

PAT TROY – ASPIRE Heritage Award - 2018

Pat Troy grew up in Birmingham, AL. She received a bachelor's and master's degree from Auburn University and later a post graduate degree from Loyola College. She met her husband, Steve, at Auburn where he was getting a master's degree in electrical engineering. They have a son, David, who founded Toad.net at age 14 and today is a technology entrepreneur and international speaker.

In 1976 Pat and Steve moved here and settled in Severna Forest. Steve went to work for ARINC where he stayed until he retired in 2008. Pat got a job at the Arundel Observer, a weekly newspaper where she worked in community news. Later she became a librarian at Wroxeter School which closed in 1980. Pat and 3 others Wroxeter faculty started Chesapeake Academy where she served as in various administrative roles. Pat also worked with Marguerite Mills for 6 years. They published the Severna Park Magazine which Marguerite later turned into the Severna Park Voice.

Pat has always been involved in the community and served as secretary and later president of the S.P. Council. She was active with the S.P. Chamber and through her work with both of them on strategic planning ASPIRE was formed. She chaired the S.P Small Area Plan and received an award from the S.P. Jaycees which, in addition to being in the charter class of Leadership Anne Arundel, inspired her idea of annual community awards.

In 1987 she started Bay Media to create a Newcomers' Guide, and also to publish local books such as Severna Park Reflections, My River Speaks and the Linstead Book, as well as event program books. She founded a second company, Next Wave Group, which does association management. They now serve 22 organizations – international, national, regional and state. The largest is the American Medical Assoc. Alliance. Next Wave Group recently added two new divisions - oncology/hematology and mental health. Next Wave Group has been a virtual company since 2006 and it inspired Pat to write the book Flex: The Virtual Office Advantage.

But she always found time for local volunteer and charity work such as the AA County Library Foundation, Wye River Upper School, Anne Arundel Medical Center, Chesapeake Academy, Panhellenic Club of Annapolis and the American Business Women's Assoc. which honored her as one of the top ten Women in Business in 2003. And she gave very generously of her time to ASPIRE for 25 years. She recently stepped down from her role as Executive Director because of her work load, but she will always remain a part of ASPIRE as a Founding Trustee and an Honorary Emeritus Member.

We are all very fortunate to have had her time and service to the community.