

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

**May, 2008**



*A message from your president...*

Dear Members:

May is here !! I find it hard to believe that a whole year has passed since I was installed as your president. It's been a fun year for me and also quite a learning experience as well. I am grateful to my board who has served this organization so well. We are a lucky group to have so many talented women among us.

The Western District's Annual Meeting was held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Williams Inn. We had a good turnout and all appeared to enjoy themselves. The Young Careerist speak off went well. Both candidates did wonderful job presenting their speeches entitled "Is the United States Ready for a Female President?" It was a challenge for our judges to decide which young lady was to be declared the winner. Northern Berkshire's YC, Dawn Shrade did us proud but lost the competition to Berkshire's YC candidate Katherine Taylor Lamb. Ms Lamb now heads to State Convention and since the state produced no other candidates, she automatically wins and goes to represent Massachusetts BPW at Nationals. We wish her success.

In April we honored two of our longstanding members, Inna Gertje for her ten year anniversary and Dorothy Ransford for her 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Dot actually has been a member for 18 years (Again Congratulations for 18 years!); however National has her joining 15 years ago. I will try to remedy this, but this should serve as a reminder to check your membership data at BPW/US to see that it is correct.

Our newest member, Kristen Wittig was inducted as a member at our April meeting as well. She is already jumping in, feet first, by becoming our Treasurer for the upcoming year, as well as working at the state level for our soon to be State President Kathleen Pavelchek. She will assist in various ways working on the Bay State News, member directories etc.

Our May meeting will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Elected officers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year will be installed. Thank you to all of you who stepped up to the plate!! I truly appreciate it.

See you at the May meeting.

*Paulette Remillard, President*



**Date: May 28, 2008**

**Location: Williams Inn**  
**Program: Installation of Officers**

**Menu:**

**Fresh Fruit Plate**

**Choice of:**

- 1. Pork Stir Fry over Noodles**
- 2. Chicken Piccata**
- 3. Cheese Tortellini with Fresh Vegetables**

**Dessert: Key Lime Pie**

**Coffee, Tea**

**Cost: \$20.00**

**For Reservations call:**

**Gwen Boillat 413-663-9328**  
**Sharon Levesque 413-663-9502**

**Please remember:** Reservations are due by the Friday before the meeting. **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**

*May 16-18 –BPW/MA Meeting*

*May 26 Memorial Day*

*May 28 – NBBPW Meeting*

*June 9 – Women, Wages & Work Conference*

*July 23-26 – BPW/USA National Convention, Atlanta*

**\*Register Now!**

**Women, Wages & Work Policy Conference**

Join us for a day of exciting speakers and strategy sessions to close the wage gap; advocate for family friendly benefits, retirement security, and work/life balance; and examine how to get women what they need in child care & job training.

**Date: Monday, June 9, 2008**

**Time: 8am to 5pm**

**Where: UMass Boston Campus Center**

To find out more and to register, go to

**[www.mccormack.umb.edu/womenwages&work](http://www.mccormack.umb.edu/womenwages&work)**

**<<http://www.mccormack.umb.edu/womenwages&work>>**

**IMPORTANT WEBSITES!!**

**[www.bpw/usa.org](http://www.bpw/usa.org)**

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

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



## Birthdays

Lucy Milette - 5/25

## **Of Interest.....**

### **1. Senate Fails to Pass Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**

BPW/USA is greatly disappointed that the Senate was unable to bring the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (HR 2831) to a vote despite a majority of Senators being in favor of the bill. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the cloture vote failed by vote of 56-42, just 4 votes shy of the 60 need to invoke cloture and proceed to debate and final vote on the bill. Senator Edward Kennedy, sponsor of the bill, vowed to fight on and Majority Leader Reid agreed to bring the bill to a vote again. The broad coalition of women and civil rights organizations that supported the bill said they would definitely count this vote in upcoming Senate elections.

(Note: Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator John Kerry voted in favor of the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.)

### **2. Effect of Recession on Women**

A new report indicates that women are bearing a disproportionate share of the hardship of this economic downturn. The report was prepared by the Majority Staff of the Senate committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP). The report is part of the Committee's ongoing focus on

women and family issues and was released in conjunction with Equal Pay Week. HELP Committee Chair, Senator Kennedy said that findings show that we need to act immediately to restore women's right to fair pay.

Some of the findings are:

- Women are suffering more job losses than men and a larger reduction in wages than the general population.
- Since March 2007, the number of unemployed adult women has increased by 20%, compared to 17% increase by adult men.
- In 2007, the median wage of adult male workers fell by nearly half a percent; in contrast, women's median wages fell by 3 %.
- Women represent a disproportionate share of the recipients of sub prime mortgages. They make up only 30% of borrowers for mortgages, but 38% of sub prime borrowers.
- Single women are the most likely demographic group to file for bankruptcy and comprise 40% of all bankruptcy filings.
- In part because of longstanding economic discrimination, women often have fewer assets and a weaker personal safety net than men and are generally less able to absorb the effects of a recession than their male counterparts.

*BPWPolicy/BPW/USA*

### **Let Your Senators Know that Working Women Are Watching**

Please take a moment to say Thank you to Senators Kennedy and Kerry for their vote and statements on behalf of the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (HR 2831).

Saying "Thank you" is one of the most important steps in the advocacy process. It is also the most forgotten step. A thank you is always appreciated and always remembered.

*BPWPolicy/BPW/USA*