



# AREW AND NYCREW MERGE TO FORM CREW NEW YORK

In a move to strengthen two organizations serving women real estate professionals in the New York City market, the Association of Real Estate Women (AREW) and New York Commercial Real Estate Women (NYCREW) have agreed to merge to form a single, integrated organization, CREW New York.

## THE CREW NETWORK

Prior to the merger, AREW and NYCREW were separate chapters of the national CREW Network, the industry's largest business networking organization dedicated to advancing the achievements of women in commercial real estate. Nearly 9,000 CREW Network members represent nearly every discipline within the industry in over 70 major markets in North America.

grow and thrive through strong and challenging economies, hurricanes and the current triumphant interest in commercial real estate as an investment and a career. I'd like to think that NYCREW's goals and programs have helped in that regard."

Today, NYCREW's membership consists of women from a broad range of disciplines within the commercial real estate industry including: financial services, asset and property management, developers, owners and operators, investment and property brokerage firms, appraisers, accountants, architects, attorneys and consultants. They are active in a wide range of industry segments, such as retail, hospitality, mixed use, industrial, office and transportation.

"Over the years, the two chapters had worked together on a number of programs and panels, and many professionals were members of both organizations," observed Christine Chipurnoi of Wells Fargo Insurance Services, NYCREW's 2014 President-Elect, and incoming Co-President of CREW New York.

"Our organizations have always been about collaboration, so it made sense for us to work together on programs that would benefit CREW and our community, including raising funds for CREW Foundation and other initiatives," Chipurnoi said. "And it makes even more sense to join together."

CREW New York will carry forward the similar core values, goals and programs pursued by the two chapters, including long-term histories as staunch advocates of promoting the success of women in commercial real estate and emphasis on education and networking. Bringing together respective strengths and leveraging 50 years of the histories and achievements of both organizations, CREW New York will serve and grow from a combined membership of 350.

"By creating one larger, more powerful organization, CREW New York will provide its members and sponsors with greater opportunities," said 2014 AREW president Erin Bond, Center for Real Estate Studies, New York Law School.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Christine Chipurnoi, Faith Hope Consolo, and Jane Lyons

NYCREW was founded in late 2001 as New York City's first CREW chapter (AREW joined the national organization later), when a group of visionary women saw the need for a group that would encourage and enable successful women CRE professionals to do business together. This was achieved through the encouragement of business referrals, organizing and sponsoring Industry Spotlight educational panels on topics of current interest, providing professional development and skills training, giving back to the community through charitable endeavors, and upholding strict professional and ethical standards.

"Ironically and sadly, we were supposed to launch in mid-September, but delayed until year-end after the 9/11 attacks," said former CRE Finance Council CEO Dotti Cunningham, now Chief Exploration Officer of globeDOTTING Travel. One of NYCREW's founders, she remains a major donor and leader. "Since then, however, I've watched this organization



LEFT TO RIGHT: CREW New York Board: Theresa Garelli; Robin Fisher, Newmark Grubb Knight Frank; Jane Lyons, Rhodes Associates; Faith Hope Consolo, Douglas Elliman Retail Group; Erin Bond, New York Law School; Christine Chipurnoi, Wells Fargo Insurance Services; Laura Walker, Citibank; Sara Rubenstein, Lend Lease; Amelia Janisz, EZ Building EHS

"Since its founding in 1978, AREW has grown into one of the premier New York City real estate organizations, supporting its members in their professional career advancement," said Merle Gross Ginsburg, AREW's founder and first president. "With this merger, AREW heralds in a new chapter as CREW New York, a powerful platform that will continue its mission of supporting and serving women in real estate."

### SHARED LEADERSHIP

Conforming to each existing chapter's bylaws, the merger was approved by a vote of each organization's board of directors and membership. Executive leadership comes from both AREW and NYCREW.

Co-presidents for 2015 will be Jane Lyons, Rhodes Associates, and Christine Chipurnoi, who would have ascended to the presidency of their respective associations. Other key positions will be Theresa Garelli, vice president; treasurer, Sara Rubenstein, Lend Lease; secretary, Amelia Janisz, EZ Building EHS; member-at-large, Robin Fisher, Newmark Grubb Knight Frank; and immediate past presidents Erin Bond, New York Law School, and Laura Walker, Citi Commercial Bank.

"We are delighted about the merger of AREW and NYCREW," said CREW Network CEO Gail Ayers, Ph.D. "With their combined strengths, CREW New York will create an even stronger organization for our New York mem-

bers and heighten the presence of the CREW brand in one of the most significant commercial real estate markets in the world."

Faith Hope Consolo, chairman of Douglas Elliman's Retail Group, has been appointed chairman emeritus and will serve in an advisory capacity as a board member of the newly merged organization.

Currently a board member of NYCREW and a national director of CREW Network, Consolo is also a past president of AREW, as well as creator and a recipient of the organization's highest honor, the Founders' Award.

In her new role for CREW New York, she will promote the rebranded organization to strengthen the relationship among membership, women real estate professionals and the industry at large. Her mission includes fostering positive awareness of the merged organization and promoting its expansion. "It is a privilege to be an active participant in this transition and support the growth of the new brand on a continuing basis," said Consolo. "Having been involved in both AREW and NYCREW for many years, my goal is to consult with and reinforce the new leadership's efforts in making CREW New York the premier women's real estate organization in New York City." ■

Please visit [www.crewnetwork.org](http://www.crewnetwork.org) for further information about events and membership.