

# Women support women with scholarships

LWABWO hosts annual scholarship dinner in New Lenox

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Freelance Reporter

The Lincoln-Way Area Business Women's Organization promotes collaboration and discussion among professional women, but it is also much more than a networking group. Its members work year-round to provide opportunities for the next generation.

On June 20, LWABWO hosted a dinner at Little Joe's restaurant in New Lenox to present 16 scholarships valued at \$500 or \$1000 to intelligent, ambitious and community-minded young ladies and to honor them for their accomplishments.

The scholarship application process was quite thorough, with candidates meeting grade point average requirements, submitting a personal essay and engaging with LWABWO members for in-person interviews.

"We're looking for people who are devoted to community service," LWABWO Treasurer Mary Maertin said. "People who want to do some outreach. Good students, of course, but we really like to see that they're helping the community. That carries a lot of weight."

Many scholarship recipients were in attendance at Little Joe's, where they enjoyed mingling with each other as well as receiving mentorship and advice from successful women in the community. Lincoln-Way East graduate Leah Hipp said she is planning on using her scholarship to help with the cost of schoolbooks at Joliet Junior College.

"I'll be there for two years, and then I'll go to Prairie



Attendees (left to right) Shannon Farrell, Cassandra Shelton, Liberty-Ann Shelton and Carolyn Kennedy catch up at the LWABWO dinner.



Founding members of the LWABWO, Judy Niemann (left) and her mother, Betty Dunn, pose for a photo.

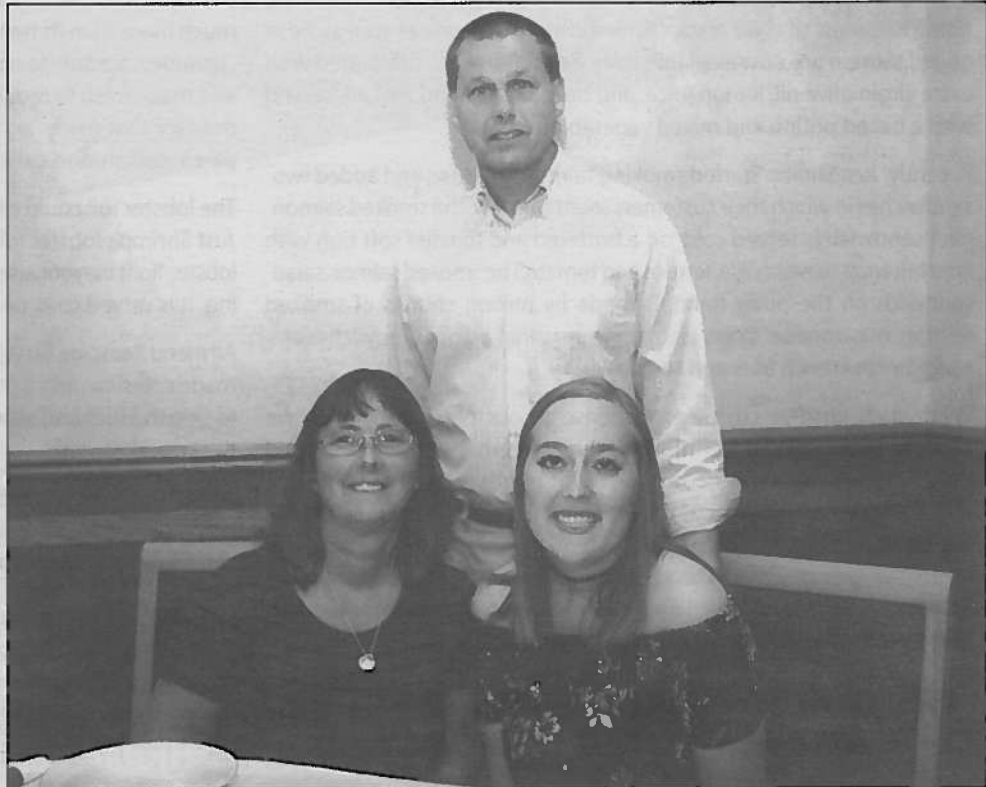
State College for the dental hygiene program," she said.

Lincoln-Way West graduate Liberty-Ann Shelton said she plans to study pharmacy at Purdue University in the fall. Her mother, Cassandra, was grateful for the scholarship, as she said everything helps when budgeting to send a child off to college.

"It helps a lot," Cassandra Shelton said. "We also

received a scholarship from the school, as well as the scholarship from this organization. It just helps me because I'm a single parent, and trying to pay for a college education is challenging."

