

**Western Gateway Gazette**  
**Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women**  
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**April, 2010**

*A message from your president...*

*April is always a busy month for BPW/MA as well as our local; it being the month of equal pay day and election of officers for our Local and the District. We began with the District Annual meeting which was held on the 10th in Westfield. It was a brisk and informative meeting in which we participated in the Forum: Important Information for Today's Working Women. The program consisted of two sections:*

*“Negotiating”, led by Pat Stowell, Hampshire County; and “Taxes”, led by our own Paulette Remillard, CPA. The forum consisted of role playing, questions and answers and a lot of fun and learning.*

*Following the forum, we heard from our State President, VJ. Hartnett, who, in her customary straight-forward manner, talked with us about the state of The State. Among the topics that we discussed candidly were: structure and conducting business with more flexibility, the connection between Locals, Districts*

*and the State BPW, and most of all, **YOUR** thoughts and input. VJ distributed a questionnaire that she would like us to fill out **ASAP**. I ask that you check your e-mail for this questionnaire, and **PLEASE** fill it out and send it to VJ. For those who do not have access to computers, we will have them at the meeting on the 28th. Please give us your thoughts. No signature required. Change for the good is in the air, be part of it. BPW is your forum, use it.*

*...Good meeting coming for April!  
Check it out and bring a friend!*

*Best Personal Wishes,  
Dot Ransford, President, NBBPW*



## ~~ April Meeting ~~

**Date:** April 28, 2009

**Location:** Williams Inn

**Program:**

1. "Raising Your Grandchildren"  
Speaker – Jeanne Livesy Rodda  
(Rescheduled from Feb. Meeting)
2. Officer Elections
3. Membership Appreciation

**Menu:**

New England clam chowder

**Choice of:**

1. London Broil, au jus
2. Seafood Newberg over Rice
3. Vegetable Lasagna

**Dessert:** Carrot Cake

Coffee, Tea

**Cost:** \$25.00

**Hostesses:**

Allyn Basel 802-694-1466

Chris Ciskowski 413-652-1657

**Please remember: Reservations are due by the Friday before the meeting. If you haven't been called, call one of the hostesses above.**

**Also, you are responsible for reservations made and not honored. We must pay for meals ordered.**

*Networking – 6:00*

*Meeting opens – 6:30*

*Dinner – 6:45*

**Guests are welcome!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19 – Patriot's Day

April 20 – **EQUAL PAY DAY!**

April 28 – NBBPW General Meeting

May 15 – BPW Annual State Convention



## April Birthdays

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### **IMPORTANT WEBSITES!!**

[www.bpwfoundation.org](http://www.bpwfoundation.org)

[www.bpw/ma.org](http://www.bpw/ma.org)

[www.northernberkshirebpw.org](http://www.northernberkshirebpw.org)

**EQUAL  
PAY DAY**  
**Tuesday,**  
**April 20,**  
**2010**



Equal Pay Day is held annually in April to signify the point into a year that a woman must work to earn what a man made the previous year. In 2008, working women earned on average 23% less than their male counterparts. (annual wage data is not yet available for 2009.) In other words, for every dollar earned by a man, a woman working just as hard earns only 77 cents. Things are even worse for women of color. African American women earned 66.5 cents and Latina women earned 56.7 cents to every dollar earned by men. Gender wage discrimination has been illegal since President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act in 1963 but the wage gap persists. Women earned 59 cents to every dollar earned by men in 1963, but progress has slowed and the gender wage gap widened slightly from 77.8 to 77.1 percent between 2007 and 2008.

**Fast Facts**

- African American women on average only earned 66.5 cents and Hispanic/Latina women earned only 56.7 cents for every dollar earned by a white male per year.
- One year after college graduation, women earn only 80 percent of what their male counterparts earn. Ten years after graduation, women fall further behind, earning only 69 percent of what men earn.
- Men had higher starting salaries in their first post-MBA job than women even after taking into account number of years of prior experience, time since MBA, first post-MBA job level, global region, and industry. On average, women MBAs are being paid \$4,600 less in their first job than men.

On March 2, the Small Business Administration (SBA) released a Proposed Rule aimed at expanding federal contracting opportunities for women-owned small businesses. The proposed rule is available for public comment for 60 days.

Currently, only 3.4% of all government contracts are awarded to women-owned businesses even though federal law mandates a 5% government-wide procurement goal for women-owned small businesses.

The [Proposed Rule is aimed at leveling the playing field for women-owned small businesses to compete for and win federal contracts](#), while also achieving the existing statutory goal that 5% of federal contracting dollars go to women-owned small businesses.

**How the Proposed Women-Owned Small Business Rule Works:**

- A firm must be 51% owned and controlled by one or more women, and primarily managed by one or more women.
- The women must be U.S. citizens.
- The firm must be "small" in its primary industry in accordance with [SBA's size standards](#) for that industry.
- A firm must be in one of [83 industries](#) in which women-owned small businesses are under-represented or substantially under-represented in federal procurement.
- Applies to contracts under \$5 million in the case of manufacturing and under \$3 million in the case of other contracts.
- A firm must be duly certified by a Federal agency, a State government, or an SBA-approved entity as a Women-Owned Small Business.
- Women-owned small businesses can self-certify as Women-Owned Small Business or can be certified by a third party entity. If you self-certify, you must certify your status as a Women-Owned Small Business using the [Online Representations and Certifications Application](#) and submit a core set of eligibility-related documents to an online "document repository" to be maintained by the SBA

*BPW Foundation*

## April, 2010 Bizarre and Unique Holidays

1. [April Fool's Day](#)
2. [National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day](#)
3. [Don't Go to Work Unless it's Fun Day](#) - we know your decision
4. [Tell a Lie Day](#)
5. [Go for Broke Day](#)
6. [Plan Your Epitaph Day](#) - a little morbid if you ask me
7. [No Housework Day](#)
7. [World Health Day](#)
8. [Draw a Picture of a Bird Day](#)
9. [Name Yourself Day](#)
10. [National Siblings Day](#)
11. [Barbershop Quartet Day](#)
12. [Big Wind Day](#) - this day blows me away!
13. [Scrabble Day](#)
14. [International Moment of Laughter Day](#)
15. [Titanic Remembrance Day](#)
16. [National High Five Day](#) third Thursday
16. [National Librarian Day](#)
17. [Blah, Blah, Blah Day](#)
17. [National Cheeseball Day](#)
18. [International Juggler's Day](#) - also applies to multi tasking office workers
19. [National Garlic Day](#)
19. [Patriot's Day](#) - third Monday of the month
20. [Volunteer Recognition Day](#)
21. [Kindergarten Day](#)
22. [National Jelly Bean Day](#)
23. [National Zucchini Bread Day](#) - they hold this at a time when you are not sick of all that zucchini.
24. [Pig in a Blanket Day](#)
25. [World Penguin Day](#)
26. [Executive Admin's Day \(Secretary's Day\)](#)
26. [National Pretzel Day](#)
27. [Babe Ruth Day](#)
27. [Tell a Story Day](#)
28. [Great Poetry Reading Day](#)
29. [Greenery Day](#)
30. [National Honesty Day](#)

