

Caucus Update

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

Fall

'07

2007 Officers

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National Women's Political Caucus Endorses Clinton

"We are so excited about Senator Clinton's candidacy," said Clare Giesen, NWPC's Executive Director. "Hillary Clinton possesses unparalleled experience, and will be ready to lead our country on day one. The National Women's Political Caucus is pleased to endorse the best candidate in the field, Hillary Clinton, and make history by electing the first woman president."

As part of its endorsement, NWPC will organize its members in 30 states, running a grassroots fundraising effort for Hillary, and holding events throughout the country.

NWPC was founded in 1971 to increase women's political participation and to win equal representation for women at all levels of government. NWPC endorses candidates regardless of partisan affiliation and has led the movement to increase women's numbers in federal government from 3 percent in 1971 to 16 percent today.

"It's an honor to be supported by the National Women's Political Caucus," Clinton said. "For decades they have led the fight for women's equality in government and society."

Get to Know Kentucky Women

MLWPC's newsletter, Caucus Update, launches a new column dedicated to educating our members about notable women who've made an impact on Kentucky. The column celebrates women recognized by the Kentucky Commission on Women.

In 1978 the KCW 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.

Get to know: Alice Allison Dunnigan, Logan County, 1906-1983

The daughter of a tenant farmer and laundress, the 13-year-old Dunnigan began writing a weekly column on Russellville happenings for the Owensboro Enterprise. She went on to work for Kentucky's largest African-American newspapers, the Louisville Leader and Louisville Defender. A graduate of Kentucky State University, she taught in Logan and Todd Counties for 18 years. During World War II, Dunnigan moved to Washington, DC. In 1947, she became the managing head of the Associated Negro Press and the first African-American woman accredited to cover the White House, U.S. State Dept., and U.S. Supreme Court. In 1948, Dunnigan was the first African-American woman to cover a presidential tour: President Truman's whistle-stop. In 1951, Dunnigan became the first woman to receive the Capital Press Club "Best All-Around Newsman for 1951." In 1961, she served on the Committee of Equal Employment Opportunity under Vice President Johnson.

**Rally to support
Hillary Rodham Clinton
for President**

**September 19,
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Flanagan's Ale House,
934 Baxter Avenue**

**Sponsored by
Team Hillary Kentucky**

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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.

2007 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 Nicole Candler at (502) 550-0252 or nicole.candler@insightbb.com. No meetings are held in June, July, August and November.

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| September 27 | Discussion of Metro Louisville Office for Women
Tina Lentz, Director of the Metro Louisville Office for Women |
| October 25 | Annual Meeting and Election of Officers |
| December 10
Special date | Debate Party, details to come
Installation of Officers and Holiday Reception |

MLWPC offers A Year of Conversation in 2008

As the MLWPC organizes women for political action on women's issues, the chapter offers a new way for members and guests to learn about the political and legislative process and to relate to public officials. As part of the 2008 programming, the organization will offer roundtable discussions and informal presentations from the following individuals and groups. The new initiative aims to foster greater dialogue and increased contact with those who represent women constituents.

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| January 24 | A conversation with State Chairs of the Democratic, Libertarian and Republican parties. |
| February 28 | A conversation with Democratic and Republican Party Metro Council Caucus Chairs |
| 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 |

Get to know: Alice Allison Dunnigan, continued from page 1
Dunnigan, "Kentucky's Persistent Fighter," worked to expose injustices in America, South America, Haiti, and Africa. She was an internationally-known reporter. She received degrees from the Normal and Industrial Institute, West Kentucky College, Louisville Municipal College, Tennessee A & I, Howard University and an honorary doctorate from Colorado State College. Dunnigan authored two books: *A Black Woman's Experience from the School House to the White House* and *The Fascinating Story of Black Kentuckians*. In 1982, Dunnigan was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. An historic marker honoring Dunnigan's life and ground-breaking accomplishments stands in the heart of Russellville's town square.

