

Caucus Update

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

Winter

'08

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Herstory in the making

by MLWPC President Melinda Niemann

Wow. What a year--and it's only just begun. I can't think of a more exciting year to be President of the MLWPC. Election years are always full of excitement but what is so great about 2008 is that "we are watching herstory being made", to quote one of our members.

A female President of the United States has been the dream of many of our members and we have a chance of seeing those dreams become a reality. The NWPC is an organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in the political process. That is why the NWPC has endorsed Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for President. A female candidate as a frontrunner in the race for President of the United States is an accomplishment that all women can be proud of, no matter what political party you are affiliated with.

If the Presidential race has wet your appetite for politics then you will want to sample some local and state politics as well. I recommend the MLWPC monthly meetings. This year we are having conversations with some great political minds. I think you are going to want to be a part of those conversations! I look forward to seeing there.

Women's Caucus welcomes new Board members

Sherry Conner, Member-at-Large

Sherry began her political career in 1994 after being elected to the Shively City Council where she served for 10 years. In 2004, she was appointed Mayor to complete the term of a resigning mayor. In 2006 she became the first woman to be elected as mayor for Shively.

Her vision is for each and every citizen to have their concerns be heard and to be responsive to their needs. She has always been interested in serving her community and helping to solve citizens' issues by bringing the appropriate people to the table.

She and three other women own The q Business Group. They manage Community Services Project, Inc. Community Services Project, Inc. is a company that is dedicated to enabling persons with disabilities to have an opportunity for competitive employment.

She currently serves on Kentucky and Indiana Planning & Development Agency's Board of Directors, Jefferson County League of Cities' Board of Directors, board member for Gilda's Club and she is a member of the Shively Lions' Club and serves currently as their 1st Vice President.

Kimberly Greenwell, Member-at-Large

Kimberly started her career in media sales while receiving her degree in Broadcasting and Electronic Media at Eastern Kentucky University. As a sophomore at ECU, Kimberly worked as a sales representative at the Eastern Progress, the university's student run newspaper. Her knowledge from that position allowed her to land an internship at Landmark Community Newspapers.

After successfully trying her hand in the print business, Kimberly moved on to Broadcast Television. During her junior year at ECU, Kimberly began working as an Account Executive for WGRB-34, the WB affiliate of Louisville. She quickly became the top biller of the small sales staff while only working three days a week while in school.

Kimberly returned to Landmark Community Newspaper to work on their Louisville Sales Team

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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.

Kimberly Greenwell, continued

as a Regional Sales Representative. Missing the fast pace of the broadcast world she moved to WAVE 3-TV where she has been an Account Executive for 7 years. At WAVE Kimberly found a niche in Interactive Media. She has been the top performer in Internet Sales since 2002.

This niche brought her to Borrell Associates, where she is an Internet Sales Associate. Kimberly works with television stations across the U.S. providing them with a strategy and focus to reach their internet goals.

Alongside her media ambitions she has adopted a love of politics. Kimberly is Vice Chair of the 33rd District and has volunteered her time to campaign for various candidates.

Amy Shir, Member-at-Large

Over the past seven years, Amy has worked as a consultant with the Institute for Social and Economic Development (based in DC) to provide training and technical assistance (TA) to Individual Development Account (IDA) programs nationwide. IDA programs serve individuals and families with earned income who are living in poverty. These programs provide financial literacy education and matching funds for the participants' savings. At the end of the program, participants use their savings to purchase a home, start a small business, or pursue postsecondary education. The programs transform the lives of the working poor.

Amy has published several articles for the field. She has delivered microenterprise TA for the Small Business Administration, Executive Leadership Training to Community Action Agencies through the Office of Community Services, and provided trainings as a member of the Assets Alliance – a nationwide consortium of asset building consultants. Prior to working with ISED, Amy launched the refugee IDA program at Jewish Family Vocational Service in Louisville, KY.

Amy ran for State Representative for Kentucky's 48th District in 2006. She garnered multiple union endorsements, ran a well-funded campaign, and subsequently was asked to serve on numerous boards. Amy is the VP for fundraising at her synagogue; a board member of the National Council of Jewish Women; and a member of the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council.

