



CONNECTIONS

www.fresnowomensnetwork.org

Vol. XXIII January 2009

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Luncheon: "State of the Network & Installation of Officers"

Location: Love & Garlic at Diana Court
5351 N. Diana (East of Barstow off Blackstone)

January Community Connection:

Holy Cross Center for Women and Lions Club (see pg 3)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm --- 8:00 pm

Membership Mixer

Sponsored by Wathen-Castanos

at Harlan Ranch (Shepherd & Hwy. 168) 3595 Everglade Avenue)

Please RSVP by January 19th to Barbara Pierpont

559.325.3794 or bpierpont@wathen-castanos.com

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Luncheon: "An Intimate Affair-History of Women & Their Lingerie"

Luncheon Sponsor: To Be Announced

Speaker: Jill Fields, CSU-Fresno Assoc. Professor of History

Location: Love & Garlic at Diana Court

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

17th Annual

Network at Night Business Trade Show

"Networking Around the World"

Fresno Convention Center—Valdez Hall

Sponsorships & Exhibit Space Available!

www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/special_events.htm

Reservations & Payment

Payment for January 13 Luncheon-Due January 8

\$16 for current members & their first time guests

\$21 for non-members

with late fee of \$3 after January 8, (if seating is available).

Payments received date of luncheon, add \$5 each

(if seating is available)

Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted for all Network events. Unless noted, additional information for these events, including membership, can be obtained by contacting the Network Office at:

(559) **450-2102** Fax:(559) **450-2041**

Register on-line with credit card:

www.fresnowomensnetwork.org

or

Call to make your reservation, and

Mail check to:

Fresno Women's Network P.O. Box 27500

Fresno, CA 93729-7500

State of the Network

Power Lunch

Welcome to 2009!

We like to start the New Year with a State of the Network report.

Join us this month in celebrating our 22nd year of the Fresno Women's Network.

The Network was established in 1987 in very different times. Our 12 founding members set out to create a group to support, mentor, and encourage each other in both their business and personal lives. Mission accomplished and then some! We take great pride in how we've grown and changed with the times and needs of our members.

The Fresno Women's Network is just what the name says: a place for our members to meet and talk with one another on a variety of topics and issues that affect our work, our lives, and our community. We mentor, we donate, we inform, and we form fast friendships as members of the Network.

Your Board of Directors met in November to lay out a plan for the upcoming year, and all year long we receive and consider your comments and suggestions for improving our programs and services.

The State of the Network is one of our most popular and well-attended meetings every year. In January, we will tell you about the various Network committees, you'll meet many of our past presidents, and we'll talk about the exciting year ahead of us.

And, oh yes, we'll also be installing our 2009 Board of Directors.

We invite you to join us in January: to meet your new Board, to share good food, to win terrific raffle prizes, and, as always, to have an opportunity to network, network, network!

SELL THE NETWORK!

We are looking for an energetic individual to sell advertising and sponsorship opportunities for the Fresno Women's Network. This is a commissioned position. Please contact Karen Bowser by phone (559-284-4102) or e-mail (cmalburnmaker@kermantel.net) if you are interested. Thank you!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole Laval
Laval & Associates

Join in!

That's my message to you as we start the New Year.

The Network has so much to offer, and you realize those benefits by joining in.

Joining in is like being at a really great party. It's so much more fun to be in the room than on the outside looking in.

Ours is a volunteer organization and the more our members participate, the more we can do. We're not asking you to take on another full-time job. We welcome whatever level of participation fits your schedule.

And here's the biggest payoff to joining in: when you get involved you get to really know the extraordinary people that are our members! I continually marvel at what wonderful, accomplished people Network members are and how glad I am to be a part of this organization. Ours is a gracious and welcoming group and we have a spot for you.

An important benefit of networking is finding out about other groups and services that serve the needs of our community. At a recent board lunch, I learned about a women's shelter that several of our members are involved with. Our regular Community Connection collections support a number of local non-profit organizations.

Because of current economic conditions, I want to briefly mention to you a non-profit I work with, the Community Housing Council (CHC). I bring this up because I think we all recognize that 2009 will be a year fraught with challenges.

The CHC is a local non-profit formed to promote home ownership. As problems started to develop in our housing market, the CHC developed a foreclosure prevention program called No Homeowner Left Behind (NHLB). This is a free foreclosure counseling service, and the trained intervention counselors may be reached by telephone at: 559-221-6919 (weekdays) or 559-234-1492. Should you or someone you know be facing loan problems, the counselors explain and assist with whatever options may be available and provide referrals to other resources as needed.

