



Caucus Update

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

August 2006

2006 Officers

President
Carolyn Franklin
(502) 491-6091
carolynf11@yahoo.com

Vice President
Nicole V. Candler
(502) 550-0252
Nicole.candler@insightbb.com

Secretary
Carolyn Shaw
(502) 595-2398
caocarolynshaw@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Bobbi Jo Weber
(502) 361-0503
bobbijo@wesselinsurance.com

Immediate Past President
Joyce Woosley
(502) 968-3194
old31@juno.com

Policy Council
Jennifer Moore
(502) 589-1001
jmoore_snr@yahoo.com

Membership
Virginia L. Woodward
(502) 361-4866
virginiawoodward04@yahoo.com

Members-at-Large
Geri Anderson
(502) 893-8221
geriglaw@yahoo.com

Margaret Harris
(502) 774-3659
silverapple1@bellsouth.net

Janice Yankey
(502) 968-2551
janicelee@insightbb.com

A Message From President Carolyn Franklin

Dear Member:

As the November election approaches, I encourage you to do what you can for the candidate of your choice. With so many judges and other offices on the ballot, there are many to choose from and many who may face decisions that will forever impact women.

Please encourage others to vote as well. Rock the vote. Get out the Vote. Promote the vote. Just vote!

We are the government. We make the decisions. Let us make sure those decisions are not made by a very few, but in the interest of all of us. When we all participate, we all win.

Carolyn Franklin
MLWPC President

2006 - 2007 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at the 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.** Dinner is optional. Please make reservations by contacting Nicole Candler at (502) 550-0252 or nicole.candler@insightbb.com. **No meetings held in June, July, August and November.**

September 28

Censorship: Blogs, print and radio

David Hawpe of *The Courier Journal*, Francene Cucinello of 84 WHAS and Mark Nickolas of *Bluegrass Report* discuss censorship and its existence in local news media.

October 26

Annual meeting and election of officers When Women Vote Women Win

Speaker Jen Woods, formerly with ACLU, co-coordinator with Kerry Kentucky and Campaign Manager for Shir for State Representative.

December

Installation of officers and holiday reception

January 25

Sen. Gerald Neal discusses legislative session

February 22

Go Red for Women: women and heart disease

March

MLWPC Campaign School

April 26

State legislators discuss 2007 session

May 24

Viewing of the movie *The Inconvenient Truth*

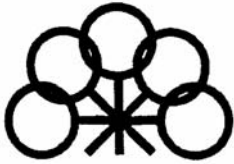
The Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus works to increase women's participation in the political process and to identify, recruit, train and support feminist women for election and appointment to public office.

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 women 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.

We vote. And, our votes count.

It has been several years since our members have had them to display proudly, but for the 2006 election, MLWPC members may display their vote proudly.

We've learned that every single vote counts. However, some votes have more weight than others. When women chose candidates—primarily women—to oversee legislation impacting women, it is the woman voter who wins. Yet, our hurdle is ensuring that women exercise their right to vote.

For the 2006 election, we announce the return of our favorite yard sign...**When Women Vote, Women Win**. The signs will remind women of the importance their vote has on their daily life and raise awareness and funds for the MLWPC. They are available by contacting Nicole V. Candler at (502) 448-9371 or nicole.candler@insightbb.com. Cost is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Stake a **When Women Vote, Women Win** sign in your yard. And, before the election, choose to be an active MLWPC member by voting and encouraging other women to do the same.

Virginia Woodward

MLWPC Membership Executive Officer

“But They Can't Do That”

by Jen Woods

Recently, a woman approached me wanting to know if the reproductive Freedom Project could do anything about her birth control pills no longer covered by her insurance. I listened to her concerns and said we were sympathetic to her situation. This was an opportunity for me to draw a bridge from her birth control concerns to the work we are doing to protect reproductive issues in the Kentucky legislature. When I told her about the recently introduced abortion ban in the House, she replied, “But they can't do that!”

My reply was simply, “They can, they will, and they are.”

I've heard this response many times talking to people around the state. There is a false sense of safety that the ludicrous or impractical will not prevail, both on a statewide and national scale. Often, people who care about reproductive freedoms do not speak out because they feel certain we are at a point in history where women's rights over their bodies are firmly established and, for the most part, will remain in tact.

All you have to do is look at Mississippi to clearly see how vulnerable choice is to attack. all you have to do is study the FDA's case for not giving emergency contraception over-the-counter status to see how contraception is not lagging far behind.

Now is the time. If we do not want to live in a country where women are treated, once again, ad second class citizens, now is the time. If you want your daughters and granddaughters to be able to care for their bodies and their spirits free from government intrusion, now is the time.

“Time for what?” you may ask. This is your time to join me in creating a strong, influential statewide network that can affectively educate, advocate against, and influence the continuing politicization of reproductive freedom. Already we have seen energies restored and energies ignited around the state. Each time the RFP has effectively created a new community of advocates, I can say without hesitation the success is due to a few dedicated people who are willing to give a very little among of time to create something much bigger.

They can, they will, and they are.

