



## Meetings build courage, support among women



**D**r. Ann Gatty has noticed women taking more risks, being more willing to start their own businesses and supporting each other more within the chamber. The Women's Leadership Roundtable she helped create four years ago is likely playing a part in that transformation.

Dr. Gatty, President of Strategic People Solutions, a business consulting firm that provides leadership mentoring, HR strategizing and strategic business planning, has been the facilitator of the chamber's Women's Leadership Roundtable since its first session on June 28, 2019. Over the last four years, more than 100 people have participated in these free monthly virtual meetings, which include interactive educational presentations and focus on sharing resources and best practices by developing a network of women that champion each other's successes.

"I just wanted to have an open dialogue and a space where people could gather and communicate about issues that are specific to women," said Dr. Gatty, a longtime chamber member, a former Chair of the Board and currently a member of the chamber's Strategic Planning Committee. "We do talk about a lot of transitions – women in transition. We talk about the values you bring to the table. There is a lot of self-reflection."

There has been a lot of progress, too, Dr. Gatty said, in terms of women improving their communication skills, finding a better work-life balance, embracing self-care, and developing mentoring relationships. But there is still progress to be made as women try to find their voice, determine if Corporate America or an entrepreneurial path is right for them and figure out if being everything to everybody – what Dr. Gatty referred to as "women still chasing Superwoman status" – is possible, sustainable or even necessary.

All of those topics were discussed at this year's Second Annual Women's Leadership Brunch on May 23 at The Chadwick, Wexford, an event Dr. Gatty helped organize and facilitate. More than 120 people attended as three panelists – Karen Allen, President of Butler & Clarion Hospitals, Julie Campbell, Regional Manager at PNC Bank North Region, and Gina Mazza, Writing Coach and Publishing Consultant – shared their knowledge and experiences.

The Women's Leadership Roundtable's three other annual in-person events are Afterhours meetings, which are additional opportunities for Chamber women to network and hear directly from guest speakers about topics relevant to developing their skills and advancing their careers.