

The Network News

A newsletter for the members of Metro Women's Network

January 2007

January Membership Meeting Thursday, Jan. 18th 2007

Where: Glenn Oaks Country Club
1100 Glenn Oaks Drive
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Agenda: Social time begins at 5:30 p.m. a cash bar will be available and dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. After dinner will be the speaker presentation, followed by the drawing for door prizes.

Price: \$25 for all attendees

Menu: Choice of entrees:

Pasta & Vegetables (Tortellini Pasta tossed with a Marinara Sauce and garnished with primavera vegetables) or

Breast of Chicken Piccata (creamy sauce of lemon, parsley, capers and fresh mushrooms). Both served with green house salad, fresh vegetable; potato or rice; bread & rolls.

Dessert: Key Lime Pie

Please **RSVP** by noon on Monday, January 15th by email to rsvp@mwniowa.org or call Teri Rumley at 457-6393.



Annual Membership Meeting at Glenn Oaks

Finally, a resolution that you can keep! Get financially fit for 2007 while enjoying delicious food and having a great time with friends, old and new. What a combination?! You won't want to miss Jennie Gates as she shares with the group how we can all become financially fit. Jennie is a Financial Advisor with the Midwest Region Business Center of the Principal Financial Group®. She works with a team of specialists to help business owners identify issues that affect the financial future of their businesses. She has many great organizations that she is a part of and I will let her share her many accolades with you at the meeting.



Don't keep all this fun, food and financial fitness to yourself, share it all with your friends and co-workers. Invite everyone you know. The member who invites the most guests to the meeting will win a special prize. And don't forget that we have door prizes galore to give out as well.

Do you have something you want to donate for a door prize?

If so please email Melissa Read at MRead@windsorwindows.com. We would like to have a prize for everyone who attends, so please let Melissa know and then bring your donation to the meeting.

Please check out the digital billboard at 63rd and Grand Ave. in Des Moines.

Our own web master Dawn Kasotia took the picture of the majestic lions at the Blank Park Zoo.



From the President's Corner

Welcome 2007

Welcome to the start of another exciting year for Metro Women's Network. This year we start the year off with what we hope will be a very successful Annual Membership Meeting. Moving this meeting to January is part of our strategic plan for growing our organization, so please remember to invite many guests. Let us all spread the word about how informative, fun and vital our organization is. Help make this a goal of our entire current membership.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the 2006 steering committee for their dedication and hard work during the past year. Each member played a vital role in Metro Women's Network success this past year. I am sure the 2007 committee, with the assistance of the entire membership, will guide the organization to even greater success in 2007. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President, I was honored to do so.

See you all at the meeting on the 18th.

Melissa



Notes on the December 7, 2006 Holiday Social

Proposal for Future Steering Meetings:

At the December Holiday Social MWN President Melissa Read proposed that the membership consider holding the steering meeting on the same night as the membership meetings. As it does not state specifically in the by-laws that the steering meeting needs to be held on a night OTHER than the membership meeting night, and as we are struggling to get adequate volunteers for the steering committee, conducting both on the same night could look something like this:

- 5:30 - social hour begins
- 6:00 - dinner begins being served
- 6:45-7:00- business as needed (voting, changes)
- 7:00 - Program meeting, guest speaker begins
- 7:45 - Program meeting adjourns
- 7:45-8:30 Business meeting

Programs:

The January membership meeting will be at Glenn Oaks Country Club. Members were given invitations to invite guests. Jenny Gates will speak to "Women's Financial Fitness". We will NOT have a Champagne toast for the New Year due to the low amount in the treasury.

The February Program is in the planning stages. Barb Has contacted a representative from the American Heart Association for a speaker for this meeting. Melissa will call Christopher's for a meeting place.

Suggestions for future programs were made by membership including car maintenance, "Planned Parenthood", wine tasting and notable people in Iowa.

Holiday Charity: Members were thanked for the donations to Freestore. We collected \$345.00 in donations and will add to this to make it a round \$500.00.

Treasurer's Report:

See donation information above.
We currently have \$1,053 balance.

Future Board Membership:

Past president: Melissa Read
President, Barbara Livingston
Vice President, Mindy O'kane
Secretary/Newsletter, Michelle Patrick
Treasurer, Karen Lund
At Large, Meg Husen
All members
Programs: Terrie Kohl, Lisa Springer

The January 4, 2007 steering meeting will be at Melissa Read's home.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Livingston, Secretary

Do You Know? Deanna Jens



You might call Deanna Jens a meeting hopper. As a member of the Ankeny Community Chorus, the Esther Circle of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ankeny, and Metro Women's Network, all of which meet on Thursdays, there's always one meeting to attend, since the chorus meets every week. Therefore, on the Thursdays where there are two meetings, Deanna hops from meeting to meeting.

One might be tempted to ask Deanna why she joined Metro Women with two other Thursday commitments on her plate. Deanna's answer is opportunity. "I liked the opportunity Metro Women presented – a wide variety of speakers that I wouldn't have the chance to hear other wise and a wide variety of eating spots to try. The program committee does a great job of people and places for us. I may have to dash between places but it is certainly worth it."

A longtime Iowan – she says she doesn't remember anything about her Wisconsin birth—Deanna and her husband Chris came to this area in 1973, shortly after graduating from Iowa State University. That's when she started her long career as a programmer for Wells Fargo Financial, which was then known as Dial Finance.

In 1976 with arrival of twin sons, she became a full time homemaker. A daughter was added to the crew in 1980. Another change was the move to the West Coast with the family living in several California and Arizona cities. They moved back to Iowa in the summer before the boys started kindergarten and Deanna returned to Dial Finance just as the name was changing to Norwest Financial.

In 1994 Chris and Deanna moved to Sioux City where Chris purchased a business. "I became his office manager but was able to arrange my own schedule so it gave me time for Bible study and other activities," says Deanna. During that time she also taught for an Iowa State program for middle school students, who wanted to do math at their own pace. "I was a resource for a group of students who were working on math programs beyond their current grade level – geometry, trigonometry, algebra all in one class room with each student doing his or her own thing," she explains

But in 1997, she was back in Ankeny and back at Wells Fargo where she continues to work today helping maintain test systems for application analysts.

Deanna's busy times aren't just limited to Thursday evenings. Deanna is a long time volunteer for Iowa Destination Imagination, stepping back this year from being state director, but still serving on the board. Other volunteer passions include Habitat for Humanity and the Planned Parenthood book sale. Recently she's taken on hand bells and joined the Heavenly Bells Choir at Ankeny First United Methodist Church. And then there is water aerobics nearly every day. It's a great time for exercise, a great time to talk, and a great time for support. But then that's a whole other story. If you want to know more, talk to Deanna.