Finally, I want to thank Lucia Robeson and the 2008 board for a job well done. Lucia's steady hand has brought us successfully to a new year. She has done a fantastic job!

Well, there's always one more thing to add: Did you know that you could pay for your lunches in advance? By doing so, you cement your commitment to attend for the year and there's never a late fee. Just a thought.

I look forward to seeing you all in January!



It's Scholarship Time Again!

Submitted by Dianna Short

Every month ladies in yellow aprons greet you at the luncheon and ask if you would like to buy some raffle tickets. You might ask yourself who are these ladies and why are they asking me for money? These ladies are the proud members of the Fresno Women's Network Scholarship Committee. Every month we raise money for our yearly scholarships, which we distribute in July to local students seeking financial assistance.

As the Scholarship Chair, I would like to thank my committee members, Stephanie Hausladen, Jena Torres, Blair Griffith, Karen De Sousa, Kelly Sylte, Sherry Hall and Cyndy Trent for their dedication and support last year and making the scholarship program in July 2008 such a success. I cannot wait to see what wonderful changes will come about this year!

I would also like to extend a "Thank You" to all of the Network members for their continuous raffle donations. Applications for 2009 scholarships are available on our website, along with qualifications and instructions. They have also been distributed to local universities, community colleges and trade schools.

Should you know any man or woman that is need of financial assistance and is an active member in their community, please pass the word along. We are here to help individuals that are striving to better themselves and their community. Completed scholarship applications must be post-marked no later than March 31, 2009.

17th Annual Network at Night Business Trade Show

"Networking Around the World"

March 26, 2009, 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Fresno Convention Center, Valdez Hall

Sponsorships & Exhibitor Booths Available

Reserve your space now. Booth placement assignments are first-come, first served

Founding Sponsor



Saint Agnes Medical Center

INSIST on it!

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

For complete information, log on to the "Membership Directory" on our website

http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/membership_directory.htm

Have you forgotten your username and password for the Membership Directory portion of our website? Contact the Network Office.

Jean Adams
MORTGAGE LOAN SPECIALIST
Shore Financial Group

Linda Davis
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Accented Interiors

Brianne L. Marriott
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Littler Mendelson

Sue Okenyi
AUTHOR
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Cindy Lea Sambueso
OWNER
Healthy Touch for Animals

Norma Schaefers
SALES MANAGER
Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino

Margie Wright
HEAD SOFTBALL COACH
Fresno State

JOIN IN!

"On the Move"

Have you changed jobs? Been promoted? Won an award? Submit your info to the Network Office, so we can publish your news in a future issue.

"Transitions"

Did you just get married? Have a baby? Another life event you'd like to share with the membership? Submit your info to the Network Office, so we can publish your news in a future issue.

Our Mission Statement

The Fresno Women's Network was founded in 1987 as a way for women to support each other in business, personal, and professional growth. Members are encouraged to build relationships, mentor one another, and give back to the community.

2009 Network Board

Executive Committee

President – Carole Laval, *Laval & Associates*
First Vice President – Karen Bowser, *Creative Memories*
Second Vice President – Linda Dippel, *United Way Fresno*
Secretary – Kitty McManus, *Jack Nadel International*
Treasurer – Jamie Eropkin, *Finch Ocheltree Rowland & Shoopman, LLP*
Parliamentarian – Gail Parvanian, *Rabobank*
Past President Lucia Robeson, *Union Bank*

Committee Chairs

Membership – Katie Dubbels, *Bank of the West*
Newsletter – Karen Sorensen, *Acting Chair*
Programs – Marsha Conant
Directory – Jennie Guadagno, *Dumont Printing*
Scholarship – Dianna Short, *Western Pistachio Association*
Public Relations – Joanne Bazarian, *Perfect Balance Yoga*
Board Development Lucia Robeson, *Union Bank*
Web Site – Suzanne Moles, *Wattleweb Global Solutions*
Saint Agnes Liaison – Jaime Huss, *Saint Agnes Medical Center*
Community Connection – Linda Dippel, *United Way Fresno*
Fund Development – Karen Bowser, *Creative Memories*
Special Events – Patti Galvin, *Foster Industries, Inc.*
Legal – Linda K. Durost, *Linda K. Durost, Inc.*
Member At Large – Divonna Swan, *Farmers Insurance*
Member at Large – Joan Meyers, *Guarantee Real Estate*
Member At Large – Melanie Coventry, *The Pines Resort & Conference Center*

January Community Connection Partners

Submitted by: Linda Dippel

Holy Cross Center for Women Arcelia (559) 579-3974

Items needed: Underwear, socks, gloves, scarves, toiletries, umbrellas, rain ponchos.

