

Caucus Update

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

Winter

'09

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Time to renew your commitment

by MLWPC Membership Chair Virginia Woodward

It seems hard to believe that the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus has been working to change the face of politics since 1972. We are thirty seven years young next year!!!

Are we there yet....no. Are there signs we are moving in the right direction....absolutely. Small signs....

Is the road ever easy....well obviously not. You have only to watch "Iron Jawed Angels" to understand what our fore mothers endured simply to gain the right to vote. Unbelievable, but definitely worth watching. You can rent or purchase the DVD now.

The promise of greatness is the theme of the movie "The Contender", when a woman senator is selected by the President to fill a vacancy when his Vice President dies. Sobering, and worth watching for sure.

Hillary Clinton came closer than any women before to the White House and that last glass ceiling has "18 million cracks". And on January 20th we will witness another piece of history when the first African American man is sworn in as the 44th President.

The pitch is this; we need your support through your membership dues to continue to keep the struggle alive by assisting more progressive women and men to run for elective office.

This is the year we offer our Campaign School and although you may never choose to run, it is through your continuing member dues support that the MLWPC reaches out to the next generation that will run, manage a campaign or contribute time and money to a candidate.

Join/rejoin the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus for 2009 so that we might continue to work for the equality of all, particularly women, in the political process.

MLWPC welcomes new Board members

Please welcome new Board members Karen Cassidy and Ruth Lerner who will serve as at-large members. Jennifer Recktenwald also returns as the newsletter editor.

**MLWPC information and meeting dates
are now available online at
www.mlwpc.org**

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 KWPC-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.

Get to Know Kentucky Women

In 1978 the Kentucky Commission on Women initiated a campaign to bring attention to the outstanding contributions women make to Kentucky. The scope of this effort included Kentucky women who have significantly aided the development and advancement of life in the Commonwealth, but have generally been omitted from historic accounts. "Kentucky Women Excel" began with a commission-sponsored exhibit at the 1978 Kentucky State Fair, which included watercolor portraits of six women who had different interests and worked in non-traditional ways, particularly in the eras in which they lived. Now, these portraits hang in the Capitol - providing a more appropriate balance to the statues and busts of men who impacted Kentucky's history. MLWPC is pleased to share these stories with our members and newsletter recipients to honor some of Kentucky's most-notable women.

Get to know: Jeannette Bell Thomas, Boyd County, 1881-1982

Jeannette Bell Thomas preserved and promoted Eastern Kentucky traditions through her music and stories. As a young girl she dreamed of being an actress, but at 18, armed with a high school education and a four-month business certificate, she began work as a stenographer. While working for a circuit judge to keep record of proceedings, she followed the judicial circuit through the mountains of Eastern Kentucky often boarding with local families. Thomas began to transcribe what she heard convinced the families' orations had retained their original form from the 16th century. After 12 years as a stenographer, she traveled to New York to pursue her childhood dream. Although unsuccessful in show business, she used her stenographer skills to write simple scenarios for early silent films. Thomas was encouraged to introduce these stories and ballads to the outside world. In 1926, she "discovered" a blind fiddler from Rowan County, and negotiated a recording contract for him, arranged an international concert tour, and wrote her first of eight books about him. Through her eight books on life in the mountains she introduced the rest of the world to life in Appalachia. She returned to Ashland in 1931, and in 1932, created the first annual Folksong Festival. This festival lasted 40 years and highlighted the music from the mountains, attracting thousands each year.

Get to know: Sister Michael Leo Mullaney, Nelson County, 1922-

Sister began her life in Kentucky, and the process of becoming a nun, with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in July 1953. In 1965, she earned a Master's degree in Hospital Administration from St. Louis University and, in 1966, was appointed President of St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington. She held this position until 1988. A true leader in healthcare management with a mind for business, Sister led this major acute healthcare facility through Medicare, Medicaid, and computer technology. Sister's impeccable leadership in administration and management led her to be the natural selection as the first President of the SCN Health Corporation. Sister's awards and board memberships are numerous. A former President of the Lexington Hospital Council and Blue Grass Hospital District, Sister broke several barriers and was the first female to be appointed to both the Federal Reserve Board of Cleveland and Board of Directors of First Security National Bank & Trust Co. in Lexington. Sister's wealth of experience and zest for life led her to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee that assisted in the development of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, the 5th largest foundation in the Commonwealth.

2009 MLWPC Meeting Schedule

All meetings are at the Louisville Inn (formerly Holiday Inn)- Second Street, 120 West Broadway - 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Room posted – Assorted Hors d'oeuvres - \$10.00 requested. RSVP's always appreciated by emailing Angie Wallace at akwallace0818@yahoo.com

JANUARY 15

Panel Presentation- Conversation with Commonwealth's Attorney Dave Stengel (invited) and the newly appointed County Attorney Mike O'Connell (confirmed)

FEBRUARY 19

Conversation with Jefferson County's PVA, Tony Lindauer, "The Louisville Housing Market: What does it all mean to you?"(confirmed)

MARCH 21

MLWPC Political Campaign School

APRIL 16

Legislative Forum

"The 2009 General Assembly" with legislators from the House and Senate

MAY 21

Reception and conversation with the women of the Metro Council

NO MEETINGS IN JUNE, JULY and AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 17

"Woman in Charge" – Criminal Justice Commission

OCTOBER 15

ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION OF OFFICERS

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER

DECEMBER TBA

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND RECEPTION

Louisville chapter to host political skills workshop

Day-long campaign workshop to be held March 21

Mark your calendars for the political skills campaign school presented by the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus on March 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Louisville Inn. This year's event will feature a program about television interview tips and critiques, grassroots building, media advice and a round-table of recent judicial candidates.

Sponsorships Available Contact Treasurer Bobbi Jo Weber

(502) 361-0503

bobbijo@wesselinsurance.com

**to learn more about event sponsorships.
Sponsorships support limited-income and
student scholarships for the skills workshop.**

Community Calendar

January 31, 9 a.m.

Kentucky Commission on Women's President's Summit

Capital Plaza Hotel, Frankfort
Gathering for statewide presidents or designees or organizations lead by women. For more information, contact Virginia Woodward at virginiawoodward04@yahoo.com or 361-4866.

February 10, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Louisville Metro Women's Network Biannual Membership Reception

Bristol Bar and Grill on Main Street
RSVP to nicole.candler@insightbb.com or 550-0252.

February 11, noon

BPW River City

Jefferson Club

Lunch is \$20.

Contact Mary Lewis at 499-4420 or lewism@msdlouky.org for reservations and details. Meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday.

February TBD

Kentucky Women's Political Caucus Annual Conference and Meeting

Send us your announcements

The Caucus Update promotes programming and announcements for other organizations. Since MLWPC is a bipartisan group, all organizations are welcome to submit event information to jennifer_recktenwald@hotmail.com.

2009 Membership Renewal

- Benefactor Member, \$125
- Governing Member plus KWPC and NWPC membership, \$80
- Governing Member plus KWPC membership, \$40
- Limited-income or Student Member, \$25

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail _____

Party Affiliation _____ Occupation _____

Please make checks payable to MLWPC. Send to 1906 Hillcircle Road, Louisville, KY 40214



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