

**LETTER from the PRESIDENT**

Dear Fellow Forum Members:

As we head toward the New Year, it's time to celebrate the successes of the past twelve months, reflect on the missteps in the hopes of learning from them, and of course, look to the future. No doubt, The Forum had a fabulous 2016. Supported by a strong Board of Directors, dedicated Committee members, and you, our faithful members, we accomplished much. The Forum renewed its ties with its longtime members, welcomed a diverse group of new members, instituted a variety of inaugural programming opportunities, furthered interesting alliances with other dynamic organizations, and recommitted itself to the primacy of its mission – to increase the number of women at the highest echelons in the corporate, nonprofit and government sectors of the Greater Philadelphia region.



As each of us contemplates our New Year's resolutions, I am reminded of Eleanor Roosevelt's quote, "You must do the thing you think you cannot do." I try to live this quote each day. In doing so, in my moments of doubt, I push toward the unknown and unfamiliar. More often than not, the moment of discomfort is followed by a wealth of opportunity that I was not able to foresee. I invite you to join me in stepping outside of your comfort zones in 2017. Like many of you, I have found that it is in facing that which we have not faced before, both professionally and personally, that we grow. I garner the courage to take bold steps, in part because of the strength, warmth and camaraderie I see reflected in your faces each time I meet you on the street, at an event, or in a meeting. So I say to you as you contemplate your 2017 goals, write a meaningfully sized check to support your favorite non-profit or political candidate, raise your hand for that tricky but visible assignment at your company, ask for the promotion and the raise, chase that public company board seat. You can and you must do what you think you can't. You owe it to yourself and all of us.

Blessings for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year,  
Suzanne

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## Letter from the Executive Director

### Fall 2016 Highlights — Leadership Breakfast and Women on Boards Report

Our year of accomplishments, as Suzanne described in her letter above, was truly exemplified at the 2016 Leadership Breakfast. In addition to enjoying increased attendance each year (nearly 700 guests gathered in the Crystal Tea Room) on October 27<sup>th</sup>, this year has proven to be a year of several 'firsts.'

2016 was the first time that we had not one, but two CEOs on the Leadership Breakfast agenda - Helena Foulkes, CEO of CVS Pharmacy was interviewed by Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Also for the first time at the breakfast, along with PwC, we honored companies in the region that have 25% or more women on their boards with our "Champion of Board Diversity Award." We invited all 19 of those companies to attend the breakfast, and more than half of those companies sent representatives. They were thrilled to be recognized as we saluted them in front of our largest audience to date, and many of those same companies have spread the news about their recognition by The Forum at our Leadership Breakfast which is a win-win for us. Thank you again to PwC for their serving as the strategic sponsor of our women on boards report.

Our new Mayor, Jim Kenney, joined us and made brief remarks supporting the work of The Forum and also the importance of diversity at the top. He noted that in his own organization at City Hall, many of his top appointees are women, and reminded everyone in the room that when there is diversity at the top, it filters through the organization.

Our public relations and social media efforts surrounding the release of the Women on Boards Report were the most successful to date. We reached more than half a million people with our report results via articles from various news outlets (*Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Business Journal, Philadelphia Tribune, Philadelphia Magazine*) - that's a 20% increase over last year; we nearly doubled the number of impressions made via Twitter (21,600 this year). Probably most importantly, we engaged in conversations through social media with many of the larger companies that are featured in the report. The report was distributed at the breakfast, as always, and we are now in the process of distributing it to influencers in the region.

I am looking forward to keeping this terrific momentum going and encouraging companies to view this report as the catalyst for change. I continue to be inspired and energized by the remarkable women I have the privilege of working with everyday, and I am looking forward to what the New Year will bring!

All of the best this holiday season and in 2017.

Sharon

## Goodbye to The Forum Newsletter; Hello to The Weekly Digest!

It is no surprise that as the pace of life quickens in the digital age, news is more easily read – and absorbed – when it is delivered in shorter bursts. So, in an effort to keep members better informed and engaged, earlier this fall we developed The Weekly Digest. Hopefully you are enjoying the new format, with shorter news pieces and photos, and Member News items which we can now publish in a timely fashion, rather than waiting for the quarterly updates. This will be the last edition of the longer-format Forum Newsletter.

Please remember to submit your member news for The Weekly Digest.

We will accept news on the following:

- Appointments and Elections
- Awards and Honors
- Business Moves and News
- Speeches and Publications

If you would like to submit a news item, please email your photo and a brief description of your news to Julie Kaeli at [juliekaeli@foew.com](mailto:juliekaeli@foew.com). If your news fits the above criteria, it will appear in one of our Weekly Digests.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please join us in welcoming these women leaders who joined The Forum earlier this summer and fall.

### **Ann T. Anthony**

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR — UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEET THE FORUM GATHERINGS

**January 11 — 8:00 a.m. — New Jersey Breakfast \***  
Ponzio's, 7 NJ Route 70, Cherry Hill, NJ

**January 20 — 8:00 a.m. — Western Suburbs Breakfast \***  
Malvern Buttery, 233 East King Street, Malvern, PA

**January 25 — 8:00 a.m. — Delaware County Breakfast \***  
The Radnor Hotel, 591 East Lancaster Avenue, St. Davids, PA

**January 26 — 8:30 a.m. — Center City Breakfast \***  
Parc, 227 S. 18th Street, Philadelphia, PA

\*Fees collected at meeting. RSVP to [info@foew.com](mailto:info@foew.com).

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### Affinity Group Meetings

**Entrepreneurial Affinity Group — March 22 — 8:00 AM — Location TBA**  
Contact [Gloria Rabinowitz](#) to register.

**Food and Finance — 6:00 PM — Dates: February 1; May 3; August 2; November 1**  
**Location TBA**  
Contact [Rachel Cohen](#) for more information.

**Suburban Book Club Dates: January 17 — 7:00 PM — Reviewing “The Round House” by Louisa Erdich — Viggiano's, 16 East First Avenue, Conshohocken, PA**  
Contact [Shannon Breuer](#) for more information.

**University City Book Club Dates: Meets on the fourth Monday of the month**  
**January 23; February 27; March 27; April 24; May 22; June 26**  
Contact [Andrea Kramer](#) for more information.

**Transitions II — January 24 — 6:30 PM**  
Contact [info@foew.com](mailto:info@foew.com) for more information.

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### Forum Member Events

**January 11, 2017 – Meet Your Forum Board – 6:00 – 7:00 PM**  
Cozen O'Connor, One Liberty Place, 1650 Market Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia  
Registration link: <http://www.cvent.com/d/bvqrsb/4W>

**January 18, 2017 – 2<sup>nd</sup> President/CEO Roundtable Dinner – 5:30 – 7:30 PM**  
For members who are Presidents/CEOs of 100+ employee organizations (for-profit or non-profit)  
Registration link: <http://www.cvent.com/d/yvqrww/4W>

## 2016-2017 ANNUAL SPONSORS

The Forum is able to continue to embrace meaningful programs and initiatives that align with our mission thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our sponsors. Please take a moment to review our annual sponsor list below. If you would like information on how you or your company can become a Forum sponsor, please contact Sharon Hardy at [sharonhardy@foew.com](mailto:sharonhardy@foew.com).

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