

For Immediate Release
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The Bucks County Woman's Advocacy Coalition's welcomed nearly 100 Partners and guests to their 4th Call to Action on May 17, 2017 at the James-Lorah Memorial Home, 132 North Main Street, Doylestown, PA.

The annual meeting and networking event opened with remarks from Tam St. Claire, President of the BCWAC. "The BCWAC is ready to fight...to persist...to resist the attempts to turn back the clock on progress women have made over the last 50-years. We are going to insist that the values that made our country the envy of the world are not lost for our kids and grandkids. If we join together to speak out using our outside voices....we will eventually succeed because when we get behind fairness and justice everyone wins."

Ms. St. Claire also announced the introduction of a Youth Advocacy Committee within the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition that provides a platform for youth to learn about the legislative process and participate in activities that empower, educate and support gender equity and economic security for all. The interested young people who join the committee will be trained by nonpartisan Coalition leadership. Eight members of this new Committee were in attendance and launched their advocacy by speaking about Senate Bill 383 which would permit guns in schools. Ninth grader Ernesto Gamauf shared that he "would feel unsafe as would many of my classmates" if teachers or others had guns in his school. Izzy Russo agreed that guns in her school would make her "feel very far from safe". Kyra Kendrick told the attendees that she was "in awe that this bill made it to a point of consideration, bypassing common sense and reason". Samantha Zanine made the point that "guns in schools increase the chance of a school shooting". And Sophia Rubio added that guns in schools will also 'lead to more shootings and accidental gun deaths'.

Sophie Griffiths, granddaughter of Partner Lydia Winderman, entertained the attendees with a very moving original song entitled "Revolution" as well as a rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine".

The keynote address was delivered by Carol E. Tracy, executive director of The Women's Law Project (WLP). Ms. Tracy has been working to advance women's rights for the past 30 years. She has presided over major legal victories in the areas of reproductive rights, discrimination in employment, education, athletics, and welfare. Her recent work has focused on improving the institutional response to violence against women, including leading a major reform effort on the police handling of sex crimes in Philadelphia and co-chairing a citywide task force on domestic violence. She is a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and the Bryn Mawr School of Social research, has served on numerous boards of nonprofit agencies in Philadelphia, is active in the public interest legal community, is the recipient of many awards and honors including the prestigious Sandra Day O'Connor Award for the Advancement of Civics Education, and is frequently featured in local and national media.

In her remarks, Ms. Tracy recognized the BCWAC as "the model for the resistance", adding that "you have the right structure and approach that I hope others will follow". She also encouraged attendees to remember a time before

key legislation in the 1960s and 1970s when women had few rights and opportunities. “Our hard earned rights must be defended. They are non-negotiable.”

On behalf of the WLP, Ms. Tracy accepted the Nancy P. Morrill Award which is presented to individuals or organizations that embody the vision and mission of the Coalition.

The Bucks County Women’s Advocacy Coalition is a non-partisan and principle-based coalition of 40 organizations and more than 200 individual partners that serve women and girls. We envision a socially just and respectful society invested in the common good to achieve the full potential of individuals, families, and the community. We educate and advocate on behalf of women and girls to promote systemic change to achieve gender equity and economic security for all.



l to r: Tam St. Claire, BCWAC President, Carol Tracy, Executive Director Women’s Law Project, Nancy Morrill, BCWAC President Emerita, and Tara Murth, WLP Associate Director Communications.



l to r – BCWAC Youth Advocacy Group: Sophia Rubin, Clarissa Rubin, Kyra Kendrick, Izzy Russo, Sophie Griffiths, Maggie Winderman, Sam Winderman

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