



## History of CREW Lehigh Valley • PA

CREW Lehigh Valley • PA began in 2004 as an idea shared by a handful of women involved in various aspects of real estate. Barbara Ziev, who was then a Senior Vice President and Manager of Weichert Commercial Brokerage in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, shared the vision of the organization with colleagues and fellow professionals who coalesced into the founding Board and committee members including:

- **Jane Schiff**, a commercial broker with the Frederick Group
- **Deborah Reimer**, SIOR, CCIM, President, Reimer Real Estate
- **Sharon Gage**, CPA, now retired from Summit Realty but then with Patt White Real Estate
- **Jessica Armstrong Nichols**, then an attorney with Tallman, Hudders & Sorrentino
- **Deborah Skeans**, CCIM, MAI, Sperry Van Ness Imperial Real Estate
- **Cynthia Feinberg**, then with Summit Real Estate and now the Director of Lehigh County Economic Development
- **Francee Fuller**, Marketing Manager, Barry Isett & Associates Consulting Engineers & Surveyors
- **Mary Beth Dolnich**, now with The Frederick Group
- **Rosalin Petrucci**, JG Petrucci Company

In August, 2004 the group with big dreams wrote personal checks to provide seed money for a new local chapter and to pay the National CREW dues. The group then planned a wine and cheese party for September 21, 2004, in the lobby of an upscale office building, generously provided by Liberty Property Trust, to introduce the concept of CREW to the broader community. Joan Rosoff, Esquire, a partner in White Williams LLP and the immediate Past President of CREW International, and Jacqueline Buhn, a CREW National Director and the President of Athenian Properties LLC, met with about 70 Lehigh Valley women involved in every aspect of real estate, to discuss the professional networking association of choice.

The founding CREW Lehigh Valley members worked hard to develop programming to attract more members. Early topics included an overview of the race to develop lifestyle centers in the region; an exploration of the impact of ArtsQuest, a Bethlehem based nonprofit, on the development of the south side of Bethlehem; and the economic revitalization of Allentown. Strong programming continues to be a hallmark of CREW Lehigh Valley. On average, our chapter hosts six public programs and three “members only” events a year.

CREW Lehigh Valley • PA developed an early alliance with Lehigh University’s Institute of Real Estate Studies, an overlay program for undergraduates in business, architecture, engineering, and other related fields. Still a vital and growing relationship, CREW Lehigh Valley members mentor students, participate in classroom sessions, and evaluate student projects. We are delighted to help groom the next generation of real estate professionals and look forward to welcoming them into our organization.