MLWPC celebrates 35 years with renewed effort

by Membership Chair Virginia L. Woodward

MLWPC has entered its 35th year of existence. As we look forward to fall programming and we celebrate the KWPC endorsements, it should be a time of reflection. We should examine our accomplishments and renew our efforts to change the political face of this country.

We have only to examine the results from the 2006 elections to know we're having an impact. According to Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International, exit pollsters, "In the pivotal states of Missouri, Montana, and Virginia, exit polls show that a majority of women cast their votes for the victorious Democratic candidates, while the majority of men voted for the Republican opponent." In Missouri, 51 percent of women cast ballots to ensure Claire McCaskill's win for U.S. Senate race. The only other state won by a woman running for the U.S. Senate was in Minnesota, where Amy Klobuchar won 63 per cent of women's vote.

Sixteen women are now serving in the U.S. Senate, a gain of two, or 16 percent of the 100 seats. Seventy-one women serve in the House, a gain of 10 or 16.4 percent of the 435 seats. There are now nine women governors.

Is our work done? Hardly!

The statistics show Kentucky remains at the bottom holding 48th nationally in women's political participation as noted in the 2002 Institute for Women's Policy Research. IWPR 2002 highlights show Kentucky in the composite index at 33rd for Reproductive Rights, 34th for women above the poverty level, 49th in education attainment, 46th for businesses that are women owned, and 39th for median annual earnings. For details visit their website at www.iwpr.org.

Is the work of the MLWPC done? When you make decisions about where to place your commitments for membership for 2008, we hope you will continue to support our efforts to identify, recruit and train women to be appointed or run for elective office.

In 1977, the National Women's Political Caucus and MLWPC were in their infancy. Roe v. Wade, guaranteeing women the right to choose, was 4 years young. Women were still being discriminated against by credit agencies and banks requiring co-signers or issuing no credit at all. We have only to look at the statistics to know our struggle for equality continues.

I would like to share words from the 1977 NWPC California Convention when Jill Ruckelshaus brought the participants to their feet with these words about the fight for equality. They still apply today.

We are in for a very, very long haul.

I am asking for everything you have to give.

We shall never give up.

You will lose your youth, your sleep, your patience, your sense of humor--and occasionally--the understanding and support of people that you love very much.

In return, I have nothing to offer you, but your pride in being a woman; and all your dreams you've had for your daughters, and nieces, and granddaughter; your future; and certain knowledge that at the end of your days you will be able to look back and say that...

Once in your life you gave everything you had for justice.

Help MLWPC continue its work to encourage the involvement and empowerment of women within the political process. No one will hear you if you don't first speak out. Join the conversation and renew your 2008 membership today!

Community Calendar

September 10, 11:30 a.m.

Women 4 Women Annual Luncheon

Ky International Convention Center
Lunch is \$65.

Presentation by Angela F. Bradley, President and CEO of WellPoint. Visit www.w4w.org for more information.

September 12, 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 20, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Metro Louisville Women's Network Membership Mtg.

Artemisia, 620 E Market Street
All interested women are invited to attend.

October 10, 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.

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

2007 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

Join MLWPC members for Project Women's Tenth Annual Luncheon

MLWPC members are forming a table of eight for Project Women's Tenth Annual Luncheon on October 23. Please contact Virginia Woodward at virginiawoodward04@yahoo.com if you'd like to attend. Tickets are \$75. The presenting speaker will be Chief Cathy Lanier. At 38 years old, Chief Lanier is the first female chief in Wahsington D.C. Project Women is a collaborative organization that provides housing to single mothers that are experiencing homelessness and support them in obtaining a bacalaureate degree, thereby enabling them to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children. Individual reservations can also be made by calling 584-8090.

Join the MLWPC table at
Project Women's
Annual Luncheon

October 23

Contact Virginia Wood-
ward at 351-4866 or
[virginiawoodward04@
yahoo.com](mailto:virginiawoodward04@yahoo.com)



Metropolitan Louisville
Women's Political Caucus
1906 Hillcircle Road
Louisville, KY 40214