

Tuesday, December 23, 2014 - January 5, 2015

Year In Review Spotlight

# AREW and NYCREW Merge to Form CREW New York



NEW YORK, NY, 12/2/2014 - 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.

Prior the merger, AREW and NYCREW were both 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.

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.

"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."

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, Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Inc., who would have ascended to the presidency of their respective associations. Vice president will be Theresa Garelli; 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, Citibank.

"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 members 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 to the board of the new 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."



CREW New York 2015 co-president Jane Lyons, Rhodes Associates; CREW Network CEO Gail Ayers; AREW founder and first president Merle Gross Ginsburg; CREW New York chairman emeritus Faith Hope Consolo, Douglas Elliman Retail Group; AREW 2014 president Erin Bond, New York Law School; CREW New York 2015 co-president Christine Chipurnoi, Wells Fargo Insurance Services; 2014 NYCREW president Laura Walker, Citibank



CREW New York Officers & Leadership 2015: 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



Michelle Medaglia, president and CEO, ACC Construction Corp., with 2014 AREW president Erin Bond, received AREW's 2014 Sponsor of the Year award for her company's long-term support of AREW and women in commercial real estate.



AREW past presidents Lina Telese, Zetlin & DeChiara; Merle Gross Ginsburg; Erin Bond, New York Law School; Faith Hope Consolo, Douglas Elliman Retail Group; Jennifer Carey, JLC Environmental Consultants; Marilyn Weitzman, The Weitzman Group; Michelle Medaglia, ACC Construction Corp.; Fran Delgorio, Jack Resnick & Sons.



Kenne Shepherd, Kenne Shepherd Interior Design | Architecture, with AREW president Erin Bond, received the 2014 "Beyond the Call of Duty" award for her outstanding commitment to the quality of AREW's communications.



Two special guests at the luncheon, on hand for the AREW/ NYCREW merger announcement: Merle Gross Ginsburg, AREW founder and first president, who received a standing ovation before and after her remarks; and Gail Ayers, Ph.D., CEO, CREW Network, the industry's largest business networking organization dedicated to advancing the achievements of women in commercial real estate.