

# Mayor's Council for Women Leadership Committee

Report Following the Meeting Held on November 3, 2017

Within the Leadership Committee are several work groups focused on research and problem solving within specific areas. Each group welcomes new members to join in according to their areas of interest.

## Accommodating Family

Cortney Hewett explained the purpose of the committee is to facilitate a woman's participation in meetings, seminars and conferences while caring for a child. The group is currently preparing a survey to garner information regarding obstacles women face in their effort to remain involved in their fields, in politics, and in public service. The hope is to find solutions to the barriers that keep women from attending meetings. The group will also solicit opinions regarding bringing children to events when unexpected school closings or the like happen.

## Female Leaders in Public Policy (FLIPP)

April Goebler reported on the second training session of the Empower Women PAC. The event, geared toward high school seniors and college students, was a success with young women from GPS, Girls Leadership Academy, CSAS, UTC and Chattanooga State attending. The Mayor came and offered advice to anyone considering running for office. UTC's political science professor Amanda Wintersieck talked to students individually and discovered that three were interested in running for public office. As part of training the students were divided into mock campaign groups where they prepared "stump speeches" for their campaigns. An unexpected outcome is that they showed an interest in forming a youth version of the Mayor's Council for Women. Because of their schedules these meetings would have to be held around 8am and April suggested that CSAS would be a good place to host them.

One of the candidates for Division 4 Circuit Court Judge, Catherine Cate White was in attendance and introduced herself. Jelena asked what support the Leadership Committee could provide and April offered the help of the students from the previous evening's training session. Ms White's extensive experience in the area of family law gives her an edge over the other 3 candidates running for the same seat. She needs volunteers to help mail postcards. She also asked the LC to help spread word of her race. You can contact Catherine at [catherinewk@comcast.net](mailto:catherinewk@comcast.net) and find her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ccwhiteforjudge>.

### Leadership Matters Newsletter

Editor, Dominique Brandt reported that the newsletter is ready and will be delivered at the all council quarterly luncheon on November 9th. Ideally each of the committees from MC4W will submit articles or updates of their ongoing work for each issue but it's not an absolute requirement. Dominique asked distribution volunteers to let her know where newsletters are being placed so areas of coverage can be tracked. Replenishment halfway through the quarter will be done to increase reach.

### General Business

A new workgroup is being formed to focus on increasing female participation in what have traditionally been male-dominated industries. The first organizing meeting of the group being called *All Lanes Open* will be on Thursday, November 16th at noon in the Mayor's conference room.

Attendees were urged to check out Board Connector and app now available that aims to put the board seat seeker in touch with boards looking for members - <http://www.boardconnector.org/about-us.html>

"It will take more than two centuries to close the economic gender gap" is a quote from a Quartz Media article Jelena read to the group (<https://qz.com/index/1119552/it-will-take-more-than-two-centuries-to-close-the-global-economic-gap-between-men-and-women/>). This sparked a discussion on economic empowerment segueing to talking about women taking their power and owning it. It's a subject that struck a nerve and the conversation will continue next month.

Join us next time for more interesting discussion and groundbreaking work by exceptional women. We meet again at 8:30 am on December 1, 2017 in the Veranda Room of City Hall.

Best,

**Jelena**

Jelena Butler  
Chair, Mayor's Council for Women, Leadership Committee

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