

Seasonal Soirée Focuses on Exit Strategies for Business



Pictured are Vincent D'Addona of Strategies for Wealth; Marsha Gordon, BCW President and CEO; Taryn Duffy, Empire City Casino; Kelly Biondi and Joe Long of Strategies for Wealth.

What every business owner should know about winding down a business was the topic of the BCW's well-attended Fall Seasonal Soiree. Strategies for Wealth thought leader Vincent D'Addona, CLU, ChFC, AEP, RICP, CEXp opened the evening with a very informative talk about the steps and timing necessary to create a successful succession or exit plan. He noted that failure to develop and implement an effective exit plan can result in severe consequences for owners, employees, and family members.

The September 7th event was held at Empire City Casino where members mingled and networked while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Alley 810, a high-end mixology lounge featuring two vintage bowling lanes. This was the third installment of this exciting event series sponsored by Strategies for Wealth.



BCW Women's Forum Features Lt. Governor

Making the rounds to energize women during Women's Equality Month, New York's Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul recently visited the BCW's headquarters in Rye Brook for a roundtable discussion with BCW President and CEO Marsha Gordon, BCW board members and a group of about 20 women whom Gordon referred to as the "Power Elite of Westchester."

Hochul said that women still face an uphill battle in achieving equality. Some daunting data she shared: Despite women being 52 percent of the population, they represent only 26 percent of elected officials in the New York State Legislature, and in Washington they are actually losing ground with fewer women representatives than 10 years ago. In the private sector, only 4 percent of U.S. CEOs are women, she said.

A former Congresswoman from the Buffalo area, Hochul said the message is that when women succeed everyone does better, noting that companies with women in leadership are more profitable. "We need men to understand how important it is, not just to have our voices heard, but the economic impact," Hochul said. "When women are able to be paid the same as men, for example, that would be a \$1.3 billion impact for New York's economy."

The lieutenant governor has been touring the state hosting similar roundtable discussions on the topic. She led a discussion in April at The College of New Rochelle that featured State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and CNR President Judith Huntington.

Pictured attending the August 30 event were: Seated, from left, Victoria Hochman of Thompson & Bender; BCW President and CEO Marsha Gordon; Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul; Jean Marie Connelly of BNY Mellon Wealth Management, and Wendy Wolner of Balancing Life's Issues. Standing, from left, Meg Curtin of Westchester Putnam Internship Connex; BCW Director of Workforce & Employer Development Ebony White; Deborah Milone of Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce; Jane Solnick of Con Edison; Jonelle Ward of the Alzheimer's Association; Aleida Frederico of TD Bank; Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson of Thompson & Bender; Persephone Zill of The Food Bank for Westchester; Mercedes Garcia of MasterCard Worldwide; Renee Brown of C.W. Brown, a division of LeChase; Millie Hernandez-Becker of Skyqueen Enterprises; Dani Glaser of Green Team Spirit & Westchester Green Business Challenge; Bridget Gibbons of Gibbons Digital, a division of InspiraMedia; Taryn Duffy of Empire City Casino; BCW Director of Special Events Amanda DePalma; Cynthia Rubino of YMCA of