

Western Gateway Gazette

Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women

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March, 2009

A message from your president...



Dear Members:

By the time you read this, we will all have turned forward our clocks and are now enjoying longer days, sunshine and bidding adieu to winter!! It has been a very hard winter weather-wise, as well as, health-wise for many of our members. I hope everyone is feeling better now.

A reminder...Western District's Annual Meeting is March 28th at the Pittsfield Country Club. If you would like to attend, and I hope some of you will, I can email or snail- mail the form to you. I was unable to maintain the "let's keep a secret" concerning our Member of the Year as I had to call and invite her to the dinner. Pauline had already made plans for the day so will be unable to attend. At our March meeting we will give her our rousing congratulations!!

To date we have not been able to find anyone for the "Young Careerist" program. Dawn Schrade is hard at work trying. If you have anyone in mind, please call me or Dawn. If we are able to find someone, we will do the program in March, and bring our winner to the

Western District's Annual Meeting, and possibly on to the state convention in May. With BPW/USA folding there no longer will be a national convention, or YC competition. I know how much Dawn loved being part of the event and I am sorry that other young women will not get the chance to participate.

We are forging forward with plans for our 45th Anniversary Party. If you know of anyone who would like to attend please let Liz or me know so that we may send out invitations. Nancy Lescarbeau is working with Liz and me to obtain names/ addresses, etc of former members, past Women of Achievement, State Officials, etc., as well.

Liz attended the State's winter board and can relate to our members just what is happening with our national organization and how it will affect our club.

We are also working on filling our slate of officers for the 2009-2010 year. If anyone is interested in a position, a new position or maintaining their current position, please let us know as soon as possible to help out our nominating committee.

See you at the meeting, think spring!!

*Paulette Remillard,
President*



[March Meeting](#)

Date: March 25, 2009

Location: Williams Inn

**Program: Rachel Isbell Branch
"Presentation & Exhibit": Photos &
Postcards of Arthur Abner Isbell,
Wireless Pioneer and Expert Radio
Engineer**

Menu:

Choice of:

- 1. Herb Roasted Chicken Breast**
- 2. Salmon with Dijonaise Sauce**
- 3. Cheese Tortellini with Marinara**

Dessert: Brownie Sundae

Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$25.00

For reservation call:

Gwen Boillat: 413-663-9328

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

March 8 – Return to Daylight Savings Time

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

March 20 – First Day of Spring

March 25 – NBBPW General Meeting

March 28 – Western District Annual Meeting



March Birthdays

Are there any?

March is Women's History Month

In 2009, the National Women's History Project honors women who have taken the lead in the environmental or "green" movement. The 2009 Honorees are scientists, engineers, business leaders, writers, filmmakers, conservationists, teachers, community organizers, religious or workplace leaders or others whose lives show exceptional vision and leadership to save our planet. Learn more on the [National Women's History Project website](http://www.nwhp.org).



1. ****Take Action**** Urge Your Senators to Co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act

The [Paycheck Fairness Act \(S 182\)](#) is moving rapidly through the Senate and it needs your help! The Paycheck Fairness Act will update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, closing loop holes and improving the law's effectiveness. BPW members have been championing this legislation since it was first introduced in 1997. We are so grateful to Congress and President Obama for quickly passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in January, but the work to eliminate the wage gap is not done. Ledbetter gets us back to the starting line, now we need to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to move us forward in the battle to close the persistent gap between men's and women's wages.

[Please take a moment to write your Senators and ask them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act.](#)

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act are a one-two punch in the fight for pay equity. This week BPW Director of Public Policy Rachel Lyons joined with other pay equity advocates at meetings with key Senate offices urging them to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act.

You can easily write your Senator using the [BPW/USA Advocacy Center](#). Just enter your zip code and then click on "Write Your Legislators" under the Paycheck Fairness Act.

2. House Committee Hearing on Family Friendly Workplaces

On March 3rd, the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Workplace Protections held a hearing to explore how family-friendly policies, such as grants to support state paid leave programs, paid leave, expansions to the Family and Medical Leave Act, and paid sick days make sound economic sense not only in good times, but during recessionary times as well. Chairwoman Woolsey (D-CA) said, "We share President Obama's optimism that the recovery plan currently being implemented will get people back to work. But in addition,

we also need to pass legislation that will help to ease the burden on working families to balance their jobs and their family responsibilities."

Training and Career Development

Need Tips to Distinguish Yourself Professionally?

Learn tips to stand out among today's flood of job seekers. Register today for "Refining Your Personal Brand" scheduled for Thursday, March 12 at 6 pm EST. This popular webinar series with Abby Locke is a free benefit for BPW/USA members. For more information and to register check the website. The [Career Advancement Webinar Series](#) is brought to you by BPW Career Center.

How Much Should You Make? Part II

In these economic times, be sure you are getting the pay you deserve. Access the BPW/USA Career Center job seeker toolkit for information on nationwide employment and wage estimates from the U.S. Department of Labor. Here are a few occupations listed:

Economists \$86,700

Middle School Teachers \$50,630

Marriage & Family Therapists \$45,310

Law Clerks \$40,880

Also, check out the [Internship RSS feed](#):

Working Women Provide Better Economic Stimulus

In a commentary on Women's e-news, Mimi Abramovitz reported on studies that found that spending on services like health care and education produces a bigger bang for the economic-stimulus buck than dollars devoted to roads and bridges. Despite this fact more stimulus dollars are dedicated to those roads and bridges mostly built by men, rather than jobs traditionally held by women that provide a better stimulus. Read the full article on [Women's e-news](#).

New Women's Page at Department of Labor

The Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor has a new webpage with new and updated information. [Check it out.](#)

BPW/USA

