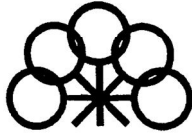


Caucus Update

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus
www.mlwpc.org



2010 MLWPC Schedule

2010 Officers

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All meetings are held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the City Café located at 505 West Broadway (at the corner of Fifth and Broadway adjacent to The Courier-Journal.) Assorted hors d'oeuvres are available for \$10 per person, and a cash bar will be available. Please RSVP by contacting Angie Wallace at akwallace0818@yahoo.com.

In 2010 we will kick off a year of recognizing groundbreaking women. Each month we will host women who are making a difference in their community or profession.

January 21

Cathy Zion, founder and owner of *Today's Woman* magazine

February 18

Dr. Barbara Weakly-Jones, Jefferson County's first women coroner

March 18

Legal insight on the Fen-phen diet case – "Bringing Down the Powerful"

April 15

Legislative Forum: The 2010 General Assembly session featuring members of the House and Senate

May 20

"How Green Are You?" – A panel including Camille McManus, publisher, *Natural Awakenings*; Arnita Gadson, executive director, Environmental Quality Commission; Phyllis Fitzgerald, Earth and Spirit Center; and Summer Auerbach, Rainbow Blossom Natural Foods will discuss going green in our community

June, July and August

No meetings

September 16

Mayoral Candidate Forum

October 21

Annual Meeting – Election of officers and roundtable discussion with the presidents of local National Council of Jewish Women, Business and Professional Women, National Council of Negro Women, National Organization for Women, and League of Women Voters chapters

November – No meeting

December – Date to be announced

Installation of officers and reception

Other community events for progressive women

- The Center for Women & Families Celebration of Service and Survival. February 25, 2010, 5:30 p.m. reception and silent auction, 6:30 p.m. dinner and program, Louisville Marriott Downtown. Register at www.thecenteronline.org.
- MLWPC Executive Committee meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at City Café at noon.
- The Kentucky Women's Political Caucus Annual Conference is coming up in February 2010.
- Business and Professional Women-BPW River City meets at the Jefferson Club at noon on the second Wednesday of each month. Lunch is \$20. To RSVP, contact Mary Lewis at 499-4420 or lewism@msdlouky.org.

Celebrating the power of women

The Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus (MLWPC), established in 1972, is one of the oldest multi-partisan women's organizations still going strong. For almost 38 years, we have joined our voices with women from every walk of life to be agents of change.

Other civic groups may come and go but the lasting influence of the Caucus remains. No where can the influence of the Caucus be more noticeable than in the judiciary, where over half of the sitting judges are now women – most of whom have attended a MLWPC campaign school.

Our 2010 program will be all about celebrating powerful women within our community and state – women who

have been agents of change from every field, from the media to the political, from legal to the environment. This is a year of stimulating programming all about women.

“Other civic groups may come and go but the lasting influence of the Caucus remains.”

We will kick off the year with one of Louisville's most influential women:

Cathy Zion, an early member of the Caucus and founder and owner of *Today's Woman* magazine. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Cathy and hear how she turned her vision into reality.

Mark your calendar and join us for the 2010 journey exploring the many ways women have been change agents impacting our lives and those of people we know.

Join or rejoin the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus in 2010 so that we can continue to work for the equality of all, particularly women, in the political process.

– Virginia L. Woodward,

Support the library with literature by, for, and about women

In 2010 our service project will be the Louisville Free Public Library, which sustained immeasurable damages in the recent floods. To ensure the full replacement of historical, contemporary, and fiction works by, for, and about women, we will be collecting new books at each of our monthly meetings.

In honor of this project, I'm recommending a great read – *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience* by Kirstin Downey (Doubleday, 2009).

The New Deal, perhaps the greatest political achievement of the twentieth century, would not have happened without Perkins.

Virtually every social program introduced by FDR was masterminded by this great woman. Serving as labor secretary under Roosevelt and during part of the Truman administration, she was the first woman to ever hold a cabinet secretary position.

