

Caucus Update

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

Fall 2011



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Fall/Winter Meeting Schedule

September 15

Panel discussion: "U of L Merger: Is it Good for the Community?"

Representatives from the Mayor's office, American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, elected officials, and community leaders have been invited to discuss the impact of this proposed merger on our community.

October 20

Annual meeting and election of executive board members. Secretary of State Elaine Walker will discuss "Winning and Losing: A Political Story."

December— Date to be announced

Annual Holiday Reception

January— Date to be announced

"Isn't it Time a Woman was in the Capitol?"

Eleanor Jordan, Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Women shares her views on what it will take to elect more women to statewide office in the Commonwealth.

All meetings are scheduled from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Olmsted Café (lower level of the Olmsted Building) on the Masonic Home campus, 3701 Frankfort Avenue. Assorted hors d'oeuvres are available for \$10 per person, and a cash bar is available. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance to Karen Cassidy at cass3800@aol.com.

A message from the outgoing president

The past two years has been a wealth of change for me personally. A new mother, being laid off from two jobs and having no health insurance has really opened my eyes to the struggles of current, everyday Americans. Serving as President of the Caucus has helped to keep me engaged and active with the issues that face women in our community. It's easy to talk the talk, but when you walk the walk only then does it make everything real and surreal at the same time.

As I leave office, our community is fighting to maintain a certain standard of medical care that is being threatened by a takeover of University Hospital by Catholic Health Initiatives. Union busting across the country is at an all time high when union wages help

to keep American women out of poverty and the middle class strong and thriving. It's

no surprise that our rate of unemployment and overall economy are in trouble as the gap between high and middle income workers has gotten larger.



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Is the Caucus still relevant?

As the Caucus approaches its fortieth birthday next year, the question of relevancy looms large.

I am sure you are just like me, every time you make a decision about where to put my discretionary dollars...dues, donations, political contributions, you ask yourself about relevance to the quality of your life, your beliefs and your causes.

For me, this summer has reaffirmed my long-held belief in the significance and worth of the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus.

Yes, potential candidates, judicial and others know they can count on the excellence of our Campaign School. Our members and friends know of the quality and thoughtful discussion they elicit from our monthly meetings.

But just a few short weeks ago, the MLWPC once again was tested on our ability to step up as an organization and collaborate with others on the U of L Merger issue. We as an organization and membership did not disappoint.

Some of the MLWPC leadership immediately began to inform the public about the possible loss of health care, particularly reproductive health for indigent women, to our community through this proposed merger. Our president, Angie Wallace, and others gave interviews and wrote articles about these concerns.

MLWPC joined others to form a grassroots ad-hoc committee. And when the committee needed an organization to assume the responsibility of coordinating and paying the \$5,800 *Courier-Journal* advertisement

bill, MLWPC said yes. With your assistance we have already retired that debt.

MLWPC has been a leader in efforts to have folks contact their legislators, the Governor and others to educate them about our concerns. MLWPC encouraged people to travel to Frankfort on August 17 to observe the Joint Interim Health and Welfare Committee interview of the merger partners.

And the leadership of MLWPC continues to press forward to expose all of the troubling issues surrounding this possible merger.

As MLWPC approaches 40, are we still relevant? Do we as an organization make a difference? Is MLWPC worthy of your support? My answer is yes.

As one of the oldest multi-partisan pro-choice women's organizations, MLWPC is still committed to united our voices with women from every walk of life to be agents of change.

Whether you have chosen to support the continuing growth of MLWPC by actively holding MLWPC office or committee positions, paying your dues yearly, volunteering for our yearly service projects or attending our monthly meetings, the strength of MLWPC is that we are still going and yes, we are relevant.

Join or rejoin the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus (MLWPC) for 2012 so that we can continue to work for the equality of all, particularly women, in the political process.

— Virginia L. Woodward,
MLWPC Membership Chair

A message from the outgoing president, continued from page 1

We must all realize that voting for the issue of the moment will get us nowhere. We must look 10 to 20 years down the road or more and anticipate the challenges ahead. Organizing at the grassroots level has always been the secret weapon for creating change. Being active in an organization that is multi-dimensional, like the Metro Louisville Women's Political Caucus, will help you stay engaged and informed about the issues that not only affect women, but everyone in our community. I hope that you will maintain your fighting spirit on issues such as health care, jobs, wages and the economy and use the Caucus as your resource and support for affecting change.

Thank you for your support over the years and I hope to see you at the monthly meetings. (I'm the one with the cute little boy.)

— Angela Wallace, MLWPC President

The Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus works to increase women's participation in the political process and to identify, recruit, train and support feminist women for election and appointment to public office.

MLWPC Principles

- ◆ To strive for equality for all women
- ◆ To ensure reproductive freedom
- ◆ To achieve quality dependent care
- ◆ To eradicate sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, ageism, ableism, violence, poverty and discrimination on the basis of religion or sexual orientation

MLWPC Goals

- ◆ Encourage women to be active and effective in all aspects of the political process
- ◆ Support the efforts of Caucus-endorsed candidates who run for or are appointed to office
- ◆ Organize women around the state for political action on women's issues
- ◆ Initiate, lobby and monitor legislation which guarantees women equal protection under the law and for programs and measures which benefit women

The Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus uses the Greek symbol for women to form five circles, representing the five races, intertwined to symbolize unity of purpose and that together we can achieve anything.



Meeting Survey

MLWPC has long met on Thursday evenings. In order to be responsive to our members' changing schedules, we have been asked to consider moving the monthly evening meeting to Mondays. Please let us hear from you.

1. Keep the monthly meetings on the third Thursday.

Yes

No

2. Move the meetings to Monday evening.

Yes

No

3. Other comments.

Mail your response to 1906 Hillcircle Road, Louisville, KY 40214 or e-mail your response to VirginiaWoodward04@yahoo.com.

Support Volunteers of America of Kentucky in 2011

MLWPC has adopted Volunteers of America of Kentucky as the beneficiary of the groups collections at monthly meetings. Attendees are encouraged to donate new items including toys for children of all ages; games and art supplies; pajamas for adults and kids; and gift cards to budget-friendly retail stores at meetings throughout 2011.

Established in 1896, Volunteers of America of Kentucky is one of the region's oldest, largest, and most diverse human service organizations. Services include shelter for families experiencing homeless; residential substance abuse treatment; employment-focused programs for veterans; HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention, and testing; and neighborhood-based homes for people with developmental disabilities. To learn more, contact Jennifer Recktenwald at (502) 636-4647 or JenniferR@voaky.org.

A note of thanks

Thank you to the following who wished to be named for making the Carolyn Shaw Scholarship a reality this year.

Julia Barry and Tom Van DeRostyne
Karen Cassidy
Mayor Sherry Conner
Dr. Alex Gerassimides
Councilwoman Judy Greene
Honorable Eleanor Jordan
Hon Tony Lindauer, PVA
Harry J. Rothgerber
Hon. Dave Stengel
Bobbi Jo Weber
Councilwoman Vicki Aubrey Welch
Virginia L. Woodward

We're now on Facebook!

Visit us at www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_144961595557211.



2011 Membership Renewal

- _____ \$125 Benefactor Member
- _____ \$80 Governing Member plus KWPC and NWPC Memberships
- _____ \$40 Governing Member plus KWPC Membership
- _____ \$25 Limited Income or Student Member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Party Affiliation _____ Occupation _____



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