

Western Gateway Gazette
Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women
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January, 2009



A message from your president...

Dear Members:

2009 certainly came in with a vengeance, snow and ice storms, what a start! I hope that everyone had a great Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year.

Our Holiday gathering at the William's Inn proved to be a delightful evening for all. The food was delicious, the company, grand, and I believe that we all enjoyed the games!! Pauline Davis and Inna Gertje did a wonderful job, as usual, planning the festivities. I thank you both. We all loved Inna's apple Santa's. The donations to the Louison House were well received, and I know that the children in Haiti will appreciate the school supplies. You deserve praise for your efforts. This year, our 50/50 raffle proceeds will be used for our scholarship funds...

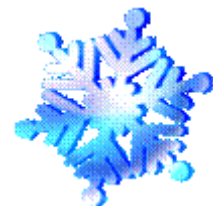


We will re-visit the discussion of fund-raising at the next meeting, please, bring your ideas. We really need money to fund our continued operations, and to plan a super 45th Anniversary Party, so put on your thinking caps.

On January 28th, we recognize our Member of the year so don't miss this occasion to bestow such an honor on one of our members. Also, the Scholarship committee has done its work and we will award our annual Margaret E. Lanoue Scholarship to a very deserving recipient.

See you at the January meeting.

*Paulette Remillard,
President*



January Meeting

Date: January 28, 2009

Location: Williams Inn

Program: Member of the Year
&
Scholarship Award

Menu: Garden Salad

Choice of:

1. Roast New York Strip Loin
2. Chicken Shaker with Apple Cider Sauce
3. Grilled Vegetables with Polenta

Dessert: Cranberry Chiffon Pie

Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$25.00

Hostesses: Francine LaJoie
413-663-2822
Dawn Schrade
413-663-5008

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 19 – M. Luther King, Jr. Day
January 26 – Chinese New Year
January 28 – NBBPW General Meeting



January Birthdays

**Do you have a January birthday?
Let us know.**



Election 2008:

The Year of the Working Woman

Endorsements

BPW/PAC celebrated the election of 45 Congressional PAC endorsees because of their commitment to support equity for all women in the workplace. The winners include 14 Senators and 31 Representatives, 8 challengers and 37 incumbents. One race (California-4) is still too close to call. BPW/USA looks forward to working with the new Congress to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, expand work-life policies and support women veterans. For the full list of winners visit www.bpwusa.org.

The Numbers

Women in Congress – Ninety-four women were elected to the House and Senate. Two women were elected to the Senate, bringing the total number to a record high of 17. In the House, at least 10 new women were elected, bringing the number of women to a record high of at least 77, including 3 delegates. Of that number, 17 are Republicans and 60 are Democrats.

Women Governors - The number of women governors will remain unchanged at eight. All incumbent women governors who ran for reelection successfully defended their seats.

Party Composition – The current party breakdown in the House is 256 Democrats and 176 Republicans. At press time, three races have not been called. In the Senate, there are 56 Democrats, 41 Republicans, 2 Independents and one race too close

to call. Democrats won 5 Senate seats held by Republicans, building on their slim 51-seat majority but fell short on the 60-seat majority needed to override a filibuster.

Ledbetter – In the Senate, 5 new votes in favor of Ledbetter were added which (all things remaining the same) get the 60 necessary for cloture and a final vote on Ledbetter in the coming year.

Equal Rights Amendment

In town hall meetings, candidate forums, letters to the editor and one-on-one meetings, BPW/USA and its members pressed the presidential candidates and the major parties to return the ERA to its rightful place in the party platforms. The 2008 Democratic Party Platform contains strong statements in support of the ERA, pay equity, women's health care and CEDLAW. Just like we asked! BPW/USA members also lobbied the Republican Party but the 2008 Platform was passed with no mention of the ERA.

Business Woman Magazine