Previous to her nonprofit experience, Amy helped launch two Internet banks, formed an international Internet marketing consulting firm, was an investment banker in Atlanta, and rated municipal bonds for Moody's Investors Service in New York City.

2008 MLWPC Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at the remodeled Holiday Inn at Second Street and Broadway from 5:30 to 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Meetings are FREE and open to all members, public and guests. Assorted hors d'oeuvres are optional for \$10. Reservations are appreciated and can be made by contacting Angie Wallace at (502) 412-3070 or akwallace0818@yahoo.com. No meetings are held in June, July, August and November.

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| February 28 | A conversation with Virginia Woodward, Executive Director of Boards and Commissions for the Office of the Governor |
| March 27 | A conversation with Shively Mayor Sherry Conner and celebration of Women's History Month |
| April 24 | Legislative forum with local State Representatives and State Senators as they report on the 2008 General Assembly |
| May 22 | A conversation with the women of the Metro Council |
| September 25 | A conversation with PVA Tony Lindauer and County Clerk Bobbi Holsclaw |
| October 23 | Annual Meeting and Election of Officers |
| December 4 | Installation of Officers and Holiday Reception |

Among great women

by Membership Chair Virginia L. Woodward

In making choices today about where to spend our hard earned money consider this....if you want change you must be a participant, a participant at some level. Whether you choose to ever run for office or just want to support women to take a chance, MLWPC is the one organization with the specific purpose to identify, recruit and train women to run for office.

For over 35 years, MLWPC has embraced that goal. For 35 years most of us never thought we would really live to see a woman run for the presidency and have a shot of winning. Not really, not with the numbers we continue to witness, particularly from Kentucky, where we fall to the bottom in almost every category including the number of women in the Legislature.

So although you may never choose to run or be appointed to an office don't you wish to see those who look like us have that chance so that when our daughter and granddaughter see women running and holding office they know they can accomplish that too.

Sadly, the women's community has lost some shining examples of the power of women with the deaths of Dr. Allie Hixson last fall, and the recent deaths of Joan Riehm and Nelle Horlander. Each of these special women in their own way stood up and stood out for what they believed in and were great illustrations of the brilliance that the equality of women can bring to the table.

Although we will miss the strength of vision that was Joan and the relentless force that was Nelle, we will press on for the next generation. We must!

Join/rejoin the MLWPC for 2008 so that we might continue to work for the equality of all, particularly women, in the political process.

A sister remembered

MLWPC Founding Member, Nelle Horlander passed away Monday, January 21, 2008.

She was the former Nelle Pitcock and a native of Dry Fork, KY (Barren County). Nelle was a retired Kentucky Director of Communications Workers of America. She was a member of Parkland Baptist Church, active in women's rights issues, and active in the local and state Democratic Party. She was active in Pro-ERA Alliance, Coalition of Labor Union Women, former member and chairman of the TARC board, a member of the National Organization of Woman, alumni and graduate of Louisville Girls High School in 1946, and a member of the Okolona Democratic Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Joseph Horlander; her brother, Billy Pitcock; and a sister, Helen Joseph. She is survived by two children, Jeffrey A. Horlander (Tracy), and Shelly M. Martin (Eric); four sisters, Jocille Owens, Jane Smith (Bob), Ethel White (George) and Suzanne Schott; three brothers, James Pitcock (Geneva), John Pitcock (Judy) and Richard Pitcock (Donna); seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Expressions of sympathy may go to Cedar Lake Lodge or the Kentucky Democratic Party.



Community Calendar

February 13, 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 16, 9 a.m.

Kentucky Women's Political Caucus Annual Conference and Meeting

Capital Plaza Hotel, Frankfort

Guest speakers: Eleanor Jordan and other women leaders.

Registration information is provided with the MLWPC newsletter. Contact Virginia Woodward at 541-5526 or virginiawoodward04@yahoo.com for reservations and details.

February 19, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Louisville Metro Women's Network Biannual Membership Reception

Artemisia, E Market Street

Honoring women leaders of the Beshear Administration. RSVP to nicole.candler@insightbb.com

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 nicole.candler@insightbb.com

2008 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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