

From The President



FROM THE PRESIDENT – Shobita DuBois

A hard choice, once made, allows your heart to be open to new experiences.

Have you ever found yourself struggling to make a tough decision? And, I don't mean something as simple as what to make for dinner or what to wear for the day, although believe me, I struggle with those, too. I mean one of those decisions that you consider for days (weeks, even), one that weighs on your mind day after day. You know deep within your soul that this choice is one that will cause you to pivot in life. It can be fearful to take risks when faced with the unknown. Here are four (4) helpful tips to guide you through the process.

First, take yourself out of the present moment. It's easy to go about your day distracting yourself from the inevitable. It takes courage to set aside time to think about the long-term effects of making an impactful decision. Maybe you are afraid of the pain or heartache you or someone else will immediately suffer? You may have to make sacrifices in the short term, but consider the future benefits as the ultimate gain.

Second, understand that every decision is a battle between head and heart. We are human, after all, and with that comes a plethora of emotions. Each time we start to feel the scales tip in one direction, the other pulls back just as hard. It creates this emotional roller coaster within us that often feels like it's on a continuous loop. Your head draws from logic, while your heart appeals to your needs and wants. Oftentimes, the best decisions are ones balanced with satisfying your desires, but at the same time making a heck of a lot of sense.

Third, recognize that you are not alone. Many tough decisions have an impact on those around you. Consider discussing your thoughts with important loved ones, those who may be affected by your decision. Listen to their points of view and understand the positive and negative influences on them. It may be that your head or heart gains the upper hand as a result. While you, and you alone, must live with the full force of that choice, surrounding yourself with a support system that fosters your decision will diminish that fear of the unknown.

Fourth, coming back to my initial words, remember that difficult choices often have hidden positive outcomes. It is only with taking a leap of faith, chartering into the unknown, that we allow our hearts to open up to new experiences. The only question is how will you allow your new journey to unfold?

"The future depends on what we do in the present." - Mahatma Gandhi.

What You Missed

WHAT YOU MISSED – Shobita DuBois

Our kick off event in January was a huge success! Wendy Lee presented and guided us through an enlightening goal setting workshop that made all of us think long and hard about how to set goals in a meaningful way. It was such a hit that we scheduled a follow up session on February 6, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Coffee Coffee. Please sign up on our website. Spots are limited! For \$10, you will be provided with a tasty treat and all supplies (except, bring your own magazines). Coffee drinks will be available for purchase or BYOB.

Join Us for Next Month's Meeting!

Join Us For February's Networking Meeting!
 Tuesday, February 13, 2024
 11:30am -1:30pm
 The Havre de Grace Colored School Museum and Cultural Center, Inc.
 555 Alliance St., Havre de Grace, MD 21078

*****PLEASE NOTE THIS FACILITY IS NOT HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE*****

Members - \$30 | Guests - \$40

Registration ends on **2/8/2024**

[Register For This Event](#)

This Month's Speaker: Kimberly Ellis Taylor

Kimberly Ellison-Taylor grew up in the inner city of Baltimore and has proven that mentorship, coaching and sponsorship does work. As a leader in both finance and technology, Ellison-Taylor has received many awards and recognitions. In 2016, she became the first person of color to serve as Chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the fifth woman, and the youngest Chairman. She is a sought-after speaker on several topics including Leadership, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Transformation, and Emerging Technology.



Kimberly is a Global Technology and Finance leader with over 30 years of career achievements. She is the Chief Executive Officer of KET Solutions, LLC, a consulting firm focused on business growth, innovation, strategy, transformation and inclusive leadership. Ellison-Taylor is a sought after keynote speaker and has received many awards and recognitions for her expertise and leadership including Accounting Today's Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting and CPA Practice Advisor's 25 Most Powerful Women in Accounting.

For almost 17 years, Ellison-Taylor served in global leadership roles for Oracle Corporation. Kimberly advised C-Suite Executives on cloud solutions that innovate and transform business. Ellison-Taylor is also an adjunct professor for Carnegie Mellon University's Chief Information Officer Certificate program teaching Emerging Technologies & Innovation. She is a member of the Heinz Dean's Advisory Council. Kimberly is also an independent board director.

Other professional achievements include tenures at Prince George's County Government, KPMG, Motorola, and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Ellison-Taylor has an undergraduate degree in Information Systems from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, a MBA from Loyola University Maryland, an Accounting Certificate from the Community College of Baltimore County and a Master of Science from Carnegie Mellon University in Information Technology Management as well as a Chief Information Officer certification. She is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Global Management Accountant, Certified Information Systems Auditor and Certified Information Systems Auditor.

Kimberly has volunteered in the profession for over 20 years including past leadership positions as Chairman of the American Institute of CPAs, Chairman of the Association of Certified Professional Accountants, and Chairman of the Maryland Association of CPAs. Kimberly is also

- the Chair for the AICPA's National Commission on Diversity and Inclusion
- the Immediate Past President for Beta Alpha Psi, an honor society for accounting, finance, and technology students
- the Chairman of the Maryland Association of CPAs Education Foundation
- a member on board of advisors for the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business and
- is on the board of trustees for Loyola University Maryland.

In her personal life, Kimberly is also committed to volunteerism and has served in various leadership positions in support of community service causes including Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

This Month's Sponsor: Vickie Semanie



Vicki founded Seven Stones, a life coaching company, in January 2023 after a long career as a finance professional. Before Seven Stones, she served as the Vice President of Finance for St. Mary's Seminary & University. In that role, Vicki had responsibility for finance, information technology, facilities, dining, and housekeeping services. Before joining St. Mary's in 2020, Vicki was the chief financial officer for Johns Hopkins Home Care Group and in similar roles at various Catholic healthcare organizations. Vicki is an alumnus of Loyola University of Maryland and Bentley University. She serves on the board of directors of various not-for-profit organizations.

