

Professional Women in Building



From High Heels to Hard Hats



Metro's PWB "Refresh, Recharge and Rebuild" for 2022! September Newsletter Greetings! "Women in Construction ... You Betcha!"



Professional Women in Building (PWB) Greetings from Council Chair - **Linda Garvey**. I am Metro's PWB Council Chair this year and work for the construction/project management company called Coppola Brothers LLC. I hope everyone had a great summer and are getting back into the usual routine.

HAPPY SEPTEMBER!

As many of you know, our council's vision is to offer women in the construction industry peer-to-peer interactions by participating in community events and offering educational forums. Our objective is to encourage women members to actively participate in association activities, cultivate relationships through networking, build resources from groups within and outside of Metro, be a resource to young women interested in this field and offer **SUPPORT** to one another! Members of the Council, continue to attend and talk to individuals about PWB by attending events in and outside of Metro. Here are some of our events we have been involved with since our last newsletter:

Special Event Invitation - August 25th - Metro member, Platinum Hammer Sponsor, and Metro Professional Women in Building (PWB) council member, Brian Maffia of General Plumbing Supply (GPS), along with Felix Plaisir of Kohler, sponsored an event for The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) at the Flemington GPS store. Three of Metro's PWB members were honored to be invited (Linda Garvey, Chair of Metro's PWB, and council members Kristie Veri and Geraldine Smith) in August. It was a night of food trucks, drinks, education and networking. Felix from Kohler spoke at Water Conservation and how important it is to discuss with our clients. We had the opportunity to tour Brian's beautiful showroom as well. PWB and NAWIC are all about supporting women and the community in the construction/remodeling industry. Thank you Brian for inviting us to this event!





Sales and Marketing Breakfast (SMC), September 7th – Linda Garvey, Metro PWB Council Chair, attended the SMC Breakfast at the Florham Park Diner. Brand new Metro and PWB member, Geeta Trikha of Anjali Associates and current member, Marcus Stanford of Yale Kent, LLC Realty Services came back for another SMC Breakfast. The SMC is here to help improve the sales and marketing capabilities of SMC members (builders and associates), businesses and provide connectivity through relationship building activities where SMC members can network, add and gain value from each other and grow Metro as an

organization. **Tony Cretella**, Custom Sign Sourc, lead the group with a discussion around “***Speed Dating/Networking in Business***” for our topic.

Metro’s New Member Orientation, September 13th – Each month, Metro gives new members the opportunity to learn more about Metro and what it offers new members monthly. Members of many of the different committees and Council Chairs are on this call to help you understand what are some of the other committees/councils there are available for you to join. Find the one that best suits your needs and get involved. As many of us say in Metro, “***What you put into it is what you get out of it.***” Detailed information can be found on the Metro website, take a few minutes to browse the site!



General Membership Meeting (GMM), Grillin & Chillin – September 15th – Metro’s September GMM held their famous Grillin & Chillin event at the Raritan Inn in Califon. The Co-Chairs of the Remodelers Council, Don Dryness of Main Street Custom Homes & Remodeling LLC and Geraldine Smith, All Inclusive Construction, with lots of help from Metro’s Executive Officer, Michele Leppard, worked hard to bring this event together. PWB

Members in attendance were: Brian Maffia (GPS Plumbing Supply); Geraldine Smith (All Inclusive Construction); Frank Caccavale (Roxbury High School); Linda Garvey (Metro PWB Council/Coppola Brothers); new member Geeta Trikha (Anjali Associates), Lindsey Beates (Beates Properties).





Professional Women in Building Week Celebration – September 22nd – Metro’s PWB Council celebrated the NAHB’s PWB

week on was Leslie financial Realtors) various



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was Jonni Clause (Dacor); Panelists were Leslie Cook (IMC Construction); Elizabeth DeSmet (SESI Consulting Engineers); Andrea LoMonaco (Wells Fargo); and Kristie Veri (Cleanscape Construction).

September 22nd, our location sponsor Cook (IMC Construction) and our donor was Stacey Rogers (Turpin with a panel of successful women in areas of our industry. The Moderator was Jonni Clause (Dacor); Panelists were Leslie Cook (IMC Construction); Elizabeth DeSmet (SESI Consulting Engineers); Andrea LoMonaco (Wells Fargo); and Kristie Veri (Cleanscape Construction). The panel gave us some history about why they entered the industry and then spoke about the current state of their industry and how they are overcoming the obstacles they are facing now. We had a great turnout, we appreciate all who came and for those that participated.



New Metro PWB Members Corner – Big Welcome



this Month to Colleen Drews to PWB. Let's take a few moments to learn more about her:



Colleen Drewes – The NRP Group

Vice President-Development

CoDrewes@nprgroup.com – (609) 902-4005

Colleen Drewes has worked in the New Jersey development community for over 18 years. Currently she leads The NRP Group's multifamily housing efforts in New Jersey. Colleen joined The NRP Group in May of 2022.

Prior to joining The NRP Group, Ms. Drewes worked for Community Investment Strategies, Inc. (CIS), The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA), The Cooper Foundation and New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO).

Colleen is a graduate from Rutgers University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Douglass College and a master's degree in Public Policy from the Edward J. Bloustein School.

Currently she is a member the Affordable Housing Professionals of New Jersey (AHPNJ), Metropolitan Builders and Contractors Association of NJ (METRO), and Professional Women in Building (PWB) Council. Colleen also devotes personal time to the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey as well as her Township's Little League and Economic Advisory Board.

Let's Learn More About Original Member – Geraldine Smith:



Geraldine Smith – All Inclusive Construction & Building LLC

732-484-9008

www.allinclusivenj.com

Website: [Houzz Profile](#)

www.facebook.com/allinclusiveconstructionnj



Geraldine Smith is All Inclusive & Building LLC, Geraldine spent 15



the owner of Construction located in Branchburg, NJ. years in Human Resources at

two different Fortune 500 companies and earned her MBA before deciding it was time for a change. She partnered with someone and helped grow a small “handyman” business into a flourishing company doing ground up builds, additions, complete renovations, and so much more – as she says they really are “All Inclusive”! When the partnership ended in 2019, Geraldine took the reins of the company and immersed herself in the business as much as possible. This included a lot of networking, joining NJBA & Metro BCA and working with 2 other women members to form the Professional Women in Building Council for Metro. She now has moved over to co-chair the Remodelers Council for Metro. Geraldine feels that her HR experience has helped her because one of the most important factors in succeeding in any role in any

industry is about creating and cultivating relationships, whether that is with customers, vendors, employees, association members, designers and everyone else we interact with!

Links:

[Home - Metropolitan Builders & Contractors Association of New Jersey \(metrobc.org\)](http://metrobc.org)

[Professional Women in Building - Metropolitan Builders & Contractors Association of New Jersey \(metrobc.org\)](http://metrobc.org)

[Why Professional Women in Building? - NAHB](http://naahb.org)

Proposed PWB Programs for 2022:

- *Wednesday, October 12th – By Invitation Only for PWB Members
SPA Day – Sponsored by Mr. Steam and GPS Plumbing Supply!*



***PWB Members will continue to be out and about and support
upcoming Metro events. See you all then!***

Thank you to Metro's Executive Board for their continued support of PWB.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Garvey, Metro's PWB Council Chair at:
L.Garvey@CoppolaBrothersLLC.com or (908) 347-2482

Regards,
Metro's ***Professional Women in Building*** (PWB)
Linda Garvey, PWB Council Chair