

Professional Women in Building : PWB NEWS



The PWB gathered on January 30th at RIBA Headquarters for their Strategic Planning meeting. Over 20 members and new prospective members were in attendance. The night concluded with a Ted Talks video and an open discussion lead by Sophia Karvunis on leadership and Carol O'Donnell spearheading our planning of the upcoming year.

New Member Spotlight

Julie & Lauren Brierley of Calyx Builds

What benefits do you find being a member? – We first joined the PWB in June 2017 after a great networking night at the East Greenwich Yacht Club. Since then we have been taking advantage of the many benefits PWB has to offer. These benefits include having strong female role models who support our community and help to motivate us to grow within the industry. We also have found the meetings educational for both our professional & personal growth.

What drew you into your career? – The construction industry is in our blood! Our dad has been in the industry for over 40 years, and our mom for over 30. Growing up visiting job sites and seeing a house built from the ground up has always been intriguing to us. After Julie graduated from URI with a degree in Global Business in 2014 she worked for the family business for a year then went abroad to work in Europe and teach English in Thailand. Coming back to Rhode Island in April 2017, Julie went right back to working for Calyx as the Operating Manager. As for Lauren, after graduating from URI with a degree in Marketing in 2014 and working for an insurance company for 2 years, decided to leave the 9-5 job for a more exciting, customer facing role in the family remodeling business as a Project Manager.

What sets your company apart from others? – Calyx Builds first started 30 years ago by our parents. Now it has become a larger business with about 25 employees. With a still rather small employee count, we are able to ensure excellent quality of craftsmanship is done to our company's standards. While working with customers, we like to make them feel like they are family too. It's a great selling point to clients to work with a local family business and adds personal touch.

How do you spend your free time? – We are both into outdoor sports and almost any fitness activities you can think of! In the winter, you can find us on the mountains skiing and snowboarding, and after visiting local breweries. In the warmer months, we love to hike, camp, swim at the beach, and then visit local wineries for tastings. We both are members of a Crossfit gym, and Lauren attends yoga classes as well.



March 7 – Pella Windows & Doors Showroom, 20 Commerce Way, Seekonk, MA 6-8pm

April 5 – RI Home Show Booth #909 Home Healthsmith 5-9pm

May - DiStefano Brothers Showroom

June - Summer Social - E.G. Yacht Club

September – CRM Modular Homes Tour

October – Reid's Remodeling

December 14- Holiday Brunch -Biltmore Hotel

**Please visit our site for contact info,
up-coming events and news at**

<http://ribuilders.org/professional-women-in-building>