

Caucus Update

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

Spring 2011



2011 Officers

Angie Wallace, President
502-412-3070
Akwallace0818@yahoo.com

Ruth Lerner, Vice President
502-417-4826
r.lerner@insightbb.com

Bobbi Jo Weber, Treasurer
502-361-0503 Home
502-448-1625 Office
bobbijo@wesselinsurance.com

Kathy Wright, Secretary
502-266-5601 Home
502-640-1238 Cell
wright.m02@insightbb.com

Melinda Niemann,
Immediate Past President
502-451-2650
adnilemmot@aol.com

Virginia L. Woodward,
Membership Chair
502-361-4866 Home/Office
502-541-5526 Cell
virginiawoodward04@yahoo.com

Jennifer Recktenwald,
Newsletter Editor
502-994-9167
jennifer_recktenwald
@hotmail.com

Karen Cassidy, Member at Large
502-797-7411
cass3800@aol.com

Hon. Sherry Conner,
Member at Large
502-776-2051 Home
502-449-5000 Office
mayorconner@insightbb.com

Margaret Harris, Member at Large
502-774-3659
silverapple1@bellsouth.net

Jill Yates, Member at Large
502-608-7320
jillmarieyates@yahoo.com

2011 Meeting Schedule

JANUARY 20

Panel discussion: Rights of Privacy and the Condition of Reproductive Freedom in Kentucky

Panelists include Derek Selznick, ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project; Shirley Jones, Planned Parenthood of Kentucky; and Kate Cunningham, the A FUND

FEBRUARY 17

Panel discussion: Busing and the Student Assignment Plan

Panelists include experts on the Supreme Court ruling and school governance

MARCH 5

MLWPC Campaign School, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne (no regular monthly meeting)
See page 3 for more details

APRIL 21

Legislative forum: The 2011 General Assembly

Panelists include local State Representatives and State Senators

MAY 19

Panel discussion: What Could the Census Mean for Jefferson County?

Panelists to be announced

JUNE, JULY and AUGUST

No meetings scheduled

SEPTEMBER 15

Topic and speakers to be announced

OCTOBER 20

Annual meeting and election of officers

NOVEMBER

No meeting scheduled

DECEMBER 8

Installation of officers and holiday reception

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.

We're now on Facebook!

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

It's a wonderful life

Yes, the idea for this membership article came from my attending the play "It's A Wonderful Life" radio show over the holidays.

I know, the takeaway for many is "Every time you hear a bell ring and angel get her wings." For me, the takeaway was the reality for so many of us: We fail to acknowledge our interconnectivity or interdependence on others and the true difference that makes in our lives and the lives of those around us.

It's a Wonderful Life is a familiar story: George Bailey, through a series of events beyond his control, reaches the brink of despair and finds himself trapped with seemingly no way out. The angel Clarence allows George to take a look back at what life in Bedford Falls would have been him in it to make a difference.

If we took a look back at what this community would look

like without our continuing influence, what would we see? Our organization, the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus (MLWPC), established in 1972, will soon be celebrating 40 years of community activism and service. Many of our founding mothers are still with us and have made untold contributions to many other causes and organizations far beyond their vision for the MLWPC.

One of the oldest multi-partisan pro-choice women's organizations, the Caucus is still committed to uniting the voices of women from every walk of life to be agents of change.

In the 2010 election alone, our endorsements contributed to a progressive new mayor in Greg Fischer; the forced retirement of a obstructionist Metro Councilman Doug Hawkins by terrific newcomer David Yates; and the election of numerous progressive judges to the bench.

Whether you have chosen to support the continuing growth of MLWPC by actively holding an officer or committee position, paying your dues yearly, volunteering for our yearly service projects or attending our monthly meetings, the strength of the Caucus is that we continue to make an impact on the political landscape. Other groups may come and go but the lasting influence of the Caucus remains.

This year we will once again sponsor our Campaign School on March 5th. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet elected officials and the next crop of judges, campaign workers and candidates.

Join or rejoin the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus for 2011 so that we can continue to work for the equality of all, particularly women, in the political process.

—Virginia L. Woodward,
Membership Chair

Support Volunteers of America 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 warm winter accessories, pajamas for adults and children of all ages and sizes, and toiletries, 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 homelessness; 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, visit www.voaky.org.

In Memoriam

The MLWPC Executive Committee wishes to acknowledge the passing of past secretary, long-time member, and friend **Carolyn Shaw** in November 2010. She was a tireless behind the scenes warrior for women and progressive candidates. Her seasoned counsel, courage and leadership will be missed. An MLWPC Campaign School Memorial Scholarship has been established in her honor. To contribute, contact Bobbi Jo Weber at 361-0503 or bobbijo@wesselinsurance.com.

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.



More than 50 Friends and supporters joined members of the Caucus as they were sworn in by Judge Sheila Collins at the annual Holiday Reception at the Mary Craik Gallery in December 2010.

Two important events you won't want to miss

MLPWC presents

Women Leaders: Today and Tomorrow Political Skills Campaign School

Saturday, March 5, 2011, 8 am to 2 pm
Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, 1325 S. Hurstbourne Parkway

Workshops will include:

- Lessons Learned No One Else Will Tell You
- Precincts and Targeting
- Media and How to Get Heard
- Strategic Research: Polling, Direct Mail, and Social Media
- Endorsements
- Fundraising
- And more

Additional information will be sent by mail in the coming weeks. You can also visit our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_144961595557211 for the latest information.

Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission

Race and Relations Conference: Leveling the Playing Field

Featuring

Keynote speaker Lilly Ledbetter —
fair pay activist and namesake of the
Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act

Tuesday, January 25, 8 am to 1 pm
Kentucky Center for
African American Heritage
1701 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard

Register by January 18 at
www.louisvilleky.gov/humanrelations/
or call (502) 574-3631
for more information.



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 _____



Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus
www.mlwpc.org
1906 Hillcircle Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40214