Business & Professional Women will complete state business and elect officers for the coming year. Attendees are asked to bring donations to support Leader Dogs for the Blind Canine Development Center, which is the selected charity for the conference.

BPW/MD and the BPW Foundation of MD are co-sponsors of the conference, and other sponsors are invited to support the programming that includes professional development, financial and retirement planning for women, advocacy for women's legislative representation, and training for women in leadership. Contact Susan Horst at [susanhorst@yahoo.com](mailto:susanhorst@yahoo.com) or 240-498-8434 for additional sponsorship information.

BPW promotes equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information. Membership is open to women and men who support the mission of BPW. With members throughout the state, BPW/MD is the leading advocate for workingwomen in Maryland.

The conference is open to the public, and guests may register and purchase tickets for individual events by visiting BPW/MD's website at [www.bpwmaryland.org](http://www.bpwmaryland.org) and clicking on the link to register via PayPal. Full details, agenda and a printable registration form for the conference are also on the website. For additional information, please contact [info@bpwmaryland.org](mailto:info@bpwmaryland.org) or BPW/MD Conference Chair Mary Ellen Poole at [mpoole199@aol.com](mailto:mpoole199@aol.com) or 301-371-8575.

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