



MMN – Monday, January 18, 2010

Mission: The purpose of the Democratic Women's Caucus is to fund, inspire, recruit, support, and train progressive, pro-choice women to increase the numbers of women in the electoral process and in elected and appointed positions

Dear Lisa,

*Monday
Morning News*

January 18th

IN THIS ISSUE:

- What a good day Sunday was – more women trained!
 - A letter from the Chair about your membership for 2010!
 - TODAY - MLK Day – Knitting for Peace – A Day On, Not a Day Off...
 - Ivy Tech Community Chats and news from past chats...
 - League of Women Voters events coming up soon!
 - Submit events for Women's History Month calendar!!
 - DWCAucus Policy for Candidates on our Website – please review!
 - Need volunteers for the Endorsement Committee...
 - Winter shelter request from Anne McLaughlin of Volunteers for Change...
 - Democratic Women's Club meets this Tuesday...
 - Annual award nominations due 1/29 – Commission on the Status of Women Boards, commissions, hmm... BZA? New Commission on Aging?
 - <http://democraticwomenscaucus.org/MMN/MMN%2001-11-10.pdf>
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CAMPAIGN TRAINING –WHAT FUN WE HAD!

Yesterday, Sunday January 17, 2010, about 20 very interested and motivated women got together for a Campaign Circuit Training Session. We went through 6 stations in small groups to learn about campaign plans, budgets, message development and media relations, campaign teams and how they can help a candidate, printed materials, and viability. Candidates were given some direction, volunteers hooked up with women they want to support, and really good discussions took place about the upcoming election and the campaign and election process in general. Thank you to the steering committee members who worked on materials and presentations: Susan Sandberg, Jill Jolliff, Charlotte Zietlow, Lu Cregar, Merridee LaMantia, Julie Thomas, Jillian Kinzie, Dee Owens and Regina Moore. It is of great importance to the Caucus that women work smart and present the best of campaigns in pursuit of our mission to increase the number of elected women in public service. We hope that we made a good dent in that work at this session. If you missed it, look for another one of our training sessions or special programs soon.

FROM REGINA MOORE, CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS!

Dear Reader of the MMN,

Thank you for your past membership in the Democratic Women's Caucus PAC (DWC). We are grateful for your membership because, after all, there would be no DWC without our dynamic and wonderful members!

Your membership enabled us to accomplish so much last year.

- We hosted Governor Madeline Kunin of Vermont at our Women's History Month dinner and reception. This enabled us to tap into a wider circle of women who are dedicated to increasing the presence of women in elected and appointed office.
- We held a free pre-election forum and lunch for 45 participants to discuss reasons

why women do not run for elected office and to begin to address those concerns locally.

- We were able to help sponsor the Monroe County Democrats JJ dinner with special guest Jan Schakowsky of Illinois.
- We held our inspirational Women's Equality Day dinner with Professor Aviva Orenstein of the Michael Maurer School of Law as our special guest speaker.

We're proud of what we've been able to do and we could not have done it without you!

We are very excited about our plans for this year, which include:

- Our first "circuit training" event where prospective women candidates and others can get information on several aspects of campaign work.
- Implementation of a new endorsement policy which will include more membership participation.
- A mentorship program for candidates.
- Special programs at other than breakfast times on special topics.
- And of course, opportunities to support and network with our incredible membership at our breakfast meetings and other special events.

Please renew your membership today! The dues for membership are only \$20 and will help us to continue our mission to fund, inspire, recruit, support, and train progressive women to increase the numbers of women in electoral and appointed positions. We urge you to renew early in the year for full benefits of membership!

Thank you again for your support, and we look forward to continuing our journey with you as a member of the DWC! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and we will be happy to assist you. regina.moore@gmail.com

KNITTING FOR PEACE – COME JOIN US FOR MLK DAY TODAY!