LWABWO Chairwoman of Publicity Patty Wiemeler said she enjoys being involved with an organization that has been lending a helping hand to young women



Scholarship recipient Leah Hipp (right) poses for a photo with her parents, Kim and Sam, during the Lincoln-Way Area Business Women's Organization's annual scholarship dinner June 20 at Little Joe's Restaurant in New Lenox. PHOTOS BY LAURIE FANELLI/22ND CENTURY MEDIA



The organization's annual scholarship benefits graduating seniors and women in the Lincoln-Way area.

entering the next chapter of their lives for decades.

"The scholarship program is a great opportunity to help out a fellow lady. It's a great

way to empower them and show them that they can make a difference in the world," she said.

The future generation is

already making a lasting impression on the women of LWABWO.

"They are all very tal-

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**POLICE REPORTS**

**NL man arrested twice in three days at Walmart**

Edgar Budrevicius, 24, of 169 Forest St. in New Lenox, was arrested twice between June 13-15 at Walmart on the 500 block of E. Lincoln Highway.

The arrest on June 15 stemmed from a retail theft incident on June 13 when Budrevicius was charged for stealing cans of beer from the store. Police said Budrevicius was advised not to return to the store or else he would be charged for criminal trespass to property.

He returned to Walmart on June 15. Employees recognized Budrevicius and pressed charges, police said.

**June 15**

• Thomas E. Robinson, 58, of 720 Chase Ave. in Joliet, was charged with driving under the influence when he was stopped on Route 30 and Gougar Road for allegedly speeding.

**June 14**

• Money was reportedly stolen from a bank account when the victim received a message his or her computer needing updating. The complainant reported called the number provided in the message and provided the offender access to the com-

puter during which the offender accessed the victim's bank account.

**June 13**

• Lionel D. James, 21, of 363 Lakewood Blvd. in Park Forest, was charged with battery after he allegedly he struck a person in the face at LA Fitness on the 2400 block of E. Lincoln Highway during a basketball game. The victim reportedly broke a tooth from the strike.

• Credit card information was reportedly stolen and used to make unauthorized purchases.

• Wires were damaged at a home on the 2900 block of Brett Drive after an unknown person reportedly tried to steal an AC unit from the residence.

• Money and cigarettes were reportedly stolen after an unknown person burglarized the Speedway gas station on the 300 block of West Lincoln Highway. The glass pane on the front door was reportedly broken into for the offenders to enter the store.

• A window was broken and a door was reportedly damaged at Village Liquor Mart on the 1300 block of North Cedar Road during an attempted burglary.

**June 12**

• Elieso A. Zuniga, 26, of 24415 Arrowhead Drive in Manhattan, was charged with driving on a suspended license when he was stopped on Route 30 and Vine Street for allegedly speeding.

**June 11**

• Lawn was reportedly damaged at a residence on the 800 block of Bristol Lane.

**June 10**

• Charles E. Adams Jr., 28, of 1016 Gardner St. in Joliet, was charged with driving on a suspended license when he was stopped on Vine and Wood Street for allegedly speeding.

**June 9**

• A patient reportedly struck a nurse with a closed fist at Silver Cross Hospital.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The New Lenox Patriot's Police Reports are compiled from official reports found online on the New Lenox Police Department's website or releases issued by the department and other agencies. Anyone listed in these reports is considered to be innocent of all charges until proven guilty in a court of law.*

**LWABWO**

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ented young ladies who we know are going to go far," Scholarship Committee member Cheryl Colanto said of the 2017 honorees. "They're awesome. That's really the best part of being on the committee, getting to meet all these girls. They restore your faith in the world and where it's going."

The scholarship funds are generated throughout the year at monthly busi-

ness meetings, but the bulk of the money is raised at LWABWO's annual Holiday Auction. Judy Niemann, chairwoman of the Auction Committee, has the job of auctioneer at the event each year, and she said she always enjoys encouraging everyone to bid on the spectacular assortment of donated prizes.

"It's wonderful," she said. "The women are very excited and everyone gets so involved. It's fun. Everyone tries to outbid each other

because it's for such a good cause. The more money we raise, the more scholarships we can give."

LWABWO President Michelle Kerfin echoed the enthusiasm of her fellow members.

"We've done this for years and years, and it's something that's near and dear to our hearts as an organization," she said. "Everything we do is so we can raise funds to give back to the youth."

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