

MEMBER PROFILE

ANNETTE FOSTER

Annette was born in Detroit to parents who resided in the Fairlane District of Dearborn Heights, Michigan. Her father emigrated from Germany in 1927 and married her mother, a first generation German. Their ways influenced her work ethics at BCBSM. She attended Ladywood High school in Livonia and graduated in 1957. She was always an independent thinker and more adventurous than most. When Ladywood had their 40th formal reunion, they asked Annette to represent the 1957 graduates, and of course she accepted.



Annette graduated from the Michigan College of Beauty and sold Avon products. Finally, she decided to change her career by maintaining subscriber files in the offices of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. In 1974, when that office decided to move to Maryknoll, New York, she went to work for BCBSM. Since they offered tuition reimbursement, she was able to attend community college in the evenings and work towards her Associates Degree in computer science. Her first job was a Write-off Clerk in Medicare. She was then promoted to the National Automotive Administration Groups where she was a telephone clerk, stenographer, Word Processing Technician, Data Production Specialist, Data Analyst and Analyst. Her knowledge and ability to learn software programs and computers led her to develop her analytical and problem solving abilities.

Annette traveled extensively to the par Plans to install and train personnel on how to use a special communication software. It resembled our current email, but tied only our Plans, nationally. In the office, she became the helpline for these Plans. Later, in her career, she was instrumental in the development and implementation of a National Inter-Plan contact database that enabled a smooth transition from regionalization.

Annette demonstrated her leadership skills with her involvement in the National Management Association as Planning and Operations Chairman, the Business and Professional Women's Organization as Local President, District Director, and State Career Chairman; and currently the BCBSM Retiree Association as the Social Chairman; and Fraternal Order of Eagles as Social Coordinator and Editor of their newsletter.

Annette was married for ten years and divorced in 1969. She has two daughters who are self-employed – Julie (Bella Commercial Cleaning), Renee (Keller Williams Realty) and a son Art (Hampton Inn).

Annette has two grandsons, David (Theatrical Set Engineer) and Jeff (Eastern University) plus one great grandson, Alex (2.5 years old).

Annette has traveled to Germany, Paris, Switzerland, Austria, Amsterdam, London, Italy, Spain, Costa Rica and most of the States, including Alaska and Hawaii. Her hobbies are making jewelry, reading, theatre, pinochle, euchre, Scrabble, bunko, photography, bowling and having fun every chance she gets.

She also does an outstanding job in her role as Social Committee Chairperson.