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President's Message by Jenny Daughetee, WLN President



Jenny Daughetee

On behalf of the entire board of the Women's Leadership Network, I want to thank all of you who made an investment in yourself by attending the 7th annual Women's Leadership Conference last month. Our theme, "Leading on All Levels: Bridging the Gap" was chosen to reflect the wide variety of roles we all play in our lives. We are working professionals, wives, girlfriends, moms, sisters, daughters, and friends. Sometimes we are leaders, other times team members, and sometimes we need to reach outside of our comfort zone to get something done. This conference was designed to help us bridge the gap between all of our roles and responsibilities, both personally and professionally.

Countless hours are spent in the planning and preparation of the conference each year. In fact, this year, we had a record number of members who volunteered their time and talents to contribute to the success of our conference. Ladies – thank you to all of you and congratulations on a fantastic conference! Special thanks to Marcie Rowan, the chair of the conference committee. As always, Marcie, you amaze me!

For several years, NICC has been a gracious sponsor and host of our event. They continue to provide us with fantastic facilities and a great learning environment. Thank you, NICC, for all that you contribute to our conference.

Finally, our conference would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Their continued support allows us to bring quality national speakers to our conference to share their expertise and experiences. Our 2009 sponsors include the **Platinum Sponsors:** American Trust,

Telegraph Herald, and Radio Dubuque; **Gold Sponsors:** NICC and Prudential Financial; **Silver Sponsors:** John Deere, ServiceMaster, McKesson, Lamar Advertising, and Alliant Energy; **Bronze Sponsors:** Black Hills Energy, The Friedman Group, Eide Bailly, the Kwik Stop/Dairy Queen, Sisters of St. Francis, Family Beer & Liquor, Honkamp Krueger & Co., Honkamp Krueger Financial Services, Inside Décor, and Borley Advertising. Thank you to all of our sponsors. I encourage you to thank them when you see them, and to remember our sponsors when you do business.

If you enjoyed this year's conference, please share your thoughts with your managers, co-workers, and friends. If you weren't able to attend, please consider joining us next year - you will not be disappointed. Mark your calendars now – next year's conference is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2010!

Welcome New Members!

Roberta Cunningham

Owner
Little Folks Trading Post & The Hanger

Staci Thier

Business Development Officer
Premier Bank

Dr. Anna Zak

Dentist
Midwest Dental

Bridgett Bartlett

Mobility Coordinator
ECIA

Krista Weitz

Community Education Program Manager
NICC

October Events

Difficult Conversations and Difficult People

Difficult conversation and difficult people. Sounds scary, doesn't it? That's how most things in life look before you've done them or know how to handle them. It's also quite normal to feel that way because most of us haven't been trained to respond or deal with difficult situations. The only difference between very effective people and you and I is that they are comfortable with these situations and we aren't. The difference is that they deal with them and we don't. Pam Hillary, owner of Kneading Minds, will provide you with options in dealing with difficult conversations. See you there.....and get ready to participate!



Pam Hillary

Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Time: 11:30 - noon: Registration, Networking and Lunch
Noon - 1:00: Program

Where: Best Western Midway Hotel
Dodge Street

Menu: Burger Bar: Hamburgers, French Fries, tossed salad, assorted cheeses, breads and condiments, fresh baked cookies

Cost: Member price: \$12.00
Non-member price: \$15.00

RSVP: Respond by noon on Friday, Oct. 23. Use the online registration form at www.dubuquewln.org.

"Eventually we will find (mostly in retrospect, of course) that we can be very grateful to those people who have made life most difficult for us."

- Ayya Khema

Younkers Community Day Coupon Booklet Sales

Due to our non-profit status WLN has been given the opportunity by Jessica Rose (WLN member) of Younkers to sell their Community Day coupon booklets. We are going to use the proceeds towards our 3rd Annual Woman of Achievement Awards ceremony. The booklets can be used on Saturday, November 14th starting at 6 a.m. Booklets are \$5 each and include a \$10 off coupon, a 30% off early bird coupon, Six 20% off coupons, and special coupons towards the purchase of Columbia outerwear, selected coordinates from Breckenridge, Alfred Dunner, and CD Sport, jewelry, EMU boots, and a 3-in-1 slow cooker. If you have any upcoming purchases that you know you will be making at Younker's, why not buy a booklet to support WLN and save some money at the same time? Coupon booklets will be sold at WLN's October luncheon meeting. If you cannot attend the luncheon and would like a booklet, please contact WLN President-Elect, Jennifer Steines at 563-589-2234 or jennifer.steines@usbank.com. Thank you for your support!

6th Annual
Shalom Shenanigans
... a Magical Evening!
Saturday, Oct. 24
5:30 - 9:00pm

A special fundraising benefit featuring ...



