

Paterick appointed to international women police board

By Ashley Watt
of Mainline Newspapers

After a successful career with Interpol-US, Portage native Carol Paterick has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Association of Women Police. The mission of the IAWP is to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women in criminal justice internationally. There are currently 2,500 IAWP members from 64 different countries.

Paterick will assist the IAWP by sharing international law enforcement and systems knowledge she has acquired over the course of her career with Interpol-US. She also serves as the Webmaster for the IAWP. "We are really looking forward to working with Carol in our web development, Internet marketing and business pursuits. We are ready to explore and embrace online options for organizational advancement," stated Jane Townsley, British Police chief Inspector and president of the IAWP.

The IAWP holds two meetings each year in various locations around the world. The 48th training conference will take place this summer in Minneapolis and will kick off with the much anticipated Parade of Nations that showcases members from all countries in their dress uniforms. The spring board meeting was held in South Africa this year. The every-growing organization was pleased to issue 191 membership cards to Bangladesh, the newest nation to participate, this year.

The organization also holds an annual award ceremony that brings a lot of prestige to the organization and provides a competitive outlet for the high achieving members of the international community of women police, Paterick explained. Awards are also given to members who have become a part of the history and legacy of the IAWP, which has been in existence since 1915. The organization "went quiet" for a period before being reactivated in 1926. Since then, the IAWP has

been dedicated to benefit women police in countries all over the world. "Some of these countries are in their infant stages and it's very interesting to watch them grow," Paterick commented.

Her career began shortly after her graduation for the Portage Area Senior High School when she was recruited to work in Washington, D.C. as a secretary for the Department of Agriculture. She explained that many of her classmates also moved to the D.C. area to pursue job opportunities as many federal departments routinely recruited small-town students during that time. From there, her career path led her to take a position with Interpol-US. Paterick retired from the organization in 2001 and, like many other Interpol employees, doesn't talk much about her work there. "It's an occupational hazard," she noted before mentioning that the position created a lot of stress and concern as she worked with numerous different countries that each require their own set of procedures.

Over the course of her career, Paterick has traveled to numerous different countries and noted that Interpol Headquarters in Lyon, France has been her favorite place to visit. "To see all of these groups of dedicated individuals from different countries coming together for the common good," was a highlight of her time there, she noted.

As for hobbies, Paterick follows her family tradition and is a passionate volunteer for many different organizations. "I can't help it, it's in my genes," she joked. In addition to running her own business for web design and development, www.ceeme.org, she is also Webmaster of the Portage Area Historical Society, www.portagestationmuseum.org; the Cambria County Historical Society, www.cambriacounty-historical.com; and the Traditional Anglers of Pennsylvania, www.tap-pa.org. She also provides web assistance for two other companies. "I may be retired by I stay involved," she noted.

Paterick is the daughter of

Portage resident Ruth Richardson, vice president of the Portage Area Historical Society and recent recipient of the Joseph Vargo award. Her brother Carl Richardson works with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as the head of angler education programs and is regularly involved in benefit bike runs. Paterick credits her grandfather with starting the Portage Volunteer Fire Company and her grandmother for being an integral force in the Women's Auxiliary Club. Her parents were instrumental in the Summerfest activities and other Portage community events. "My family sort of all grew up with the idea of volunteers," she said of the impressive family record.

Indeed, her roots run deep and she has family connections with prominent people in Lilly, Ebensburg, and other local communities as well. Despite all of that international experience, though, the Bowie, Maryland resident has never really left Portage. "I've actually in my heart never left the area," Paterick stated.