

Western Gateway Gazette
Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women
Lucy A. Milette, editor. Elizabeth Manns, copyist/production.

January, 2011



A message from your president...

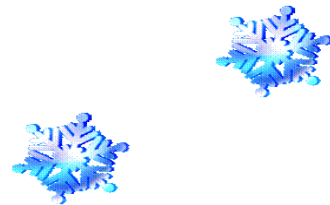
Dear Members,

Welcome to 2011. It is hard to believe we have turned a page onto a brand new year. A year full of promise and opportunity to do all of the things we plan to do every new year and don't seem to get around to doing. Most New Year resolutions center on self; our weight, our finances, our exercise, our healthful living and other promises. All of these are most important and really should be attended to; but what if this year when we gaze at that fresh, blank page which is ours alone to write on, we choose beyond self and broaden our horizons?

Perhaps we can really do that "think outside of the box" thing and begin with NBBPW. Our club has been growing positively this past year with new members joining our ranks. Welcome Ladies! Let's really get to know each other and get everyone involved. When at a meeting or activity, stretch beyond that comfortable place that you are in and extend yourself to your sister BPW members. We of NBBPW represent working women; that is our mantra, but when out in the

community do you talk about NBBPW to the checker at the market or the office worker at your insurance company? These women and other women in the work place are the women we need to tell about our mission. It's 2011 and women still only make 77 cents of our male counterpart's dollar. This exists at all levels of employment, and it's partially because we women allow it by not being informed. Working Women have WORTH and are WORTHY of equal pay. This year let us work together for equality in the workplace. There is always so much to accomplish at the dawn of a new year so make yourself and your family promises that you can keep, and remember your NBBPW sisterhood as one of your promises to yourself. Let us live the tenets of The Collect, and may your New Year be blest with all of the best of life and love.

*Happy New Year,
Dot
NBBPW President*



January Meeting

Date: January 26, 2011

Location: Williams Inn

Program: 1. Member of the Year
2. Scholarship Award

Menu: Soup de Jour

Choice of:

1. Grilled Pork Chop,
Dressing & Mushrooms
2. Chicken Parmesan over Pasta
3. Pasta Primavera with Marinara

Dessert: Bread Pudding with Dried
Cherries

Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$25.00

Hostesses:

Dorothy Ransford - 413-663-6514

Fran Czarnecki – 413 664-6149

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!

IMPORTANT WEBSITES!!

www.bpw/usa.org

www.bpw/ma.org

www.northernberkshirebpw.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17 – M. Luther King, Jr. Day

January 26 – NBBPW General Meeting



January Birthdays

Do you have a January birthday? Let us know.



from BPW Foundation...

Given the slowly recovering economy and the resources necessary to attend and put on a Washington, DC based policy day, BPW Foundation is bringing Policy & Action to our members and supporters in the form of half-day regional meetings across the country to discuss and examine our key issues, particularly those affecting women veterans. We also will be planning a strategy for a national Policy & Action to be held in Washington DC in 2012. Through these regional meetings we will engage legacy members and supporters, local and partner organizations, Members of Congress and women veterans.

Locations will be chosen based on the strength and interest of BPW Foundation's state legacy groups, interested Members of Congress and the women veteran population located in the regions. Some possible locations include: Washington (State), Texas, Illinois, Florida, Pennsylvania and North Carolina

There are a number of reasons that we want to try this new approach:

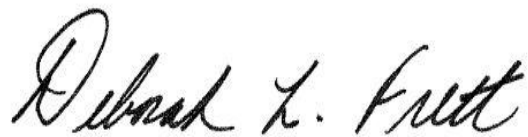
- This year we have a new and very different Congress that will take some time to set a policy/legislative agenda, as well as one that will most likely not be focusing on our major legacy issues.
- Only 43 members attended the 2010 P&A, a 30 percent decrease from 2009. With the economy unimproved, it is likely we will have even fewer attendees in 2011. This does not provide us the critical mass needed to be effective.
- Regional meetings will allow those who never have had the opportunity to attend a Policy & Action to participate. This is especially key since lobbying your Members of Congress in their home Districts is also very important.
- Regional meetings will allow members, if they wish, to host a

- second session in the afternoon to focus on state legislative issues.
- Meetings could be held in conjunction with other meetings to increase attendance.
- Non BPW members could be invited as a new member introduction

We are looking forward to working with our state organizations as well as our members and supporters to ensure that this program is a success and effectively enhances our ongoing policy efforts.

We have spent a great deal of time planning the best way to use our resources, educate our members and allow them to reach their legislators in meaningful ways. We hope that everyone will work with us to ensure the success of this new program. New can be a challenge but also exciting, especially if we can involve more of our supporters in the process.

As the planning process begins, we will be in touch with you for ideas and assistance. Thank you for your understanding and support.
Sincerely,



Deborah L. Frett
CEO
Business and Professional Women's
Foundation

