



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Connecting While Apart*

April 7, 2020

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*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."* - Helen Keller

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Dear FWA Members, Sponsors and Friends,

I think one of the greatest challenges we are facing is how to work together while simultaneously being socially isolated. While technology such as Zoom is helpful, even I am longing for meetings with actual colleagues in a room. Joni Mitchell once sang, *"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got til it's gone"*. This is especially true now - we are missing the human interaction of our daily work lives.



Simone Vinocour  
FWA President 2019-2020

As I look to start my third week in quarantine, I recognize that many in New York City and the surrounding areas have been required to work from home even longer, and an increasing number are either furloughed or losing their jobs outright. According to officials, New York will see the peak of the COVID-19 virus in the next 6 - 7 days, making the next week or two critical to adhere to the health and distancing protocols.

What is also apparent at this time is the importance of being part of an industry-wide network to stay connected. The FWA has been serving this roll for over 63 years.

Now is the time to activate this network, stay connected and continue to make a difference for women in our industry.

#### **1) The World**

The past 31 days have been like no other month. We have gone from concerned distancing to true quarantine guidelines in the "City that Never Sleeps". We have watched as our favorite stores and restaurants have at least temporarily shuttered and unemployment has skyrocketed from record lows to 6.5 million applicants last week alone.

Still, together we can do so much: the Fed and the US Treasury have rolled out relief packages at a level of coordination that is unprecedented. There is active

coordination among lending banks to provide liquidity to keep working capital lines available for businesses and across our economy. There are also creative approaches to support those companies which have had to temporarily close and unemployed workers.

Now is the time to focus on your industry connections to expand your knowledge, strengthen your network, and give back. This medical crisis and related financial impact will have both short and long-term repercussions on our industry. True to our mission, we will continue to support you in all phases of your career.

In response to guidelines for COVID-19, we are moving our programming online. This includes programming for our members and continuing the educational initiatives for mentoring young women in high school and college.

Here are some upcoming programs, which I encourage you to join:

[April 16th: WEBINAR: "Make Working Virtually Work For You"](#)

April 23rd: WEBINAR: "Envisioning Your Most Powerful Career in the Post COVID-19 New Order"

April 29th: WEBINAR: "Career Coaching - What's On Your Mind?"

[April 30th: WEBINAR: FWA NJ: "Imagine: A Career & A Life"](#)

May 4th: WEBINAR: "Taming Your Inbox - the Downside to Working Virtually"

May 12th: WEBINAR: "Perspectives on the Challenging Global Investment Climate"

Continue to check [fwa.org](http://fwa.org) for upcoming events.

### 3) YOU!

I hope you and those you love are doing well. Most of us are trying to juggle the demands of working from home with family and personal obligations. Here are a couple of things I found to be helpful in breaking up the long days in front of my computer:

- Schedule: try to stick to a regular schedule as if you were working in an office.
- Health: Be sure to get enough sleep and some exercise (I have resurrected those old aerobics videos that I pull out at 7:30 in the morning)! Be sure to eat healthy (or healthy-ish)!
- Joy: look for humor and a little joy each day - whether it be playing games with your kids, watching a comedy, or simply enjoying the budding flowers and leaves of Spring. Make a note of three things you are grateful for at the end of each day.

Reach out - spend some time connecting with your FWA sisters (and brothers).

I hope the coming days are healthy and happy for you. We will all get through this period of uncertainty together!



Simone Vinocour  
FWA President 2019-2020



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The FWA: Accelerating the Leadership and Success of Women across the financial community in all industries, by advancing careers, fostering alliances and preparing the current and next generation of professionals.

Contact Us: [fwamembership@fwa.org](mailto:fwamembership@fwa.org)

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FWA of New York, Inc. | 25 East 21st Street - Floor 6, New York, NY 10010 | [fwaooffice@fwa.org](mailto:fwaooffice@fwa.org) | [fwa.org](http://fwa.org)

Financial Women's Association  
FWA of New York, Inc.  
25 East 21st Street, 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10010

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