



Dare to Change: Step Into Leadership

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, Oct 1
at 6 pm - Boone Tavern
Berea

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

Dear Friends,

October already??! How quickly time flies! Our October 1st meeting will meet again in the Main Dining Room at Boone Tavern for dinner with business meeting and program following in the Trustees' Room.



We are gearing up for our Rudolph Auction in December, and for our exciting cookbook fundraiser.

Club members gathered at People's Bank parking lot for our "Mum" sale — more accurately called our "Mum" sitting. Several plants were sold to members, some are waiting for a new home at Kathy's address, and others were returned to the grower. The plants are healthy and colorful, \$10 a container.

Plan now to attend Wednesday, October 1, 6:00 PM for a tasty dinner and another interesting program. Please call Mary Miller for reservations.

Congratulations to Kathy Nell who was awarded special recognition for outstanding newsletter publishing.

Sincerely,
Joyce Mosher
President, BPW Berea

We are all aware on some level how badly women are portrayed in the media, whether in degrading advertisements or discussions of political candidates. What you may not be aware of is that the *National Organization for Women (NOW)* actually monitors and records these types of occurrences. They refer to this as their "Hall of Shame" and they routinely post on their website instances of poor representation and sexist commentary in the media. That website is http://www.now.org/issues/media/hall_of_shame/index.html and is currently heavily recording election coverage. If you want, you can view all the entries in the "Hall of Shame" and vote on a one to five scale how offensive you believe the clip to be.

Vote as if our lives depend on it. They do!!



Birthdays:

October Birthdays:

- Georgia Lunsford – 10/1
- Amanda Ellis – 10/10
- Christina Webster – 10/27

November Birthdays:

- Sarah Mashburn – 11/2
- Leona Stewart – 11/3

Happy Birthday!!!

◆ **Next Meeting:**

- Boone Tavern, Berea. Wednesday, October 1, 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.

◆ **Events:**

- October 20 - 24 – National Business Women's Week
- October 1 – Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- December 4 – Rudolph Auction, Boone Tavern

◆ **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

National Business Women's Week

Don't let current events cause you to forget that October is OUR month. Specifically, October 20 - 24th is National Business Women's Week this year. Have you thought of who you would like to select as Woman of Achievement and Member of the Year?

Highlights from The Web — September '08

HEART for Women Passes House Committee

On September 17th, the HEART For Women Act (HR 1014/S 573) passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee by unanimous voice vote! The bill bypassed the Health Subcommittee in the interest of time and we hope it will be considered by the full House as early as next week. In September, BPW/USA joined a coalition letter spearheaded by the American Heart Association in support of the HEART for Women Act and all our work has paid off. Sponsored by Sen. Stabenow (D-MI) in the Senate and Rep. Capps (D-CA) in the House, the HEART for Women Act has gained enormous support through the hardwork of activists like you. Currently, there are 237 co-sponsors in the House and 47 in the Senate.

BPW/USA Participates in Retirement Security Lobby Day

On September 10, BPW/USA joined other members of the Americans for Secure Retirement coalition to lobby key Senators in support of the Retirement Security for Life Act (HR 2205/S 1010).

The Retirement Security for Life Act would provide a 50% tax exclusion on the income from the payout of a lifetime annuity – a paycheck for life. The legislation is sponsored by Senators Conrad (D-ND) and Smith (R-OR) in the Senate and Rep. English (R-PA) in the House. Rep. Tubbs-Jones (D-OH) was one of the original cosponsors of this bill and her leadership on retirement security will be greatly missed. Currently there are 78 co-sponsors in the House and 12 in the Senate.

Women face greater economic uncertainty in retirement than men and, on average, they'll enter retirement with considerably less savings than men. Lifetime annuities are one way to supplement traditional retirement sources. Lifetime annuities are financial products that provide a guaranteed steady stream of income. When combined with Social Security and other retirement income, an annuity can help cover basic living expenses.

Progress of Lilly Ledbetter Bill Slows

This summer Sen. Hutchison (R-TX) introduced an "alternative" bill to compete with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (HR 2831). Misleadingly named the Title VII Fairness Act (S. 3209), Sen. Hutchison's bill would require employees to file their claims within six months of the date when they discover—or should have discovered—that they were receiving discriminatory pay. **The Hutchison bill does not correct the basic injustice created by the Ledbetter case and would not have helped Lilly Ledbetter.**

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restores the commonly used "paycheck accrual rule" which made clear that each paycheck triggers the 180-day charge filing clock. Substituting a "discovery" rule that bases the timing for filing a claim on when an individual discovers *or should have* discovered discrimination would add new complications to pay discrimination cases and would likely add to the expense and length of litigation. Some feel that a "discovery rule" would protect employers but the existing 2-year limit on back pay that workers may receive if they successfully prove their pay discrimination case already ensures that employers do not have unlimited liability.

The Hutchinson bill has attracted 9 co-sponsors, while the Ledbetter bill has 45 co-sponsors. Next week, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary has scheduled a hearing titled "Barriers to Justice: Examining Equal Pay for Equal Work" at which Ms. Ledbetter will testify. If you have not asked your Senator to support the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, NOW is the time.

Senate Committee Approves Creation of Women's Rights History Trail

On September 11, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved, the National Women's Rights History Project Act (S. 1816), a bill to establish a commemorative trail, to be known as the Votes for Women History Trail, that link properties in New York State that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage in the United States. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Clinton (D-NY) in the Senate and Rep. Slaughter (D-NY) in the House.

****Take Action** Preserve Family Planning Services**

On August 26, the Bush administration released proposed regulations that would severely limit women's access to reproductive health and family planning services, including some of the most common forms of birth control. BPW/USA joined with a broad coalition to oppose the regulations when they were first leaked in July. The new regulations, proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services, would allow health care employees to refuse to provide any health care service that is in any way contrary to their personal beliefs without any consideration for patients' guaranteed access to care and full information.

A woman's ability to manage her own health care is being compromised by politics and ideology. The new regulation complicates rather than clarifies the law. There is an extensive body of law, regulation and court precedent that currently balances the religious rights of workers with the practical needs of employers - health services providers included - all while ensuring a patient's access to reproductive health care. This balance is vital to providing critical health services including family planning.

