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News

## A Network for Women Created by Women To Help Your Business and Social Life Blossom

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If you are looking for a social network created solely for women by women, then the Litchfield County Women's Network (LCWN) might be exactly what you are looking for to help catapult your career and business to the next level. The Litchfield County Women's Network (LCWN) has been a social and business networking niche in the Litchfield County area for 28 years. The LCWN was started in 1981 by eight area business women, several who are still members today, who saw a need for an all women's network to help members expand their business and boost their careers. The LCWN is a terrific resource for networking, meeting new people and to just have fun with "the girls" once a month. Currently, the LCWN has approximately 50 members, mostly in the Torrington/Winsted area. The LCWN hopes to expand its network to incorporate women from all 26 towns within the Litchfield County. As the areas expand, this will open the door to having the LCWN monthly meetings at various restaurants throughout the Litchfield County. As LCWN grows, so does your networking opportunities, so be sure to tell a friend to join with you!

Who are the LCWN members? They are Artists, Florists, Massage Therapists, Financial Advisors, Personal Coaches, Realtors, Insurance Agents and Yoga Instructors, just to name a few professions. They are business and professional women, employees and entrepreneurs who want to meet other women with the same desire: to build relationships, both business and personal. If you have recently lost your job, the LCWN is a great networking avenue to utilize. Having a good network base is a necessity in today's business world. The women of LCWN are available to support and inform you, whether you are looking for contacts, camaraderie or community connections.

Chana M. Monahan, current President of LCWN and owner of Greenhouse Graphics, LLC. in Winchester, has been a member of LCWN for 7 years, serving as the Newsletter Chair for 6 years and President since September 2009. Chana was starting her own business at that time, while attending school. Chana's sister-in-law was a member of LCWN and encouraged Chana "to apply for the scholarship". Chana did not win, but "decided to participate in the Daughter's Day to get a feel for what LCWN does". Chana liked the program and decided to attend the June meeting. In September, Chana volunteered her expertise as a "Graphic & Website Designer to get involved" and has been handling the LCWN site since joining. Chana decided to join LCWN "so she could connect with local women and let them know about her business and learn about business and personal resources available to her in the community". Chana stated that the "founding women were pioneers for women to rally together and use other women to support and promote each other". Chana communicated that she has learned "so much from the members, they are so welcoming, provide advice and suggestions in a nice way, and they truly want the other women, especially women that are just starting, to really grow and succeed and that really inspired me". Being able to "practice in the comfort of friends is truly empowering", Chana added.

Jenny Drescher, current Vice President of LCWN and a Personal Coach in Winsted, stated that LCWN "allows you to try things and stretch yourself in a very non-judgmental environment". Jenny also stated that the LCWN has "made it very comfortable to make transitions in her career since joining less than 3 years ago". Jenny also commented that LCWN

has "helped advance her career through referrals from other members within the network, reaching people she otherwise probably wouldn't reach". Having "that multiple perspective" is really something that Jenny has "found to be of high value".

Faye D. Tway-Grant, Executive Director for T-G Associates in Torrington and one of the founding women of LCWN, stated that LCWN positively influenced her career through the "support of others" and the ability to utilize members for "advice or a sounding board" through the years. The LCWN has empowered Faye by "building her self confidence" and through receiving/providing "compliments and acknowledgements for what you have done from others outside your family".

The LCWN Board Mission Statement is as follows:

- To provide a comfortable and engaging environment where women experience encouragement and support in their personal and business challenges.
- To provide resources and business challenges.
- To provide resources, presentations and activities to inspire individual growth in leadership, business and community involvement.
- To illustrate the benefits of, and promote, networking both within and outside of the organization.
- To uphold an interactive relationship.

Current LCWN member benefits:

- A FREE business card size ad (3.5"w x 2"h) in the LCWN newsletter
- Receive a \$10 discount on all monthly meeting fees.
- Have your name and company mentioned in the newsletter as a New Member.
- Have your information in the Member Directory that is given out to all members to use as a reference for shops and services.
- Have the option to have a business referral, a listing on the LCWN website, for an additional \$10 per year.
- Have the ability to submit announcements for the Monthly Member to Member Announcements, about special events, sales, business or personal needs that another fellow member can help you with.
- Be involved (and really know who your fellow members are) by joining the Board or help out on a Special Committee.

The LCWN hosts monthly meetings from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (except April and August). Meetings are held at various locations in the Litchfield area and include dinner, networking and an informative speaker. Upcoming events are reflected on the LCWN Web site, [www.lcwn.com](http://www.lcwn.com). The following event will transpire in April:

Thurs, April 22

18th Annual Daughter's Day; when women mentor local 8th grade girls in career and life choices, at the Elks Club,

Torrington from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The group's Web site is also an extremely valuable tool for members of LCWN, as it offers various resources, links and referrals. Members are allowed to submit for posting a Web site or books that they find helpful to them, both business and personal. In the monthly newsletter, a member can become "Member In The Spotlight" and shares information regarding type of business, how they started their business or entered their field, what they enjoy about their career/business and their most recent accomplishment, in addition to contact information.

At each of the LCWN's monthly meetings the organization has a scholarship raffle in which members, guests and speakers can bring a donated gift or item. The money collected from the ticket sales is designated for the LCWN Scholarships. The Scholarships are awarded in July to local women interested in going back to college to pursue a new career or to enhance the one they are currently in. LCWN usually awards (2) winners \$500 each. And each winner also receives a one (1) year complimentary LCWN membership.

The LCWN also encourages its members to be community- and charity-minded. Recently, one member, Lori Barker, who is an Artist, created artwork to sell to benefit the Haiti relief effort. Vice President, Jenny Drescher, collected used shoes, which were delivered to the Fleet Feet shoe drive in West Hartford. The organization will highlight charities that members may get involved with on the organizations Web site, [www.lcwn.com](http://www.lcwn.com).

If you are currently not a member and would like to see for yourself what LCWN is all about, the LCWN welcomes potential new members to attend one of the monthly meetings. All you need to do is register for a meeting and pay the guest fee.

The annual membership fee is \$40, and an optional online business listing costs another \$10 for the year. Monthly meetings that include dinner are \$25 for members; \$35 for guests.

For more information, please visit the LCWN Web site at [www.lcwn.com](http://www.lcwn.com).

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