



Washington

County Community Foundation, Inc.

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News Release

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Community Foundation Elects First Female Chairman of the Board



R. Carlyn Belczyk

At its June Annual Meeting, the Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) elected its first female Chairman of the Board, R. Carlyn Belczyk. Belczyk is a certified public accountant and a certified valuation analyst. She graduated cum laude from the University of Utah and began her career in public accounting in 1986. She and Randy Guthrie formed Guthrie, Belczyk & Associates, P.C. in Washington in 1993. Active in many organizations related to her profession, she is also very active in our community. She was the first female President of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, has served as President of Transitional Employment

Consultants, and is currently on the Monongahela Valley Hospital Board of Trustees. Belczyk joined the WCCF Board in 1999, serving as Treasurer from 2002 to 2005.

Thomas P. Northrop was elected as Vice Chairman of the Board. Northrop is the President and Publisher of the *Observer-Reporter*. He received a Bachelors degree in History from Marietta College and a Bachelors in Newspaper Production Management from Rochester Institute of Technology. Mr. Northrop is a member of The Washington Rotary Club, of which he is a former President. He is also involved in the Washington Hospital Foundation, PA Newspaper Association Foundation, Friends of The Citizens Library, and Washington County Health Partners. Northrop joined the WCCF Board in 2003.

Janet S. Abernathy, community volunteer, returns as WCCF Secretary and Thomas J. Wild, Secretary/Treasurer for Accutrex Products, returns as WCCF Treasurer. Trustees rotating off the Board are Founding Trustees James McCune, Dr. Howard Jack, and Juliana Uram. Also rotating off is Trustee Patrick O'Brien. New Trustees elected to the board include Sally Cameron, Gwen Simmons and Elizabeth Todd.

Sally Scott Cameron lives in Washington with her husband Donald. Cameron studied Business and Economics at the University of Pittsburgh. A native of and entrepreneur in Greene County, Cameron was very instrumental in the creation of the Community Foundation of Greene County, serving as its Founding Chairman of the Board. She has been involved with several local charities, including the Washington Hospital and Community Action Southwest.

Gwen Simmons, a former college professor, lives in Monongahela. She has been very active with charitable groups in the Mon Valley, including the Mon Valley United Way and the Mon Valley YMCA. Born in Hampton, Virginia, Simmons earned her Bachelors in Economics and Sociology from Virginia Union, and a Masters in same at Mount Holyoke. She taught economics and sociology at Allen University and later at South Carolina State University. Mrs. Simmons is the wife of retired Federal Court Judge Paul Simmons.

Elizabeth H. Todd, a registered nurse, lives in Washington. Mrs. Todd earned a Bachelors degree in Nursing from the University of South Carolina, a Masters in Theology from Saint Vincent, and a Masters in Mental Health Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh. She has been involved with the American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, American Nurses Association, and the former Glory to God Free Clinic. During her more than 30 years in the health field, she has authored several publications dealing with Alzheimer's, home health and hospice care. Todd also authored *Reflections on Womanhood*, a collection of observations dealing with women in the 70s, which was published by Scottdale Press. Mrs. Todd is the wife of former WCCF Founding Trustee, William T. Todd, II.

The Washington County Community Foundation, which began operations in Washington County in 1995, promotes and facilitates local philanthropy by providing services to donors on an individualized basis and at reasonable fees. The Foundation currently manages over 100 permanent funds with a combined value approaching \$3 million. Temporary funds are also provided to serve donors whose charitable goals are more immediate than the endowed program provides. Grants are made from the various funds in the following areas: arts / humanities, education, environment, health, human needs, and religion. Cumulatively more than \$700,000 has been awarded from the WCCF in charitable grants and scholarships.

Additional questions should be directed to the Foundation, at (724) 222-6330 or wccf@cobweb.net.

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