



COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**



EILEEN WHALON BEHR
SHERIFF

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CHIEF DEPUTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 5, 2013

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Montco Sheriff and D.A. promote leadership for women in law enforcement and receive \$1,000 donation from Continental Bank at seminar

Norristown, Pa., (December 5, 2013) – A distinguished council of top area law enforcement leaders, moderated by Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, addressed over 100 female officers at a leadership development seminar titled “What is Your Leadership Potential?” hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement (MAAWLE).

MAAWLE, a professional organization that promotes training recognition and leadership for women in law enforcement hosted the event to provide a unique opportunity for the women to learn from and network with each other and several dynamic leaders in the law enforcement community. The event was held on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Center in Conshohocken.

“I was deeply impacted by the sheer number of women and women of color at a MAAWLE Training Conference in 2004 and decided to create this networking seminar in 2009,” said Abington Township Police Lieutenant and MAAWLE President Kelley Warner. Warner said she was impressed by the 30 percent growth in registrations just over the past year.

Panel members included were:

- University of Pennsylvania Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush
- SEPTA Police Inspector Teresa Peay-Clark
- East Norristown Township Police Chief Karyl Kates
- Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Chief Brenda Bernot

Ferman stressed the importance of paying it forward and finding a supportive personal “board of directors” while panelists shared inspiring stories of determination, collaboration, success, fear and failure. The group also took questions from fellow officers who were looking for support and advice in trying to move through the ranks of their departments, which they felt can still be challenging in a male dominated environment.

Continental Bank representatives wrapped up the seminar by presenting a check to the group for \$1,000 to support their 28th Anniversary 2014 Annual Training Conference being held in Valley Forge, Pa., from March 30 – April 3, 2014.

Montgomery County Sheriff Eileen Whalon Behr expressed her gratitude for the donation. However, she said, “MAAWLE is still in full fundraising mode and in need of additional sponsorships to help offset some of the rest of the conference expenses.”

The conference themed, “Protecting Those Who Can’t Protect Themselves,” will include training on critical issues such as crisis intervention, elder crimes, crimes against children, “Helping the Helpers”, cyber bullying and sexting and more.

To learn more about MAAWLE or to make a tax-deductible donation visit www.MAAWLE.org. To become a conference sponsor please contact:

- Sgt. Patricia Haas at phaas@montcopa.org or
- Dep. Joanne Plasterer at jplasterer@montcopa.org
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To learn more about the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department visit www.montcopa.org/sheriff.



Panelists: (from left to right) University of Pennsylvania V.P. for Public Safety Maureen Rush, Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, East Norriton Township Police Chief Karyl Kates, SEPTA Police Inspector Teresa Peay-Clark, Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Chief Brenda Bernot are flanked by Sheriff Eileen Behr (far left) and Abington Township Police Lt. Kelley Warner (far right).



Montco Sheriff Eileen Behr (far left) and Abington Township Police Lt. Kelley Warner (left) accept \$1,000 check from Continental Bank reps Fran Fusco, S.V.P. Retail Sales Mgr. and Guido Martinelli, V.P. Business Development (far right)

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