



Thursday, March 19, 2015  
7:30 am to 9:00 am  
New York Marriott Marquis  
Times Square  
New York, New York

# WELCOME

We are so glad you have joined us for our first annual OWA Champagne Breakfast celebrating women in leadership. While this is a new event, it has its roots in OWA tradition. The first year the Pleiades award was presented, the award ceremony was held at a breakfast event attended by men and women of the optical industry.

We wanted to create a new event where our members and the industry could learn more about our award honorees and raise a toast in their honor, in addition to the traditional Friday night award ceremony and networking event.

To make this event even more exciting, we've added a new component, "An Intimate Conversation with..." where we will be interviewing dynamic female leaders on their views of women in leadership. This year we are pleased to have our own Holly Rush of Luxottica discussing a variety of topics with Washington Post Live editor Lois Romano.

Presented in a talk show format, Romano will engage in a dialogue with Rush on various themes including:

- If everyone is "leaning in," how do you stand out?  
Exploring authentic leadership
- From Ego Systems to Eco Systems...  
the world is ready for more women in leadership
- Breaking your own personal glass ceiling...  
being your own Chief Visionary!
- Women helping women...  
Why mentoring moves us all forward

So thank you for joining me in raising a toast to our award honorees and coming together to celebrate women in leadership.

**Christie Walker**, *OWA president*





## MAUREEN CAVANAGH

was recently named president of the Vision Impact Institute, currently supported by Essilor. The mission of the Vision Impact Institute is to raise awareness of the importance of healthy vision, including the socio-economic impact of Uncorrected Refractive Errors (URE) and quality-of-life benefits of visual correction.

Cavanagh joined Essilor in October 2005 as the director of DEFINITY lenses, launching

DEFINITY throughout the Essilor network following the acquisition of The Spectacle Lens Group. Soon after, she was named vice president of integrated retail, carving out a separate division and launching a new platform to specifically meet the needs of surfacing retail customers for Essilor. In December 2009, Cavanagh was promoted to president of Nassau Vision Group and OOGP, overseeing several stock lens and contact lens distribution centers, along with a local digital lens laboratory, Nova and the Shore Lens division.

Cavanagh is a strong advocate for women in leadership roles. She currently mentors several women in business and was integral in the launch of the Diversity and Inclusion initiative at Essilor. She has served as keynote speaker on topics of inspiring change and was a guest on the Power Hour radio show, advocating on behalf of women taking control of their own career development. In 2011 she was recognized as one of Jobson's "Most Influential Women in Optical."



## AMY SPIEZO

is the executive editor of Eyecare Business Magazine and has been with the publication for 13 years. Since starting at EB as managing editor, she has enjoyed being mentored and in turn mentoring young editors. In 2013, she was promoted to her position of executive editor and works on the day-to-day business of the publication while covering the frame market.



During most of her career in this industry, she has also been a member of the Optical Women's Association, serving on the board for nine years and as the secretary treasurer for several terms. Her tenure in the organization has included involvement on many committees, particularly communications and mentoring, and with events where she has learned many invaluable lessons and made many great friends.

Prior to joining the optical industry, she edited for a wide variety of publications, from weekly newspapers to monthly newsstand magazines, writing about everything from zoning laws to claw foot tubs and Caribbean getaways. In addition, she has had several stage and radio plays produced and was named a New Jersey Young Playwright.

When not optically occupied, Amy lives in Pennsylvania and enjoys her pets, her friends, and her wonderful family.





## HOLLY RUSH

was named president of Luxottica Wholesale North America in January 2014. She joined Luxottica as senior vice president of sales in March 2011 and in less than three years led her team to unprecedented growth, doubling the business and executing a complete turnaround in the U.S. In 2012 she was voted one of the “Most Influential Women of the Year” by Vision Monday for her contributions to the optical

industry and recently received a Luxottica founder’s award for demonstrating one of the company’s core characteristics of “Entrepreneurship.”

Rush has cultivated a successful career spanning more than 20 years in the consumer products industry, overseeing the growth and development of household name brands and commercial teams. Described as a passionate, people-focused and results-oriented leader, Rush is known as someone who balances visionary thinking with operational excellence. She is equally purposeful about creating the right conditions within organizations and teams that allow for true transformation.

Rush resides in Connecticut with her husband and two children and cherishes her time with her family. She also takes great pride in helping to mentor and develop others, dedicating time to speaking engagements such as the “Women Rule” series hosted by POLITICO, Google and the Tory Burch Foundation, along with community and non-profit efforts such as OneSight and Dress for Success.



## LOIS ROMANO

is the new editor of Washington Post Live, the media organization's live journalism platform. She was most recently the editorial director of POLITICO's live journalism and as such, shaped content for the organization's 75 events, including its most ambitious national multi-platform series, Women Rule and What Works.

Before joining POLITICO, she was a longtime political reporter for The Washington Post's National staff. During her 25 year tenure at The Post, she profiled national leaders, covered politics, policy and business, and wrote a daily column. She also was a regional correspondent in the Southwest.

Romano started her Post career in the paper's acclaimed Style section, writing profiles on such luminaries as Hillary Rodham Clinton, James Baker, Joe Biden, John Kerry and George W. Bush. She co-wrote a seven-part biographical series on the then Texas Gov. Bush as he launched his presidential bid.

Romano is a member of the Gridiron Club, the oldest media organization in the country. She is also an adjunct professor at American University, teaching "Contemporary Media in a Global Society," which explores the relationship between communications and foreign policy.





connect.  
inspire.  
lead.

## MISSION:

To enhance and promote the leadership role of women in the optical industry through networking, education, and peer support.

The Optical Women's Association, a nonprofit organization, was founded in September 1997 with the mission of supporting and promoting the professional development of women in the optical industry. As the vision of the OWA evolves and expands, we maintain the focus of the OWA's founding principles and core mission.

[www.OpticalWomen.com](http://www.OpticalWomen.com)

OWA thanks its 2015 Professional Development sponsors for their belief in and generous support of its mission to enhance and promote the leadership role of women in the optical industry through networking, education, and peer support.



We make it visible.

