

# Network of Memphis

## President's Letter

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Season's Greetings!

It's that time of the year when we are scampering around to get the decorations out and the shopping completed. Yes, the holidays are among us and I hope that each and everyone of you have a joyous holiday season!

The November meeting was our Annual Meeting for the year and a night of "Recognition". There were a lot of things covered but I would like to highlight some of the accomplishments and activities that we engaged in during 2008 – 2009.

Our major accomplishment was the 6 amendment changes to the By-Laws. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, our activities calendars were finally synchronized. Our program meeting year, the Election of Officers and the Annual Meeting now run on one calendar year from January to December putting everything in line with our yearly financials. In the past, we were working on three different calendars throughout the year so this was a very nice accomplishment. While the board worked to change 6 amendments, it was because of all of the members who took the time to vote that made this happen. So, thank you ladies for staying involved and casting your votes for this change.

Financially we are in good shape and Tess Bear reported on the financials. The money we've raised has enabled us to live up to our mission statement to support projects that benefit women in the community. This was evident from June of 2009 through October 2009 when Network made \$500 contributions to:

Karat Place, Inc.  
Women of Achievement

DeNeuville Learning Center  
Memphis Family Shelter

And a \$1000 donation to the Caroline Turns Foundation.

Later in the evening, we recognized three additional organizations by presenting \$500 checks to:

Ovarian Cancer Foundation

Urevbu Sickle Cell Foundation

Girl's Inc.

This is what being a member of Network means when you pay your membership dues and attend the monthly meetings. These small gestures make it possible for us to provide financial assistance to organizations in need. After all, that's what Network of Memphis is all about providing support to others in the community. Each of you should be very proud for staying involved by attending meetings which bring in our revenue.

Another highlight of the evening was the recognition of the 2009 President's Award. The recipient is selected by the President and is given to the member based on attendance to meetings and functions, loyalty and dedication to Network, team spirit, cooperativeness and genuineness in achieving the goals and objectives of Network. The person who has consistently exemplified these qualities and the 2009 President's Award recipient was Lori Harris. Lori is the nucleus and backbone of our organization that keeps us connected through the power of the internet.

Finally, we acknowledged the out-going board members and their wonderful commitment for the past year and a half and then introduced our 2010 Network Board. Congratulations to the 2010 Network Board who will take over effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**President:** Happy Jones

**V.P. Programs:** Karen Madlock

**Secretary:** Cynthia Wimberly

**Treasurer:** Tess Bear

**V.P. Membership and Database Manager:** Debra Malone-Reeve

**Newsletter Editor and Webmistress:** Lori Harris

**Meeting Facilities Manager:** Lucy Barnhart

**Publicity Manager:** Judy Childress

**Members at Large:** Felicia Gladue, Linda Marks, Norma Lester, Dr. Mary Crawford and Pat Frizzell

**Past President:** Avis Jones

Well, it's been wonderful serving as your president for the past year and a half and I look forward to working with the new board in a different capacity. I also look forward to seeing all of you at this year's "Holiday Celebration" on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Independent Bank Lobby located at 450 South Perkins Ext. (across from Laurelwood).

*Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season!*

Avis Jones, President



## December Holiday Celebration Submitted By: Lucy Barnhart, Facilities Manager

Please join us for our Network of Memphis Annual Holiday Celebration on Monday, December 14, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$30.00 per person this will include complimentary red and white wine and for those individuals who will not be drinking alcohol the cost is \$25.00 per person. For dinner we will have a variety of Hors d'Oeuvres such as Gourmet Petite Wrap Ups (bite size sandwiches of roast beef, ham & cheese and turkey), barbeque meatballs, chicken fingers, petite quiche, crab stuffed mushrooms, vegetable tray with ranch dressing along with a cheese and fruit tray -- to top it off we will have a dessert tray full of petite pastries. The celebration will be held at the Independent Bank Lobby, 450 South Perkins Ext., Memphis, TN 38120 (parking available behind the bank).