Vicki built an exceptional career and meaningful life because of her ability to pragmatically achieve her goals regardless of obstacles. As a mentor, parent, and coach, Vicki has seen that if people are accountable to another person vested in their success, great progress and even transformation can occur. She now uses this knowledge and her skills as a Master Certified Life Coach to assist others.

To connect with Vicki email her at Vicki@sevenstoneslifecoaching.com

Note: When we are able to take walk-ins, an additional \$10 fee will be added to your registration.

Members Making News



Congratulations to April Cheatham on her nomination for the Athena Young Professionals Award. In her role as the Director of Community and Business Relations for Extreme Family Outreach, April works tirelessly to end poverty for Harford County families. April is one of five finalists in the category. The winner will be announced at the Leadership Breakfast on March 1 at 7:30 a.m. at Richlin Ballroom. Come out and support April! [Click here](#) to purchase tickets.

Get The Most Out Of Your Membership

If you missed our January meeting, you missed getting this handy handout! Please **update your profile information** so our members can find you and send business your way. Also, **don't forget to join our Facebook group**. While our Facebook page is dedicated to promoting the organization, members are able to promote themselves in our group. Finally, **if you know anyone who isn't getting our emails, please forward this information to them so they can "whitelist" our email address.**

Get The Most From Your Membership!

Update Your Profile!
 Make sure other CPWN Members know what you do, and know how to find you!
Tip: Add a photo to stand out!

Visit the "Members Only" section of the CPWN website to make changes.



Make Sure You're Getting Our Emails
 If you're not getting our newsletter and other important emails, our emails might be going to your spam or junk folders. To fix this, please whitelist the email address info@cpwnet.org. Here's how:

Outlook:
 Click the gear icon -> Select "View All Outlook Settings."
 Choose "Mail" in the Settings Menu
 Click on "Junk Email"
 Go to "Safe Senders and Domains"
 Click Add
 Enter the email address: info@cpwnet.org
 Click "Save"

Gmail:
 Go to Settings
 Choose "Filters and Blocked Addresses"
 Create a new filter
 In the pop up (looks like an email), type the address info@cpwnet.org in the "from" field
 Click "Create filter"
 Check "Never Send to Spam" in the filter options
 Save

Yahoo:
 Go to Settings -> More Settings
 Select "Filters"
 Click "Add" and type in info@cpwnet.org
 Name the filter (you can name it anything: "safe" or "whitelist" are good choices)
 Select "Send all mail to Inbox"
 Save

AOL:
 Open Contacts
 Click "New Contact"
 Add info@cpwnet.org
 Email from this address will automatically go to your inbox

If you have any other email provider, please contact your administrator for support.

Join Our Facebook Members Group!
 Did you know we have a group as well as a page on Facebook? In our group, you are welcome to post about and promote your business, make special offers, and network with other members online.



Welcome New Members

Welcome back to Jessica Whittington of [Whittington Pet Sitting!](#) Whittington Pet Sitting offers quality care for your pets while you're away. Vacations are for relaxing, and you can only do that if you know your pets are in the care of someone you trust! We're glad to have you back, Jessica!



2024 Sponsorship Opportunities Are Now Available!



Sponsoring an event is an excellent way to promote your business or organization. As an event sponsor, you are promoted in our newsletter and on our social media channels. You are also given five minutes to speak at the event, and the ability to place marketing materials at every place setting. Get everyone talking about your business! 2024 Event Sponsorships cost \$200, which includes registration for one person.

New! In 2024, we are also offering the opportunity to be a Newsletter Sponsor. Newsletter Sponsors may provide one short (700 words or fewer) educational/informative article to be published in the monthly newsletter and emailed to our membership. The article must provide useful, relevant information about a topic on which you're an expert, and we reserve the right to edit for length or clarity or to fix errors in grammar or spelling. Newsletter Sponsorships cost \$50 and include a brief bio and link to your business's website or social media channels.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mary Ann Bogarty at mbogarty@jarrettsvillefederal.com.

Committee Members Wanted!

We need your talents! Please consider joining one of our committees. You can find out more by reaching out to the Chair or Co-Chair of the committee that interests you:

Membership, Jane Hardwick
jhardwick@mtb.com

Co-Chair, Janis McGuire
janismcguire@gmail.com

Events, Kim Zavrotny
kzavrotny@mccomasfuneralhome.com

Marketing, Dinah Berthold
dinah@substance-and-style.com

Fashion Show, Wendy Miller
wendmilldesigns@gmail.com

Co-Chair, Erika Decocco
erika@crabbyaxe.com

Sponsorships, Mary Ann Bogarty
mabogarty@jarrettsvillefederal.com

Anniversaries



28 Years
 Carolyn Evans - [Law Offices of Anthony J. DiPaula, PA](#)
 Laura Henninger - [Henninger & Henninger, LLC](#)
 Libby Plunkett - [Janney Montgomery Scott](#)
 Peggy Meyers - Roy J. Meyers & Associates, LTD
 Sandy Glock - Atapco Financial Services, Inc.

15 Years
 Lisa Fuller - [Fuller & Associates Insurance](#)

11 Years
 Sylvia Arrington - [Group Benefit Strategies, LLC](#)

4 Years
 Julie Mackert - [American Premier Realty](#)
 Kathy Hanna - [Image 360 Harford](#)

1 Year
 Michele McIlwain - [Last But Not Least Relaxation](#)
 Heather Murphy - [Abilities Network Senior Services](#)