- ◆ Social & Fine Dining
- ◆ Live & Silent Auctions
- ◆ Raffle-Grand Prize: 32" LCD HD TV & many additional prizes
- ◆ Magic Show featuring Bob & Rochelle Beardsley

Tickets: \$40. Register/prepay by Oct. 19.

For more information, call 563/582-3592 or visit: www.shalomretreats.org



Shalom
RETREAT CENTER
1001 Davis St., Dubuque, IA

Upcoming Event

November Luncheon

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Best Western Midway Hotel

Presenter: B'Ann Dittmar

Topic: Achieving Work-Life Balance

RSVP at www.dubuquewln.org

Meet A Member

Michelle Leinbach

1. Tell us about your family. Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Reading, PA. with my parents and two sisters. My father is a retired teacher and musician and I was fortunate to have been able to teach in the same high school with him before he retired. I taught high school English for 15 years before making a career change to become the corporate training manager for an international medical device manufacturing company with headquarters in Reading. My son, Joe, is 24 years old, and he recently accepted a job with Deloitte, so Washington D.C. will be my new destination vacation spot to visit him!



2. Where do you work and what is your position?

I am the training and workforce development manager for Rentech Energy Midwest Corporation in East Dubuque. This new direction has afforded me the opportunity to work for a company that is committed to having well trained personnel in process safety, job training and employee development. I also manage the plant documentation department.

3. What do you enjoy most about the WLN events?

Having recently relocated, WLN presented a venue where I could network with

other women who represent a myriad of backgrounds and businesses in this area. Their knowledge and perspective have been valuable assets during this transition. The events are also interesting and fun. Having the events at different local restaurants and /or businesses is a bonus and allows me to see and learn more about the area in the company of some great women.

4. Why did you join WLN?

Rentech Energy Midwest Corporation appreciates and values our relationships with community, local businesses and the various groups and memberships who work to provide and improve the wealth of services in this area. The opportunity to network with the other women in this organization has been a valuable experience for me personally and professionally.

5. Who do you think is a great leader and/or what are the qualities of a great leader?

For me, great leaders share several common attributes, among which include: integrity, dedication, magnanimity, fairness, passion and creativity. Great leaders are honest and forthright and lead by example through the challenges and through the accomplishments, often with a tireless drive and a good sense of humor! I have been very fortunate to have worked for many good managers/leaders from whom I learned so very much. I continue to study and learn their approaches and have hopefully adopted many of their philosophies, styles and attitudes as my own.

"True love is like ghosts, which everyone talks about but few have seen."

- Author Unknown

The Women's Leadership Network is committed to the promotion and support of women, both personally and professionally. As part of that commitment, WLN donates to organizations in our community that will directly impact the mission of WLN. In September, WLN donated to Hospice of Dubuque. Hospice provides care to terminally ill patients in their final days. Many of our members take on the responsibility of caring for their loved ones and the help of Hospice is a welcome relief during the most difficult time of their lives.

WLN Conference Recap

Bridging the Gap

On Thursday, September 10th, WLN hosted its' 7th Annual Women's Leadership Conference. It was held at the NICC Townclock Center for Professional Development and this year's theme was Leading on All Levels.... "Bridging the Gap". It was another great event, packed full of professional and personal development, networking, and fun!

Connie Glaser, the keynote speaker, kicked off the day. She is a published author, featured media guest on numerous networks, and public speaker and consultant to many Fortune 500 companies. She spoke about bridging the gender communications gap and what we as women could do to send a clear message and reach a higher level of communication. The rest of the morning was filled with each individual's choice of topics, such as what it takes to effectively lead a team to success, the power of personal energy, social networking, time management, leadership at all levels and sustainability.

A delicious lunch was provided by Poor Man's Catering and dessert was cheesecake from Main Street Cheesecakes (yum!). Afternoon sessions ranged from managing opportunities and choices, leadership style, finances, well being, and achieving goals. The day wrapped up with an extensive prize giveaway made possible through the generosity of numerous local businesses and WLN members and as a finale, there was a closing by Mark Towers. Mark is a consultant and speaker to companies throughout the U.S. and several for-

eign countries. He ended the day with a fun-filled and magical presentation on how a woman can make it in a man's world. On the way out of the conference, attendees were treated to chocolates and wine that was donated by Family Beer & Liquor. What a great way to end the day!

Thanks again to our sponsors, speakers, all of the individuals and businesses that donated prizes, NICC Townclock Center for Professional Development for all of their coordination and accommodations, and to the WLN women's conference committee for making this conference another to remember. Please make sure to save the date for next year's conference on Thursday, September 16, 2010!

"The leadership instinct you are born with is the backbone. You develop the funny bone and the wishbone that go with it."

- Elaine Agather

