

EWC News Brief May, June , 2004

The University Center for Social and Urban Research, recently released its Woman's Benchmarks Reports for the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The report by Ralph Bangs, Ph.D., assesses the socioeconomic status of women in the Pittsburgh area by using 2000 census data to compare women's conditions across the 70 largest cities, 50 largest counties, and 50 largest metro areas. In addition, comparison of women and men's conditions in 2000 and changes in women and men's conditions from 1990 to 2000 are presented.

The executive summary and three benchmark reports are at www.ucsur.pitt.edu under publications. Maurice Falk Fund funded the study.

The highlights of the three women's benchmark report show the most positive women's conditions in the Pittsburgh area are:

- High enrollment in post-secondary education
- High levels of education attainment
- Increasing numbers of female college graduates living in the region
- Increasing female labor force and labor force participation
- Increasing numbers of women working full-time
- Increasing real incomes for women workers
- Decreasing poverty rates for women and girls
- Low disability rates for adult women

These highlights suggest that the most serious problems for women in the Pittsburgh area are:

- Lack of political and decision making power despite population advantages
- Increasing numbers of single-female headed families with children
- High levels of part-time employment

- Low rates of employment in high paying occupations and industries and high rates of employment in low paying occupations and industries
- Low pay compared to the pay of women in other urban area
- A high gender gap in pay compared to the gender gap in other urban areas
- High poverty rates for single women with children
- Low employment rates and high poverty rates for disabled women

EWC continues to be highly interested in addressing this very serious issue, and we have set up a meeting with our Women on Board Committee, our Executive Board, and Ralph Bangs and his research team to discuss the research and/or distribution of the information, and how we might enter into a phase of addressing the problem.

If you wish to be involved, please feel free to call or contact Marilyn at 412-201-7430 or ewcmarilyn@aol.com.

Women at SMC

Executive Women's Council has been invited to participate with the Small Manufacturing Business Council's (SMC) new initiative *Women at SMC*.

Two of our members, Carol Lampe and Nancy Moulton, have been attending their monthly meetings of women's organizations in discussions of mutual areas of concern. Recent discussion has centered on the need for more women in the corporate decision-making ranks and our Directory for Woman on Boards has been discussed on several occasions.

Recently, Joan Ellenbogen, President Elect and Cathy McCollom, President of EWC joined Carol Lampe at the Women at SMC meeting to discuss the "Breaking the Barrier Blow Out", originally planned for September this year. Through discussions with other women's organizations, including our own, it has been determined; we will postpone the event until June of 2005 to allow maximum planning.

In addition, the Women at SMC would like to introduce to the EWC membership, the Power Lunch concept Please note below the details on Power Lunches.

Power Lunch

This networking concept enables businesswomen to meet, network, and enjoy a festive lunch at various venues around Pittsburgh. There is no set menu as participants order straight from the menu.

SMC's Suzanne McMahon Froehlich coordinates Power Lunches. Make plans to attend and bring at least 75 business cards with you.

All lunches begin at 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required two days before the scheduled meeting date.

To reserve your seat, email Suzanne Froehlich (suzannefroehlich@msn.com) and bring cash to pay for your meal.

- Friday, July 16, 2004
Nakama Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar
1611 East Carson Street, Southside