**Please RSVP to Lucy Barnhart by 5:00 pm on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> by contacting her via email at [Lucy7606@aol.com](mailto:Lucy7606@aol.com). You can also go online to our website ([www.networkmemphis.org](http://www.networkmemphis.org)) and complete a RSVP form. If you make a reservation and must cancel, please do so by noon on the Friday preceding the event. You may cancel by either using the website or email Lucy Barnhart at [Lucy7606@aol.com](mailto:Lucy7606@aol.com). If you cancel after that time or do not attend the meeting, we ask you to provide payment for this event, since Network is charged for the meal.**

We look forward to seeing you there!

## November Dinner Photos

Network's very own Lynn Jackson took some fabulous photos during the November dinner. Below are some of her pictures:



## Standing Reservations Submitted By: Lucy Barnhart, Facilities Manager

Joan Munsee  
Felicia Gladue

Karen Shea  
Avis Jones

Linda Marks  
Dr. Mary Crawford

Tess Bear

To add your name to the standing reservations list, please email Lucy Barnhart at [Lucy7606@aol.com](mailto:Lucy7606@aol.com).



## Happy Birthday! Submitted By: Joan Munsee, Past President

Look who's celebrating a birthday during **December!** *Congratulations!* Hope your day is very special!

Lucy Barnhardt 12/01  
Viola Stafford 12/02  
Lee Clarke 12/22  
Cyd Mosteller 12/23

*Oops! If I forgot to list someone, it wasn't intentional, just an oversight or it wasn't listed on your membership form.*

## Getting to Know Your Network Sister Submitted By: Linda Marks, Board Member at Large

Each month we spotlight a different member. This month we feature Shelley Dunn, Network Member.

Again and again Network sisters express their love of the diversity in the group. Shelley Dunn heartily echoes that feeling, and her life resounds as a celebration of the uniqueness of every individual. "Experience life outside your norm," she says, even if it's painful. It adds value and merit to someone else."

Shelley, an only child, grew up in an ethnically diverse suburb of Houston, and acknowledges particular gratitude to her parents for these things: always encouraging her to be herself and never making an issue of differences between people. For example, her dad always brought home a stranger for holiday dinners. Perhaps it was this welcoming attitude towards people that fostered Shelley's childhood dream of being a corporate psychologist.

In high school, Shelley went to modeling school, and her knowledge of fashion led her to early success. While still 18, she was promoted to an assistant manager at Susie's Casuals and given her first store. "I have good instincts about people, and I never stereotype them" she explains. "I knew how to make my customers look and feel good." For several years she managed stores in different parts of Texas, and in Waco she met and fell in love with Tony. "Tony is African-American, and while our differences were a plus to us, we sometimes experienced discrimination when we were together," Shelley recounts. She relates occasions when they were called names, yelled at, and even once chased out of a mall.

The couple were married in 1999 moved to Memphis, where their son, Anthony, was born. As the mother of a bi-racial child, Shelley was often met with questions, often from total strangers. "I kept telling the story over and over," she says, "and finally God said, 'Write.'" This was the beginning of what Shelley considers her most important work---a series of twelve books that illustrate positive character traits for children. The first book, *Brown Like You*, was published in April of this year and shows in simple language and illustrations that individuality, not a label, is what matters about a person.

Shelley's career, too, has followed unique contours as she has grown and learned more about herself. While managing a Lady Foot Locker store in Nashville, she started working out, and this led to her becoming licensed as a personal trainer and opening her own business. She then returned to retail for a while, but after Anthony was born went back to school, receiving a degree in Organizational Management from Crichton College and a Master's in Human Resources from Central Michigan University. She had always felt drawn to Crichton, and after working for two years at AmSouth Bank, she had an opportunity to return there as an instructor and Director of Admissions, her current position. She is currently working on a Ph.D. in the field she longed to practice as a child---Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

As a single parent now, she spends much time with Anthony, who is in the second grade. She revels in his intelligence, love for building things, and involvement in Cub Scouts, where she is a den mother. Her schedule is challenging, but she considers Network a valuable investment of her time. "I love it because I see skills, strengths, and beauty coming together to make things happen, and I want to be a part of that." "Coming together" is a phrase that expresses Shelley's spirit as a bridge-builder, and her appreciation of the richness that everyone, from every background, has to bring.



## New Members Corner Submitted By: Felicia Gladue, VP of Membership and Database

We recently celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday by sharing a scrumptious meal around a sizeable table with people who hold a special place in our lives. We laughed, reconnected, probably took pictures and ended an eventful dinner full and content. I have good news and great news. The good news is you don't have to wait until next year to enjoy all the richness Thanksgiving brings, and the great news is there's no cooking involved.