We have networks of people cropping up in Florence, Lexington, Louisville, Danville, Owensboro, Highland Heights, and growing. The demographics range from students to teachers to medical professionals to retirees. Young and old are stepping forward. We have held forums, given speeches, and handed out information on abortion and emergency contraception. Our action alert list is growing daily. All of this is very good news.

But we still have miles to go. And we click back the miles one by one starting with people like you. Open your home, invite a small group of friends, and let's talk about the issues at hand and how even a small group can make a huge difference in protecting the women of our state. I'm always available to travel and I'm always ready to get to work. Now is the time.

**When Women
VOTE,
Women Win**

Powerful Examples

Bobbi Jo Weber

On March 23, 2006, country music superstars, the Dixie Chicks, released their first new album in over three years. But, you won't get to hear any of the music from the new album on Louisville's biggest country music station WAMZ. According to WAMZ management, country listeners don't want to hear from the Chicks and claim they have the numbers to back up their decision. Unfortunately, WAMZ will not make their research available to the listening public. It makes one wonder to whom WAMZ is listening. It should be noted that WAMZ is owned and operated by Clear Channel Communications, headquartered, where else, but Texas!!



As you may remember, lead singer, Natalie Maine, expressed her embarrassment on a London stage that President George Bush heralds from her home state of TEXAS! The remark was made just prior to the unprovoked U.S. invasion of Iraq.

At a time when emotions and patriotism were at a all time high, the offhand remark caused a firestorm in the country music world. Some country music stations, like WAMZ, yanked the Chicks tunes from their play lists. Protesters and alarmingly, metal detectors appeared at Dixie Chick concerts due to death threats against the country group. The brilliant careers of three progressive women came to a grinding halt because a female American citizen exercised her right of free speech. Maine may have been guilty of bad timing, but her remark was neither unpatriotic nor unwarranted. In fact, national opinion polls suggest that the majority now agrees with her. It seems she was, indeed, a "Woman Before Her Time!"

What happened to the Dixie Chicks has happened again and again to women throughout history. Once more, it seems that women are supposed to sing and just look pretty. God forbid if we have opinions, especially political ones!

I bought five copies of the new CD the day it came out on store shelves. I gave them to my daughters and granddaughter. I play mine loud and proudly. I thumb my nose towards Texas and George Bush and WAMZ radio because just like the Dixie Chicks..."I'm not ready to make nice...I'm not ready to back down...I'm mad as hell...and I don't have time to go round and round and round."

Powerful Examples is a regular column of Caucus Update. We invite others to contribute book, television and movie recommendations that exemplify powerful women and changes in our political culture. To submit a review, contact Nicole V. Candler at nicole.candler@insightbb.com.

Kids Voting Metro Louisville needs your help

Bobbi Jo Weber

Kids Voting Metro Louisville is seeking volunteers to help hold a successful Kids Voting election this November. Kids Voting is a 501c(3) organization with a mission to give pre-voting-age youngsters the opportunity to go to the polls with their parents on Election Day to cast their own "Kids Vote."

By doing so, children learn that voting is easy, even fun. Studies have shown that such experiences increase the likelihood that young people will become voters when they reach voting age -- and there is no doubt that strong voter participation is the foundation of a healthy democracy.

Volunteering on election day is easy to do. The day is divided into manageable shifts and all materials are provided. To become a volunteers, contact Project Manager Honi Marleen Goldman at (502) 292-6172 or (502) 451-4564.

Community Calendar

August 17-24

Kentucky State Fair

Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center

Visit the MLWPC booth and purchase a When Women Vote, Women Win yard sign.

August 23, 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Dine and Discover

The University of Louisville Office of External Affairs

West Louisville Inaugural "Dine and Discover" Program at ElderServe at Oak and Acorn Center, 631 S. 28th Street. Speaker Reginald Meeks. Lunch is \$1. Call 852-0270 for reservations and information.

August 26

BGWPC, Political Skills

School

Lexington Library, Downtown
Contact Stephanie Ratliffe at bluegrasswomenspoliticalcaucus@yahoo.com for information.

September 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.

September 14, 6:30 p.m.

Jefferson County NOW

First Unitarian Church, Fourth St. & York

Contact 499-4419 or info@jefferson-countynow.org for details. Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday.

September 21, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The Women's Network

Reception/Bi-annual

Membership meeting, FREE

Jennica's, 636 East Market
State President Lil Press to speak and endorse candidates. Contact Virginia Woodward at virginiawoodward04@yahoo.com for information.

October 24

Project Women Annual

Luncheon

Send us your announcements.

The Caucus Update can help promote programming and announcements for other organizations. MLWPC is a bipartisan group, all organizations are welcome to submit event information. Please send event notices and information to nicole.candler@insightbb.com

2007 Membership Renewal

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail _____

Help us save on expenses by providing your e-mail address. Newsletter and meeting announcements will soon be sent to our membership via e-mail.

Party Affiliation _____ Occupation _____

___ Benefactor Member, \$125

___ Governing Member plus KWPC and NWPC membership, \$80

___ Governing Member plus KWPC membership, \$40

___ Limited-income or Student Member, \$25

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

MLWPC
1906 Hillcircle Road
Louisville, KY 40214

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.