If you are inclined, or even interested, stop by one of the two yarn shops in town to Knit for Peace. Knitters and Crocheters will be sharing patterns and ideas for knitting an item that could be given or sent to someone in need.... hats to Shalom center or for the Cancer Care center to warm heads this winter; scarves for someone who might need one from the Rise; kids hats, kids mittens (for the more skilled among us) or even a simple 6x9" rectangle (your choice of color or pattern) to join with others for an afghan for the homeless shelter. Martin Luther King said that all could be great because all can serve. This is a peaceful and caring way to honor him and his work, and to celebrate his life tomorrow. I'll be at both places and invite you to join me and the most friendly, helpful bunch of women who will be sharing their craft. You need not be experienced or proficient to do this! Come to Yarns Unlimited at Fountain Square downtown (no parking problems on a holiday!) from 11-3 and/or In A Yarn Basket on South Walnut and Winslow (in the old Marsh plaza) from 11:30 to 6 pm. I guarantee inspiration, friendly folks, and fun! - Regina

IVY TECH COMMUNITY CHATS! TUESDAYS!

Thanks to Monroe County Planning Director Gregg Zody for his insights Tuesday into the County's comprehensive land use plan update. There's still time to weigh in with your own thoughts. Go to <http://www.co.monroe.in.us/planning/compplan.html> for more information.

Come to *Ivy Tech Community Chats* on Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 am at the Village Deli, 409 E. Kirkwood Ave., in Bloomington.

The Hoosier Hills Food Bank has distributed over 22 million pounds of food since 1982, with an ever-increasing demand from the agencies it serves. This Tuesday, come to hear from Executive Director Julio Alonso how HHFB's small staff works with a large pool of volunteers to make a big difference in lives throughout southern Indiana.

Upcoming Chats:

Charlotte Zietlow, economic development pioneer with Middle Way House (Jan. 26)
Susan Sandberg, Bloomington City Councilwoman, talking about poverty in Bloomington and Monroe County (Feb. 2)

Lou Malcomb, director of the IU Geography and Map Library (Feb. 9)

Steve Englert and Roy Elkes, Ivy Tech Accounting professors and VITA volunteers (Feb. 16)

Phil Stafford, director of IU's Center on Aging and Community at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community (Feb. 23)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LEGISLATIVE UPDATES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH...

Come to Council Chambers in City Hall for the League's Monthly Legislative update; the first Saturdays in February and March will provide an opportunity for you to hear and to question your State legislators. See you there!

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH NEEDS YOUR INFO! FROM MERRIDEE LAMANTIA...

We would love to promote your March program/event this year by including it in our 2010 Women's History Month (March) Calendar. If you would like to participate please complete an on-line submission form at: www.bloomington.in.gov/csw.

All submissions for the 2010 Women's History Month Calendar are due by **January 22**. Please contact Sue Owens at 349-3468 or owenss@bloomington.in.gov if you have any questions

PLEASE REVIEW OUR POLICY FOR CANDIDATES!

Go to the DWCaucus Web site at www.democraticwomenscaucus.org to see our Policy for Candidates for the 2010 election cycle. Thank you!

ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE NEEDS MEMBERS TO HELP PERFORM ITS DUTIES...

The Endorsement Committee needs 7 PAID, non-steering committee members to work on endorsement recommendations for this primary season; please join us in this special effort. The form is on the Website (see above); please send it to Julie Thomas at drjuliethomas@gmail.com for consideration. Thank you for your service!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP...

During this bitter cold, we feel fortunate that we are able to offer the warmth of shelter to our neighbors in need. For the months of November and December, we offered the hospitality of a warm bed 1,592 times. We are only able to do this through the generosity of volunteers. It takes 25 volunteers a night, 175 volunteers a week to keep our doors open. Thanks to all those who have volunteered!

If you or anyone you know is interested in helping, please attend one of these last 2 training sessions. The Shelter is scheduled to be open through March 31st, so we can still use the help.

- Wednesday, Jan. 27, 6-9pm, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 100 N. State Rd 46 (on the bypass, just north of College Mall)

Families who have volunteered for the set-up shift have found that, in addition to having fun, it has sparked some important family conversations about being in community. You can sign up for a shift at: <http://interfaithwintershelter.org/volunteer/schedule/>. If you've

been trained, but not yet volunteered, please feel free to stop by any of the Shelters and observe. Thank you!

