



**NEWS**

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**TWENTY CRE MAVENS HONORED AT COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE  
WOMEN NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

*The Past Presidents of CREW Northern Virginia Received Recognition at  
The Atrium at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens*



**Vienna, VA, September 29, 2016** – Nearly 90 commercial real estate professionals turned out for Commercial Real Estate Women Northern Virginia's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration Thursday night at The Atrium at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, Virginia. The highlight of the evening was honoring the past presidents of the chapter, which was founded in 1986. Susan Caudle of Equinox Investments, LLC and president of the chapter, was the Master of Ceremonies. Tara Piurko, a Director with CREW Network and Partner with the law firm Blake, Cassels, and Graydon in Toronto, Canada, was the guest speaker.

"CREW Northern Virginia was predicated on four key initiatives: providing women in commercial real estate with leadership opportunities, business networking, educational programming, and mentorship," said Susan Caudle, Chapter President and Master of Ceremonies. "Tonight's celebration was the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication by our honorees. They deserve all of our respect. It truly is a privilege to follow in their footsteps."

When asked what CREW meant to her, Beverly Merchant, a past president from 2002 and a member of CREW since 1992 said, “CREW is **the** Network of contacts, referrals, advice and information. And that goes back to before there even was an official CREW Network. Organizations like CREW Northern Virginia helped launch a south Florida chapter; sharing their insights on how to structure it, organize, and attract members. The office where I worked in the late 80’s was a bit short on female professionals, so it was especially nice being connected to CREW members in other offices. I most appreciated the CREW network when I made the move from Florida to the DC area in 1998. I reached out to many CREW members I’d met at conventions and delegate meetings. Not only did they help me with job leads, but referred me to others. It was amazing. All I had to say was “I’m a member of CREW” and the cold call became a very warm one.”

Carol Honigberg of Reed Smith, past president from 1999, and member since 1993 said, “My CREW experience disproves the adage that women don’t help other women, or at least not CREW women! Every request or inquiry I have ever made to a fellow CREW member—whether in Northern Virginia or across the country—has been met with warmth and a helpful response.”

Margaret Hirl of Agilis Energy, a past president from 1988, and one of the founding members of the chapter said, “I get emotional thinking about when--30 years ago--there were just a few members of this organization. And now, look at us! We’ve grown to more than 10,000 members! We’ve really come a long way, baby!”

CREW Northern Virginia rounds out their celebratory year with topical programs and leadership development training throughout the months of October and November. On December 7<sup>th</sup> they’ll hold their final event of the year—their annual holiday party—at The Tower Club in Tysons, VA. For more event information, visit [www.CREWNorthernVirginia.org](http://www.CREWNorthernVirginia.org).

**Past President Photo –**

*1<sup>st</sup> Row: Susan Caudle, Equinox Investments (2016 President); Margaret Hirl, Agilis Energy (1988); Karen O’Gorman, Kelley Commercial Real Estate (1995); Shannon Reber, Inova Health System (1990); Angie O’Grady, StellaPop (2001); Carol Honigberg, Reed Smith (1999); Nancy Payne, Pritchard Industries (2011); Kim Dize, The Dize Group (2004); Tara Piurko CREW Network);; 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Rebecca Smith-Zakowicz, GeoConcepts Engineering, Inc. (2014); Julie Maza, Pennoni (2009); Donna Martin, AVI-SPL (2008); Anna Gardiner (1998); Erin McLaughlin, Dewberry (2015); Beverly Merchant, McEneaney Commercial (2002); Martha Heric, Wells Fargo (1989); Debby Allen, DRH Designs (2010); Betsy Daily, NAI/Michael Companies (1997); Tracy Allen, ECS Corporate Services (2005); 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Mary Moore, Syska Hennessy Group (2013); Kathleen Coxe, ECS Mid-Atlantic (1991); and Ruth Fields, christopher consultants (2012).*

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**CREW Northern Virginia** – Founded in 1986, Commercial Real Estate Women Northern Virginia is an association dedicated to promoting the success of women in commercial real estate through professional development, business networking, education, and mentorship. [www.CREWNorthernVirginia.org](http://www.CREWNorthernVirginia.org)

**CREW Network** - Founded in 1989, CREW Network is the industry’s premier business networking organization dedicated to advancing the achievements of women in commercial real estate. More than 10,000 CREW Network members represent nearly every discipline with the industry globally and have a presence in more than 70 major markets across North America. With this large diverse network, CREW Network members have the resources to create new and different ways of structuring deals, to focus on the bottom line, and to inspire others to work as a team and get the job done. [www.CREWNetwork.org](http://www.CREWNetwork.org)