Each month at our Network dinners I leave thankful that I came. My heart is joyous. I have laughed, learned something, met someone new, and been enriched by spending time with my Network sisters. Network is truly something I am thankful for, and I bet you are too. The second Monday of every month I have a mini Thanksgiving gathered around a large table with special "sisters" who are dear to my heart.

Give yourself a gift this holiday season and renew your Network membership. For all you fellow deal-aholics, I'm extending the Black Friday special renewal rate of \$36 through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Okay, okay, I'm joking...there is no Black Friday special on renewal, but it's still a heck of a deal. Membership is still only \$36 a year and you'll get more from Network than any retail membership out there. If I may borrow from a familiar MasterCard ad: Membership - \$36, Sisterhood - "priceless."

### Updates

At our November meeting we were fortunate to have **Deborah Hester Harrison** join Network. Deborah is the President and CEO of Girls Inc. of Memphis, which was one of the three nonprofits receiving a donation from Network at the meeting.

Congratulations to Nancy Harbison on her recent marriage to Jeff Haney. You will notice her name is now Nancy Harbison Haney in the directory.

Felicia Gladue, VP, Membership

## Member News Submitted By: Brona Pinnolis, Board Member-at-Large

Network sister Brona Pinnolis and her cohorts at Women Advocating Financial Success, LLC were recently featured in a full page story in the Memphis Minority Business Magazine. The article focused on the development of their "Women, Money & Cheesecake" financial workshops for women. The link to read the article on the web is [http://mmbmagazine.com/images/Memphis\\_Business\\_WOMENstoWatch\\_09\\_NovDec2009.pdf](http://mmbmagazine.com/images/Memphis_Business_WOMENstoWatch_09_NovDec2009.pdf). This article is found on page 10.

Brona and company have been conducting these workshops in the Memphis area for more than two years. The workshops have expanded to reach other states as well. Anyone interested in hosting a workshop should contact Brona at [info@womenmoneyandcheesecake.com](mailto:info@womenmoneyandcheesecake.com).

Fees for the workshop are \$29 per individual. Non-profits may host a workshop for a flat fee of \$200 and open the event to an unlimited number of attendees.

## Calendar of Events 2009-2010 Submitted By: Sharron McKinney, V.P.

### Programs

Here is a listing of our upcoming meetings and events so you may plan accordingly. All meetings start at 5:30 PM.

<b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Monthly Meeting <b>Location:</b> Independent Bank 450 Perkins Ext., Laurelwood Plaza <b>Program:</b> Holiday Celebration
<b>January 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Monthly Meeting <b>Location:</b> TBD <b>Program:</b> Guest Speaker, Kat Gordon, Owner <b>Topic:</b> Muddy's Bake Shop
<b>February 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Monthly Meeting <b>Location:</b> TBD <b>Program:</b> Guest Speaker, Connie Ross, Program Director <b>Topic:</b> Family Safety Center

## Job Resources/Opportunities/Events

### *Resume Services* Submitted by: Brona Pinnolis, Member at Large

Network Sister Brona Pinnolis wants to alert members to her resume writing service. Resumes, like kitchen colors and shoes, have styles that come and go. If your resume is more than a year or two old, it needs an update. Furthermore, one resume is just not enough these days. Brona has experience putting your best foot forward in writing. You can reach her at [bronapinnolis@gmail.com](mailto:bronapinnolis@gmail.com) for information on the resume process and rates, which vary depending on your specific needs. You can also reach her by phone at 901-569-0972.

## Advertising on Network of Memphis's Website

Would your company like to increase their sales? Then you should advertise on Network of Memphis's website. We offer reasonable rates to Network members, which range from \$50 to \$75 for three months. To find out more information, email Lori Harris at [harris.lorid@gmail.com](mailto:harris.lorid@gmail.com).

## Submitting an Article

If anyone would like to submit an article, please send it as a word attachment and use a jpeg format for a picture by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to Lori Harris at [harris.lorid@gmail.com](mailto:harris.lorid@gmail.com).

### DECEMBER 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### JANUARY 2010

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24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

### FEBRUARY 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						