

Accounting & Bookkeeping  
Acupuncture/ Advertising  
Advocate/ Aquariums  
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Carpet Cleaning/ Clinical Research  
Consulting/ Disaster Restoration  
Education/ Employee Benefits  
Fashion & Clothing  
Financial Planning/ Fitness  
Food & Nutrition/ Government  
Graphic Design/ Health & Wellness  
Health Care/ Holistic Practitioners/ Home Care  
Homebuilding/ Home Improvement  
Human Resources/ Human Services  
Image Consulting/ Insurance  
Landscaping & Design/ Life Coaching  
Marketing & Sales/ Massage Therapy  
Military Organizations/ Mortgages/ Non-Profit  
Notary/ Office Support/ Photography  
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Psychology/ Psychotherapy/ Real Estate  
Senior Services/ Skin Care  
Training, Development & Coaching  
Travel, Tourism, Lodging & Dining  
Wealth Management/ Website Development  
Writers, Authors & Speakers

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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](http://www.sectwomensnetwork.org)**

**Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/SECTWomensNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/SECTWomensNetwork)**



**YouTube link "HerStory"  
<https://youtu.be/T0EKE4VfJc>**

**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 at Langley's at  
Great Neck Country Club in Waterford.

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.sectwn.wildapricot.org](http://www.sectwn.wildapricot.org)

## Past Presidents

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  
2018-2019***

**Officers**

Kate Lee Bellandese, President - A Beautiful Company  
Angela McGuirk, Vice President - Navy Federal Credit Union  
Deb Tavernier, Treasurer - Putnam Bank  
Carol Burgess, Secretary - Primerica

**Board Members**

***Three Year Terms***

Beth Markowski-Roop - ServiceMaster by Mason  
Anna Staley - The Lighthouse Voc-Ed Center  
Kim Marino - Artful Touch  
Marielle Winkelman - Chelsea Groton Bank

***Two Year Terms***

Susan Baroni-Schaeffer - Channel 3 Kids Camp  
Carol Little - A Good Laugh, Inc.  
Sheree Wujtewicz - Sheree Sirpenski Photography LLC

***One Year Term***

Kathy Pooler - Publications Plus  
Ken Duenzl - Caring Transitions of Southeast CT  
LaKisha Lee - Bethsaida Community, Inc.

***Members at Large***

Nancy Motola - Pharma Regulatory Connection  
Judy Ricketts-White - Ricketts-White Design  
Denise Howard - Video Marketing Solutions

## *Committees & Liaisons*

Ad Review .....	Kathy Pooler
Budget .....	Deb Tavernier
Business Office .....	Kate Bellandese
Directory .....	Kathy Pooler
Historian .....	Cora Murphy
Hospitality .....	Beth Markowski-Roop
Luncheon Liaison/Registration .....	Carol Little, Denise Howard
Mastermind .....	Angela McGuirk & Judy Ricketts-White
Membership .....	Kathy Pooler
Newsletter Editor .....	Judy Ricketts-White
Nominating Committee .....	Patti Rodgers-Longo
Photography .....	Sheree Wujtewicz
Program .....	Angela McGuirk
Public Relations .....	Denise Howard
Safe Futures Liaison .....	Connie Plessman
Scholarships .....	Denise Nott

### **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 Southeastern Connecticut 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.

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

- 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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