

Western Gateway Gazette
**Northern Berkshire Business and Professional
Women**

Lucy A. Milette, editor. Elizabeth Manns, copyist/production.

November, 2008

message from your president...



Dear Members:

The leaves are gone, nights are cold, our clocks have been turned back and the first snows have fallen. We are officially in the "Holiday Season". Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and Christmas and other holiday celebrations aren't far off.

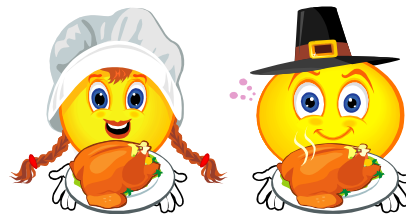
October was a busy month for NBBPW. During National Business Women's Week, on October 22nd we held our Woman of Achievement dinner. Sue Mead of Williamstown was honored, joining many other wonderful women. The evening was a lot of fun and I'm told that Sue and her family and friends had a great time.

On February 28th, the State Federation will hold its winter board on the Cape. The specifics are still being worked out. I'll let you know the details when they are finalized.

The District has been busily planning their Annual Meeting. The date has been set for March 28th at the Pittsfield Country Club and will be hosted by Berkshire BPW. Reservation forms will be handed out when available. I hope that many local members will be able to attend.

See you all at our November meeting.

*Paulette Remillard,
President*



NOVEMBER MEETING

(Note Date!)

Date: Nov. 19, 2008

Location: Williams Inn

Program: The C.O.T.Y. Trip to Haiti

Menu: Clam Chowder

Choice of:

**1. Roast Turkey with Dressing,
Giblet Gravy, & Mashed Potato**

2. Seafood Newburg in Pastry Shell

**3. Fettuccini with Mushrooms and
Broccoli, Oil & Garlic
Grilled Vegetables**

Dessert: Pumpkin Pie

Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$25.00

Hostesses: Liz Manns

413-664-7445

Paulette Remillard

413-663-7945

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

**November 19 – NBBPW General
Meeting**

**November 27 – Thanksgiving
Day**



November Birthdays

Sharon Maxwell – 11/4

Gwen Boillat – 11/11

Inna Gertje – 11/25

IMPORTANT WEBSITES!!

www.bpw/usa.org

www.bpw/ma.org

www.northernberkshirebpw.org

Of Interest...

Minority Women-Owned Business Fastest Growing

An article in the [Washington Post](#) reported that the number of minority women-owned businesses grew twice as fast as the number of businesses created by male minority entrepreneurs and non-minority men and women, according to a new study released this morning by the [Minority Business Development Agency](#).

Women Veterans Suffer Sexual Trauma

A new study by The VA Palo Alto Health Care System's National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress found that one in seven women veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and seek Veterans' Administration (VA) medical care report having experienced sexual trauma during their service. One of the researchers noted that these facts highlight the need for gender-informed and gender-specific healthcare for veterans. For more information you can read the press release from the [American Public Health Service](#).

Women Pay More for Health Insurance

According to an article posted on the [New York Times Health Feed](#), new data from the insurance industry shows that women pay much more than men of the same age for individual health insurance policies providing the same coverage. The gap even remains when maternity benefits are removed from consideration.

2008 Election By The Numbers

Women in Congress - According to [Women's Policy Inc](#), a record 94 women were elected to the House and Senate. Two women were elected to the Senate, bringing the total number of women serving in the Senate to a record high of 17. In the House, at least 10 new women were elected, bringing the total number of women to a record high of at least 77, including three Delegates. Of that number, 17 are Republicans and 60 are Democrats.

Women Governors - Eight women governors served in 2008; the number will remain unchanged in 2009. All incumbent women governors who ran for reelection successfully defended their seats.

Party Composition - The current party breakdown in the House is 254 Democrats and 173 Republicans. Eight races have not been called. In Senate there are 55 Democrats, 40 Republicans, 2 Independents and 3 races too close to call. Democrats won five Senate seats held by Republicans, building on their slim 51-seat majority but fell short of the 60-seat majority needed to override a filibuster.

Ledbetter - In the Senate, we picked up four new votes in favor of Ledbetter which (all things remaining the same) gets us the 60 necessary for cloture and a final vote on Ledbetter in the coming year.

BPW/USA