

*Democratic Women's Caucus
Monday Morning News on Tuesday
November 17, 2008*

Caucus Mission: *The purpose of the organization is to fund, inspire, recruit, support, and train progressive women to increase the numbers of women in the electoral process and in elected and appointed positions.*

 <http://democraticwomenscaucus.org/newsarticles/MMN%2011-17-08.pdf>

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STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

And now political interests turn from election frenzy to calmer reflection of the hope we all feel for the candidates that were elected. From the school house on through the White House, we can join together to continue to participate in helping our governmental units be successful in doing for citizens what they cannot do for themselves.

And before we celebrate on January 1 (swearing in ceremonies for local candidates) and later in January watching President-Elect Obama take his similarly worded oath of office we still have some caucus business to take care of.

First off we will be having our election of the steering committee for the caucus at our Breakfast Meeting in December. On Friday, December 5th we will be electing all members of the Steering Committee. Half of those members will be serving one year terms, half two year terms, so that each year from now on we will be conducting an election. Below are folks who have so far expressed interest in serving on the steering committee:

- Officers: Chair, Regina Moore; Vice Chair, Susan Sandberg; Secretary, Dee Owens.
- Members at-large: Nicole Bolden, Lu Cregar, Jill Jolliff, Jillian Kinzie, Merridee LaMantia, Doris Sims, Vi Simpson, Julie Thomas, Charlotte Zietlow.

There are provisions in the new by-laws for 10 at large members, so if you'd like to consider joining the steering committee, please contact Regina Moore at regina.moore@gmail.com as soon as possible. We'll be putting a bio and picture of all the candidates on our website before the election so that if you are not familiar with someone, you can read more about them.

For those who cannot attend the December 5th meeting, we will have 'early voting' by email. We will also have paper ballots at the breakfast meeting and will announce the results at the end of breakfast.

BY LAWS CHANGES UP FOR VOTE:

The recent by-laws proposals that you received by email and voted on by email did not get the appropriate 2/3 approval vote by the membership. We've made more revisions and presented the new version to the breakfast meeting on November 7, 2008, and several members opted to submit a vote on the proposal that day. We are seeking more votes to approve the new bylaws so that our organization can move on in it's mission.

The changes made are those that will allow the most flexibility and guidance, especially in the structure of the steering committee positions and election.

- Rather than have the steering committee elected all at the same time, with a complete turnover possible, it was felt that staggered terms would be beneficial. The upcoming election would be for every single position on the committee, with half of those elected serving one year terms, and the other half for two year terms. During 2009, those one year positions will be up for election, and steering committee elections will continue yearly after that.
- Rather than have the positions on the steering committee be titled, it was felt that it would be encourage more members to fill at large positions than wait for a certain position that might interest them coming open. Better use of talent and energy this way!
- This new proposal adds a nominating committee to facilitate the process of electing steering committee members.

Lastly, changes in the by-laws of the must be approved by two thirds of the membership. This is difficult to do, as we are finding out!! The proposed by-laws allow changes to be made by a simple majority of members.

Please read over the strike out version of the proposed by-laws so that you can see what changes are being proposed and vote today... tonight at the latest! We'll keep sending this message until we reach the number of affirming members that we need!

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS FROM MEMBERS:

This from **Deb Meador**:

We Need Volunteer Escorts Because Everyone Deserves Safe & Supportive Access to Services
Planned Parenthood of Indiana seeks volunteer escorts for clinic patients on Thursday mornings.

CHOOSE from an:

- Early shift (7:30 – 9:00 a.m.) and/or
- Late shift (9:00-10:30 a.m.)

Let it be your CHOICE to help either:

- Weekly,
- Bi-weekly, or
- Monthly

DECIDE for yourself how to apply:

- Apply on-line (<http://www.ppin.org/careers.aspx>)
- Email deborahmmeader@gmail.com
- Fill out an application NOW

And from **Karen Green-Stone:**

There is a PBS Frontline Video sponsored by HCHP, "**Sick Around the World**" at the library auditorium at **7 PM on November 19**. The video looks at healthcare systems in Japan, Taiwan, Germany, Switzerland and England.

As the bankruptcy and foreclosure numbers rise, the evidence shows that medical bills are the principal reason. Unfortunately, women suffer in greater numbers in our country.

This from **Sheri Benham:**

Wanted to let you know that November 16-22 is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and Shalom Community Center, Stepping Stones, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and Martha's House are partnering to bring our city's attention to the poverty-related difficulties that many in our community are facing. Multiple events are planned:

Bloomington Food Stamp Challenge / Panel

Saturday, November 22nd, 11:00am-12:30pm, Council Chambers at City Hall

Mayor Mark Kruzan, Bob Zaltsberg, Valerie Haughton, Charlotte Zietlow, Jim Regester, Shari Woodbury, and Julie Ponce will live on the equivalent of the average food stamp allotment for a week (\$21 per person, per week). Participants in the Bloomington Food Stamp Challenge may spend only \$21 on food and beverages for the entire week. Join the food stamp challenge, read participants' blogs on the Herald Times website about their experience, listen to radio interviews, or attend the Panel on Hunger and Homelessness held in the Council Chambers on Saturday, November 22nd.

Food for Thought – A Week of Dining-Out Benefits -- Sunday, Nov 16th-Saturday Nov 22nd

The Bloomington community is invited to dine out at local restaurants during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. During our "Food for Thought" fundraiser, each restaurant has agreed to donate a portion of their profits to the participating agencies. The restaurants and dates are as follows:

- Sunday – The Laughing Planet
- Monday thru Friday – Bloomington Sandwich Co. from 3-7pm
- Monday – The Village Deli (all day) & D'Angelos [from 5-cl (inform wait staff you're with "Shalom")]
- Tuesday – Soma Coffee House and Limestone Grille
- Wednesday – Mother Bear's Pizza and Max's Place (all day) & Truffles Restaurant from 5-9 pm
- Friday – Anatolia

BLOOMINGTON, STAND UP!

Saturday, November 22nd, doors open at 6:45pm for wine reception, and show starts at 7:30pm

The culminating event for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is an evening of comedy with Drew Hastings at the Buskirk-Chumley. Drew Hastings is a raconteur with a lot of stories to tell. Before becoming a comedian at age thirty-one, his escapades included owning a trucking business, running a document shredding company that never actually shredded any documents, leading archaeological expeditions (some would call him "looter") to South America, and playing polo with stolen horses at polo clubs in Washington, DC and Cincinnati, OH. Tickets on sale at Sunrise Box Office: \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door (includes two drink tickets). (See these links to Drew's material if you're interested in checking him out in advance:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jybtMToWISA> or
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9OYG9Jfdag> or www.drewhastings.com).

I hope you can join me for some of these events. If you want more information about the agencies or the events, go to <http://bloomingtonpoverty.wordpress.com/>

If you have an event or a notice that you think would be of interest to Democratic Women's Caucus members, please send it to Regina Moore by Sunday afternoon. We make every attempt to put out a regular Monday Morning Newsletter.

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If you are a member of the Democratic Women's Caucus, you'll be getting a separate email regarding a proposed change in by-laws, and instructions for voting on them. Our December meeting will be an election of the steering committee for the next year.