



Business and
Professional
Women/Berea

DEFINE YOUR FUTURE
Workingwomen moving FORWARD

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, August 6
at 6 pm - Boone Tavern
Berea

BPW Foundation Goals: To promote equity for workingwomen nationwide, through education, information and research.

Dear BPW Friends,

What a long time since last we met! The summer has been long and eventful, and now we will "get with it."

Decisions must be made about our meeting place, continuing fund-raisers, and future plans for our organization.

Our vice-presidents, Arrita Morris and Rene' Poitra, have planned stimulating, informative programs for the coming year. We must support their efforts by attending every meeting possible and by recruiting new members.

Our cookbook fund-raiser will need hard work from all of us – but, what fun this will be! Contributing our favorite recipes and selling (and buying) the resulting cookbooks will need commitments from all of us. Many, many thanks to Bea Riley for leading this project.

The, the Rudolph Auction is only **Four** months away. Our challenge is to repeat (or top) last year's fantastic success.

Finally, a worthy goal to continue, or perhaps increase our scholarships is commendable.

Our Wednesday, August 6, 6:00 PM meeting is set for Boone Tavern, Main Dining Room (Oak Room is closed for remodeling). Cost is \$16.00, all inclusive, which we **will fully** discuss at the 7:00 PM meeting in the Trustees' Room following dinner.

Remember to **BRING YOUR RECIPES!** I hope to see you all there.

Joyce Mosher
President



Birthdays:

August Birthdays:

— Joyce Mosher – 8/8

September Birthdays:

— Cloia Collins – 9/6

— Zayda Flanery – 9/23

— Mary Miller – 9/24

Happy Birthday!!!

◆ **Next Meeting:**

— Boone Tavern, Berea. Wednesday, August 6, 6:00 pm. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm. in the main dining room, the business meeting at 7:00 in the Trustees' Room. You should call Mary Miller with your reservation! The all inclusive cost for dinner is \$16 each. Our speaker will be Shelly Rhodus with Hospice.

◆ **Events:**

— October 20 - 24 – National Business Women's Week
— October 1 – Breast Cancer Awareness Month

◆ **Current Officers:**

President -
Joyce Mosher 986-4366
Vice President -
Arritta Morris/Renee Poitra 986-8080
Treasurer -
Barbara Belcher 986-0647
Secretary -
Linda Van Winkle 986-9848

◆ **Please Let Us Know:**

If you have any comments, complaints, corrections, announcements or contributions (always very welcome), please contact:

Kathy Nell
859.985.2775/knell@gte.net

"All forms of human rights honor our dignity as human beings, and we all benefit from treating each other that way."

— Marianne Schnall

"I always feel...the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end."

-Alice Stokes Paul (1885-1977)

Suffragist and author of the Equal Rights Amendment



(This is part of an article found at the website: <http://www.globalissues.org/HumanRights/WomensRights.asp>. It is a wealth of information and I may include more from it in future issues of our newsletter.)

Women's rights around the world are an important indicator of understanding global well-being. Many may think that women's rights are only an issue in countries where religion is law, such as many Muslim countries. Or even worse, some may think this is no longer an issue at all. But reading this report about the United Nation's Women's Treaty and how an increasing number of countries are lodging reservations, will show otherwise.

Women's Suffrage...Lead Follow or Get Out of the Way!

Redwood Mary, Executive Director of Circle the Earth

August 26 is the official day that we honor Women's Right to Vote here in the USA. The historic 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution extended suffrage to all women. It was proposed on June 4, 1919 and ratified on August 18, 1920 and was then certified by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby on August 26th, 1920. Many woman all throughout the U.S.— in towns and cities— planned and demonstrated, lobbied and marched, with the support of men, to obtain our right to vote in public elections.

The Silent Sentinels (see above photo), organized by suffragist and National American Women Suffrage Association's Chairperson Alice Paul, demonstrated every day and night, through every season and all types of weather (with the exception of Sundays) in front of the White House in Washington D.C. From the winter of 1917 and right through the summer of 1919 they stood steadfast and held their banners demanding the right to vote—enduring arrests and deplorable conditions when jailed at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia.

Alice Paul, while in the Occoquan Workhouse led a hunger strike to protest the horrible conditions and treatment. The women were moved to the psychiatric ward and force fed. Their story of putting their lives at risk is told in the riveting film *Iron Jawed Angels- Lead Follow or Get Out of the Way!* Every American household should own a copy of this film now available on DVD, featuring Hillary Swank, Frances O'Connor, Julia Ormond and Angelica Houston.

Thanks to the courage and perseverance of thousands of women (without the internet and cell phones!) and thank to the *Silent Sentinels*, the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution passed both houses of the U.S. Congress. The women then continued on with their hard work on the next phase for the final ratification of the 19th Amendment!

All women today are the beneficiaries of this historic struggle.

Lack of Progress: You would think that as time goes on, there would be more equality between men and women.

Unfortunately, trends are moving in the other direction. A report from *Human Rights Watch* also describes how women's rights have not been observed in some countries as much as expected; in some places claims are made that women's rights will be respected more, yet policies are sometimes not changed enough—or at all—thus still undermining the rights of women.

In some patriarchal societies, religion or tradition can be used as a barrier for equal rights. For example, as *Inter Press Service* reported, the Bangladesh government tried to hide behind laws to deny women equal rights. In Pakistan for example, honor killings directed at women have been carried for even the slightest reasons.

As *Amnesty International* also points out, "Governments are not living up to their promises under the Women's Convention to protect women from discrimination and violence such as rape and female genital mutilation." There are many governments who have also not ratified the Convention, including the U.S. Many countries that have ratified it do so with many reservations.

Despite the almost universal ratification of the Convention (second only to the Convention on the Rights of the Child), a number of countries have still not signed or ratified it. The handful of remaining countries includes the USA (signed, but not ratified).

To see the US on this list may seem surprising to most, and *Human Rights Watch* is critical of the delay in getting a ratification, noting that this treaty has been in limbo in the U.S. Senate for *decades*. It was sent it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for a vote in 1980. The first hearing on it was 10 years later. After a vote mostly in favor for it by the Foreign Relations Committee in 1994, some conservative senators blocked a US Senate vote on it. In 2002 the Foreign Relations Committee again voted that the treaty should be ratified, but the 107th Congress ended, so it requires a vote again in favor of sending the treaty to the full Senate for ratification!

Some opponents of the treaty have raised fears that it would undermine US law, but *Amnesty International USA* shows that such fears of the treaty are based on myths. The US of course has a decent record when it comes to women's rights, so this may not seem a concern immediately. However, as *Amnesty International USA* further argues not only would ratification for the US be straight forward (for US laws in this area are already consistent with the CEDAW treaty), but it would also help to increase their credibility when raising these issues worldwide.