Holy Cross Center for Women provides a respite and safe haven for the poor and homeless women and children of downtown Fresno.

Lions Club, Recycle for sight Glen Blomgren (559) 432-2610

Items needed: Used eyeglasses

Millions of children and adults in developing nations lack access to basic eye care services and corrective lenses. Poor vision profoundly affects their quality of life. For children, vision loss can lead to failure in school, delays in development, learning disabilities and even juvenile delinquency. For adults, uncorrected vision can lead to unemployment and the inability to support a family. Seniors with vision loss are limited in performing daily activities, depriving them of an independent lifestyle.

For contact information & more info, visit our website:

http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/community_connection.htm

Member Highlight Summary from our November Luncheon

Submitted by: April Cavanaugh

Treva Diane Lee, DDS, MAGD has helped smiles of all ages in the Central Valley for over 20 years. Her family of dental patients knows that they can achieve healthy, attractive smiles in her no-lecture zone office. She and her terrific team staff are located mid-town at 2630 N. Fresno St. #101. See her website specials at www.DrTrevaLee.com.

"KICK OFF PARTY"

Submitted by: Patti Galvin

The Special Event Committee is starting the year off with a Kick Off party to jump into the serious phase of planning for our Network at Night Business Trade Show. If you would like to participate on this fun committee, please contact Patti Galvin at 266-3700 or Nykole Hibbs at 299-1992. Watch the website for more information.

Volunteer Opportunity!

The Special Events Committee is looking for a Committee Secretary. No special events experience required. Taking notes, keeping minutes and binder organizational skills would be greatly appreciated. To volunteer among a wonderful group of ladies while watching Net at Night unfold, please call Patti Galvin at 266-3700.



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Newsletter Fund

Help support your newsletter! Find out how by downloading our **NEW** Newsletter Fund Agreement from our website at:
http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/downloads/newsletter/NewsletterFundAgreement_100108.pdf

Partners in Education

Your name could be here!

Patrons

Saint Agnes Medical Center

Benefactors

Your name could be here!

Advocates

Lisa Marsella Purtell
Morgan Stanley

Leslie H. Kos CPA
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Kitty McManus
Jack Nadel International

Louise M. Richardson
Fresno County Library

Sue McCombs
McCombs & Associates

Ann Wight
Clutterby's Auctions & Estate Sales

Raffle Donors

If you would be interested in donating an item at an upcoming luncheon, please contact Dianna Short at short_dianna@yahoo.com

November 2008 Raffle Donors

- Carolyn Kovalski—facelogic
- Dr. John H. Hokokian – Hokokian Chiropractic
- Janice Carson—Diamond Brokers
- Penny Childers—Chapel of Grace
- Joanne Bazarian—Perfect Balance Yoga
- Nykole Hibbs—Dinner My Way
- Karen Bowser—Creative Memories Consultant
- Lucia Robeson—Union Bank
- Caroline Pendola--Caroline's Creations
- Kitty McManus—Jack Nadel International
- Erin Childs—Childs & Childs
- Ellie Huston
- Sue Okenyi--Author

Monthly Buddies

The Buddy Bag program welcomes our new guests and demonstrates the diversity of the businesses and services that we represent. It also provides an excellent yet easy opportunity to showcase your business.

NOTE: Please drop off Buddy Bag contributions at Guarantee Real Estate, Palm and Shaw, or bring to the luncheon meeting. Call Joan Meyers: 284-4854, for more information

November 2008 Buddy Bag Donors

- Farmers Insurance Group, Divonna Swan
- San Joaquin Valley College, Patti Gutierrez
- Jack Nadel, Int'l, Kitty McManus
- Guarantee Real Estate, Joan Meyers
- North American Title, Susan Noel
- Treva Diane Lee DDS, Treva Diane Lee
- Professional Business Bank, Karen Nishimura-Heyano
- Creative Memories, Karen Bowser
- Avanti Skin and Wellness Clinic, Sue Wayte
- Willow Creek Healthcare Center, Jennifer Shehorn Wojtas
- Clovis Chamber of Commerce, Beth Bridges
- Fresno County Public Library, Louise Richardson

Connection Newsletter Editors –Jennifer Wojtas, Willow Creek & Valley Healthcare Centers • **Production:** - Karen Sorensen, Mary Kay Cosmetics
• **Printing /Distribution** - Val Print Xpress

The Fresno Women's Network disclaims any liability for loss or personal injury, which might occur during the course of tours, trips, luncheons, dinners or other events. All tours, trips, luncheons, dinners or other events arranged by the organization are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. The organization does not assume responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or passengers or their property in any matter pertaining to said tours, trips, luncheons, dinners or other events.