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING INFO, FROM PRESIDENT CONNIE LOFTMAN:

Our first meeting of the new year is on **Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 11:30 a.m.**, KRC Catering, 216 S. College Avenue, in Bloomington. We will hear presentations by David Bottorff, Executive Director of the Association of Indiana Counties, or his representative, concerning restructuring of county government and redistricting. Tamyra d'Ippolito, candidate for U.S. Senate, will also address us. Dues are \$10.00 per year - please pay your 2010 dues at our January meeting. Bring a friend or two and join us Tuesday!

CITY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

The City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women is seeking nominees for the Woman of the Year, Emerging Leader and Lifetime Contribution Awards. The deadline for submission of nominations is **January 29, 2010**; awards will be presented during Women's History Month in March. Nomination forms are available in the City of Bloomington's Community and Family Resources Department, Suite 260, and online at www.bloomington.in.gov/csw.

The Woman of the Year Award is presented to a woman who has improved the quality of life for other women through inspiration, community service or professional accomplishments and who serves as a positive role model for girls and women. The Lifetime Contribution Award recognizes a woman whose work has significantly advanced the status of women through leadership and service. The Emerging Leader Award acknowledges a woman with a relatively short (less than five years) history of significant achievements and recognizes her potential for future contributions.

Nominations should include the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the nominee in addition to the reasons why the nominee merits the award. Those submitting nominations also should include their names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

The Woman of the Year and the Lifetime Contribution award recipients will be honored at the Women's History Month Lunch on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at the Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center. The lunch will include a presentation entitled "On Their Shoulders We Stand: A Salute to Women Who Paved the Way," written by Gladys DeVane.

Completed nomination forms can be sent via e-mail to owenss@bloomington.in.gov or by mail to The Commission on the Status of Women, P.O. Box 100, Bloomington, IN, 47402. For more information, please contact Sue Owens at 349-3468.

CITY AND COUNTY BOARD AND COMMISSION OPENINGS – YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE!

This is the time of year when various seats on city and county boards and commissions end, and the Commissioners, County and City Council (and the Mayor) are all accepting applications for open seats, and seats where terms are ending.

The Monroe County Commissioners are currently accepting applications for appointment to various boards and commissions from county residents. Some positions may have specific requirements. Applications are available on-line at http://www.co.monroe.in.us/commissioners/commissioner_forms.html and in the Commissioners' Office, 100 W Kirkwood Ave. Room 322.

The County Council is accepting applications from County residents who are interested in serving on the **Board of Zoning Appeals**, as well as other boards and commissions. The BZA position is vital to proper planning in the County. Residents/business owners who wish to construct or remodel structures in a way that is not normally allowable under the current planning/zoning ordinances must seek the approval of the BZA for a variance to the ordinance before they may proceed with their project. If you have questions about this or other positions, please contact Julie Thomas at drjuliethomas@gmail.com. To get a better sense of what the BZA does, it may be helpful to review CATS broadcasts of meetings (through the Monroe County Public Library website) and/or to review reports and meeting minutes at <http://www.co.monroe.in.us/planning/bza.html> (to view minutes, click on "reports" on the menu on the left side of the page).

If you would like to be considered, please complete the application form, found at (http://www.co.monroe.in.us/countycouncil/2009/2009_Appointments/BoardsAndCommissionsApplication.pdf), and submit it to the Council office (Room 215 of the Courthouse) as soon as possible.

At the City, a complete listing as well as descriptions of Boards and Commissions, including the new **Commission on Aging**, and application materials may be found at www.bloomington.in.gov/clerk. These also are available at the City Clerk's Office in Showers City Hall at 401 N. Morton. Applications remain active and on file for one year from date of application. For more information or questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 349-3408.

ALL board and commission meetings are public meetings and open to visitors. Depending upon the nature of the board or commission, you may be asked to participate! Much work for these boards and commissions is done in subcommittees, and you could volunteer to help there, too.

So whether you jump in with both feet, or just become an attendee, or volunteer on a board or commission (city or county), you can learn a great deal about how local government is practiced. Good luck!
