



For Immediate Release
November 22, 2013

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Councilmember, Small Business Owner and Long Time Woman's Advocate Joins BPW Foundation Board

Bowie City Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem, Diane Polangin has been elected to the Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation Board of Trustees. "Councilmember Polangin brings strong leadership skills, a broad knowledge of BPW Foundation history and policy issues, and a deep personal commitment to the challenges facing working women, that will greatly enhance BPW Foundation's strategic programmatic capabilities," said Roslyn Ridgeway, BPW Foundation Chair.

"Her long standing commitment to public service and community action, which includes her service as president of BPW/USA, BPW Foundation's former sister organization, president of BPW/Maryland and CFO of the Business and Professional Women's Education Foundation of Maryland will be particularly relevant to her new duties on the BPW Foundation Board of Trustees," Ridgeway said. "In addition, her serving as a mentor for S.O.C.S. (SomeOneCares), a program for young women from Bowie High School and serving as chair and mentor for the Huntington Community Center's Choices and Challenges Program, will be particularly valuable as BPW Foundation continues to expand our Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouses Mentoring Plus® efforts."

"As a long time supporter and worker for women's rights, a small business owner and an elected official, I am excited to have the opportunity to put my skills and talents to work for an organization that I greatly admire and have supported for years. I am grateful to the board for electing me and I look forward to supporting the BPW Foundation programs on behalf of working women across our country." Councilmember Polangin said.

Polangin is the owner/operator of Total Tax Service in Bowie, Maryland. In this capacity, she provides services for businesses and individuals, including income tax preparation. She also is a notary public and teaches income tax preparation.

Previously, Polangin was a partner in a southern Maryland-based builder/developer company which developed over 1,000 acres with moderately-priced homes and two office buildings. For many years, she was administrator of an architectural firm where she was responsible for business development, contract negotiation and zoning matters, financial and personnel management, as well as client relations and the development of complex projects.

She is a member of the American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers, National Society of Tax Professionals, Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, Business and Professional Women of Laurel and Maryland Business and Professional Women.

Diane has received awards from the city, county, and state government and from several national organizations for her community service and her national advocacy of women's issues, such as domestic violence, equal pay for equal work and other family issues. Councilmember

Polangin was elected to the Bowie City Council in 2007 and re-elected in November 2009, 2011 and 2013.

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About BPW Foundation - *With a legacy dating back to 1919, Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation was the first foundation dedicated to conducting research and providing information on working women. The mission of BPW Foundation is to promote systematic change in the workplace by strengthening the capacity of organizations and businesses to create environments that are inclusive and value the skills and contributions of working women, empowering them to achieve their full potential.*