A social worker with a master's degree, Perkins was responsible for programs such as child labor laws, the 40-hour work week, job safety standards, Social Security, the forerunner of Medicare and more.

The Woman Behind the New Deal is a great read for anyone who wants to know more about women and their unique influence on government and our country.

– Virginia L. Woodward

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.

C-J's Joseph Gerth: Mayor's race is short on women

The following is excerpted with permission from Joseph Gerth's weekly Political Notebook column that appeared in The Courier-Journal on October 5, 2009.

Somebody bring the poker chips. And don't be surprised if you hear a beer belch from the voting booth come May.

The 2010 primaries in the Louisville mayoral race are looking a lot like a stag party.

So far no viable women have stepped forward to run in either the Republican or the Democratic primary.

Five businessmen and a male lawyer who are expected to be able to fund multimillion-dollar campaigns have announced their intentions. The only woman to say she wants the city's top job is little-known community activist Connie Marshall, who isn't expected to have the money to compete.

Virginia Woodward, an official with the Women's Political Caucus, a nonpartisan group that encourages women to run for office, said she believes the problem lies with the fact that there aren't that many women who have risen to key government positions that would set them up for a mayoral run.

"There needs to be a bigger farm team of women," she said.

For only the second time since 1985,

Jerry Abramson won't be running in the race. People from across the political spectrum are eyeing the job with anticipation.

And it would seem that a strong fe-

"In a crowded field, a woman who is charismatic, smart, innovative, a hard worker, who is passionate... may not be able to raise the same kind of money (as men in the race), could she win? You bet."

male candidate would have a pretty good shot at wrapping up one of the nominations — especially in the crowded Democratic primary, where adding a well-funded woman to the field could allow someone to win with just over 20 percent of the vote.

No woman has ever been mayor of Louisville, and Woodward doesn't believe a top female candidate has ever entered the race.

According to a report last month by the Kentucky secretary of state's office, Kentucky ranks 45th in the nation in the number of women elected to office.

Even though nearly 53 percent of the state's registered voters are women, there are only 21 women among the state's 138 state legislators. Just eight of the Louisville Metro Council's 26 members are women.

Part of the problem, said Metro Council member Tina Ward-Pugh, D-9th District, who considered a run, is that women have traditionally been outside the power structure and therefore don't have the connections to fund an expensive campaign.

"Women, historically, have not had access to the deep pockets that unfortunately, most of the time, are required to win," she said.

Ward-Pugh is backing Tyler Allen but would reconsider if a woman steps forward who can match Allen's enthusiasm and ideas.

She believes there are women still considering campaigns, but she's not certain who, if anyone, will run. If someone does jump in, she might have an advantage.

"In a crowded field, a woman who is charismatic, smart, innovative, a hard worker, who is passionate... may not be able to raise the same kind of money (as men in the race), could she win? You bet," said Ward-Pugh.

2010 Women's History Month writes women 'Back into History'

"Writing History Back into History" is the theme for 2010 Women's History Month, which is the 30th Anniversary of the National Women's History Project (NWHHP). In 1980, through lobbying efforts by the NWHHP, President Carter issued a proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as the first National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week into a month,



and March is now National Women's History Month. Visit www.nwhp.org for a women's history timeline, links, recommended reading, and other excellent resources.

Locally, the University of Louisville Women's Center will host several Women's History Month events and publish a Women's History Month calendar of events as part of its spring 2010 *Women Center News*. A source of event information in the Louisville metropolitan area, the calendar is available on the Women's Center Web site at www.louisville.edu/womenscenter. Check back in the coming weeks for updates.

2010 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

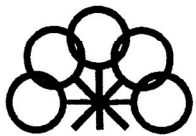
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Party Affiliation _____ Occupation _____



Metropolitan Louisville
Women's Political Caucus
www.mlwpc.org
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