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The Voice

of working women

Business and Professional Women Vol. 15

Business and Professional Women

BPW/CA Mission

Statement:

To provide participation in leadership, communications, education, and career opportunities. To promote equity, political and economic self-sufficiency for working women.

CFBPW Web Site:

www.bpwcal.org

BPW International Web Site:

<http://bpwintl.com>

Bay Capital District BPW

Web Site: baycapitalbpw.org

District Newsletter, Bay

Capital Connection: email:

dricos@juno.com

BPW MERCED OFFICERS

Mary Ward,

President...261-9933

Vicky Ramirez., President-

Elect...389-1036

Bev Young, Recording

Secretary...726-5111

Bev Ward,

Treasurer...631-0638

DATES TO REMEMBER

2009 BPW

* Every fourth Tuesday,

Merced BPW

* Every second Monday,

Merced BPW Board Meeting

2009 Merced BPW Dinner

Congratulations to Merced BPW's Working Women of the Year 2009

Merced BPW recognized three outstanding women in our community at the October 27, 2009 meeting at Fernando's Bistro in Merced. The three women of diversified backgrounds were honored with presentations by California BPW President Janet Ramsey, and Merced Mayor Ellie Wooten. The recipients are Ceres' Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Mary Jones; active volunteer and real estate professional, Conchita Swiggart; and volunteer rescue co-ordinator for Trails of Happy Tails animal rescue, Sharon Lohman.



Dr. Mary Jones, Conchita Swiggart, Sharon Lohman

Dr. Mary C. Jones

Dr. Mary C. Jones has been an educator for 36 years. She began her teaching career in 1973 with the Newark Board of Education in NJ where she taught for 10 years. In 1983 she relocated to California where she was an Atwater Elementary school teacher for 10 years and has been a school administrator for the past 16 years, 2 years in Merced and the last 14 in the Ceres Unified School District where she currently serves as Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. She received the Administrator of the Year Award for the Association of California School Administrators.

Meetings at Fernando's in
Merced
Social 5:30 pm; Dinner 6:15
pm:
Tuesday, November 17,
2009

For Information or to
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209-261-9933 or
209-631-0638
GUESTS ARE WELCOME
AT ALL MEETINGS

Being an African American Woman has posed many challenges which include trying to break the glass ceiling in the area of educational leadership. The statistics show that a majority of superintendents are white and for the most part males. These statistics have held true locally and nationally. Mary's goal is to break the trend in this area.

Mary serves on the CSU Stanislaus' Doctoral Program Advisory Board and the Chapman University Educational Program Advisory Board. Other activities include the immediate past presidency of the Ebony Socialites of Atwater, current president of the Atwater-Merced Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Inc., treasurer for the Central Valley Black Educators' Association, and President-Elect and Literacy Chair of the Ceres Rotary Club. She is a member of the Merced Chapter of the NAACP and Merced Section of the NCNW. She participates annually in the Atwater Relay for Life and enjoys serving the community in any way she can.

Conchita Swiggart

Conchita Swiggart was born and raised in Merced County. She attended Weaver School, Merced High, then Merced Junior College before moving to San Jose. While in San Jose she obtained her BA from San Jose State University.

Conchita returned to Merced so that her beautiful daughter Emma Zacharias would be raised close to her family. Family is a vital part of Conchita's life. Her parents (Armando and Jenny Flores) have provided the unconditional love and support which has been Conchita's foundation her entire life. She met her husband Frank Swiggart and he brought into her life her oldest daughter Tiffany Swiggart.

Conchita joined Century 21 Salvadori Realty in 2002 until 2007 and returned in 2008. Real Estate is a profession that allows her to assist people in fulfilling their dreams of owning a home. She is a proud member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and will be performing the duties of Treasurer for 2009-2010 terms. At any Chamber events, you will see her running around doing whatever needs to be completed.

Conchita's other activities include being an active parent at Our Lady of Mercy School, volunteering to help organize the annual Christmas Parade in downtown Merced, and a member of American Association of University Woman. She enjoys volunteering her time whenever and wherever she can.

Sharon Lohman

Sharon Lohman is a tireless champion of the never-ending stream of stray dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in Merced County. Her dedication and perseverance in rescuing literally hundreds of homeless, sick and abandoned pets every year is a shining example of what can be accomplished through leadership, determination, and caring. Sharon's enthusiasm rubs off on her extensive network of volunteers and rescue organizations located up and down the west coast, including British Columbia and Alberta in Canada, Washington State, Oregon and throughout California.

Sharon has coordinated and participated in many large and exhausting transport projects, in which up to 100 dogs at a time may be transported by volunteers in vans and trucks to no-kill shelters and rescues as far away as Vancouver, B.C. In addition to the responsibilities of the family farm in Atwater, her normal 60-hour 'Trails' week may be expanded when transports are imminent, as all the dogs must be checked by a veterinarian, given appropriate vaccinations and health certificates before transport, volunteers and vehicles must be solicited, and the whole project coordinated with the rescue at the receiving end. Through the rescue efforts of Trails of Happy Tails, the euthanasia rate at the Merced county animal shelter has been reduced from 80% to 35%.

Despite the amount of work and long hours, Sharon's cheerful demeanor keeps everyone else on track, and her obvious joy at saving the animals is a continual reminder of why this work is so vitally needed in our community.

Merced BPW Celebrates 85 Years

On September 29 at Fernando's, a bit of BPW history was shared and celebrated by an enthusiastic group of members and friends. Our Mistress of Ceremonies was former Atwater Mayor Lesa Rasmussen, and she and others shared stories of fun, joy, accomplishment going back to their first memories of BPW. State President Janet Ramsey was on hand, a proud member of the Merced local for many years. Begun in 1924 by a group of forward-thinking women, Merced BPW got off to a great start and never looked back. We are all proud of the heritage of this organization.



Mistress of Ceremonies Lesa Rasmussen (right) with Past-President Deidre Henderson-Walker at Merced BPW's 85th Anniversary Dinner, September 29, 2009



Merced BPW's first meeting in 1924

State Logo Contest Extended

If your creative juices started flowing a little late for the initial deadline for the CFBPW logo contest, don't worry. You can still get your ideas down on paper or electronically and get a chance to win registration and dinner at the State Convention in Culver City in May, 2010. Visit the California BPW website for details: www.bpwcal.org

You are receiving this email because you are a member of Merced BPW or you have requested it. To contribute to our newsletter, please contact Twila Stout (twila@thegrid.net; 209-384-7128) or Bev Young (info@beverlyyoung.com; 209-726-5111).

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