

# Network of Memphis

## President's Letter

### Inside This Issue

- 1 Getting to Know Your Network Sister
- 1 March Dinner Menu
- 1 March Dinner Guest
- 2 Happy Birthday
- 2 Getting To Know Your Network Sister
- 3 Calendar of Events 2010

Network Sisters:

Thank you for my birthday greetings.

I have had several calls about the Board's decision not to join the Coalition for a Better Memphis. These folk would like the option of ranking candidates particularly in this landmark election year for the County.

We have received a legal opinion that to join will not affect our 501c3 status. You can join the CBM as individual members: cost: \$100. You can join other organizations that belong and the Cost to join CBM will be their dues. Network can join for \$100 and each of you would have the opportunity to rank each candidate on-line or if you are free to do so, you can rank in-person at sessions set up for that purpose.

The Network I helped found would never have passed up this opportunity.

Has our culture as an organization changed that much?

See you at the March meeting.



## March Dinner Menu Submitted By: Lucy Barnhart, Facilities Manager

Please come join us again at the Racquet Club of Memphis on Monday, March 8, 2010. I hope you January's location and dinner as much as I did. For starters we will have Caesar Salad followed by Herb Crusted Cod with Ceviche Dill Butter Sauce, New England Orzo Pilaf and Green Beans Almandine followed by a delicious dessert of Crème Brulee and dinner rolls. **For those of you who choose to have the plain broiled cod instead of the Herb Crusted Cod, please let me know as soon as possible.** The price for dinner is \$28.00 for members and \$30.00 for guests. Alcoholic beverages will be extra and you can purchase drink tickets from Tess when you arrive. The price of the drink tickets will be \$7.00 – last month we did not account for both tax and tip (sorry about that). Tess will be located again at the reception desk in Parlor A and we will begin our introductions in Parlor B at 5:45 p.m. and dinner at 6:15 p.m. The Racquet Club is located 5111 Sanderlin Avenue, Memphis, TN 38117.

**Please RSVP to [Lucy7606@aol.com](mailto:Lucy7606@aol.com) no later than 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2010. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN ON TIME AS THE RACQUET CLUB NEEDS THIS INFORMATION IN ADVANCE.** You can also go online to our website ([www.networkmemphis.org](http://www.networkmemphis.org)) and complete the RSVP form. If you make a reservation and must cancel, please do so by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday preceding the event. You may cancel by either using the website or email Lucy 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 it.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

## March Guest Speaker Submitted By: Karen Madlock, V.P. Programs

Ms. Connie Ross is the Executive Director of the city's first Family Safety Center. As the leader of the Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County (FSC), she will implement and utilize specific programs and resources to create better lives for families victimized by domestic violence. The FSC was created to provide one location that effectively combines civil, criminal, health and social services for victims of family violence. The services that are offered at the FSC include family safety planning, domestic violence education, Counseling, and safe emergency shelter/housing referrals.

Ms. Ross is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and has served as the Director of the Civil Litigation Clinic at the University of Memphis since 1991. Her expertise in the legal profession and her work with service providers in the family violence arena make her uniquely suited to serve as Executive Director of the FSC.

The Network is very pleased to have Ms. Ross as our guest speaker for the month of March. As such, we invite you to hear her speak on the creation of the Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County, and her vital role as Executive Director, in creating a safer Memphis.

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

Joan Munsee  
Felicia Gladue

Happy Jones  
Dr. Mary Crawford

Linda Marks  
Judy Childress

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: Avis Jones, Past President

It looks like we do not have any Network Sisters that will be celebrating a birthday during the month of **March!**

*However, if there is someone having a birthday this month and I forgot to list you, it wasn't intentional, just an oversight or it wasn't listed on your membership form.*

## New Members Corner Submitted By: Debra Malone-Reeve, VP of Membership and Database

I missed seeing everyone in February due to the bad weather and hope to see everyone at our March meeting.

It is that time again to renew your membership to this fabulous organization. The deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup> to renew and update our Directory. We had a great start to renewals in January but with the meeting cancellation in February we are a bit behind. Remember dues are still \$36.00, if you need a membership form please email me at [debra\\_malone@bellsouth.net](mailto:debra_malone@bellsouth.net) and I will send you one so you will be all ready for the March meeting. I will have plenty of copies with me at the March meeting as well.

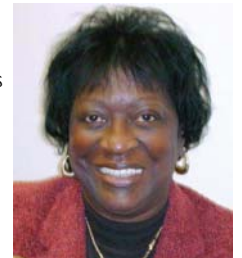
If you have a change in your email, phone number or employment information, please email me at [debra\\_malone@bellsouth.net](mailto:debra_malone@bellsouth.net) and I'll get it updated. Members can access the online directory by using their membership ID and password.

Debra Malone-Reeve  
VP Membership

## 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 Norma Lester, Board Member at Large.**

Though her parents were from the Mid-South, Norma grew up in Akron, Ohio. She was the youngest of five siblings, 21 years younger, in fact, than the sister nearest to her age. This unusual placement in the family is probably one factor that encouraged her to think for herself, be confident, and set high goals. "My parents had little formal education," Norma says, "but they always supported my studious bent." Laughing, she adds, "So much so that I ended up graduating from college 6 times!"



The journey that Norma followed in her education and healthcare career led her to positions of great influence. But it began after high school when she took a job in a nursing home. At that time, nursing home regulation was virtually unknown, and Norma, the only caregiver in a 200-bed facility, found herself providing care that she did not feel properly trained for. "I hadn't wanted to go to nursing school," she recounts, "but that job showed me how much I needed to learn. I began to feel a strong calling to be an advocate, and I kept on needing to learn more." Learn she did, and her passion for the highest standards of care let her to be a nursing home administrator, Nursing Director for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, and a consultant to upgrade nursing homes that were in danger of decertification.

One of the most challenging jobs she had was as Nursing Director for the Arlington Developmental Center after a lawsuit against it was filed by the U.S. Department of Justice. "I had never wanted to go into politics," Norma explains, "but my role in dealing with the many conflicting recommendations from consultants at Arlington showed me that I needed connections." So she became a member of the Executive Committee of the Shelby County Democratic Party and in 2009 decided to enter the County Commissioner race. "The area of my greatest expertise is healthcare, and I plan to fight passionately for quality and equality in service delivery and access."

Norma joined Network in 2008, and has recently been elected to the Board. She loves the camaraderie of the group and the opportunity for members to support each other and the larger community. Though she is retired, she has time for little these days besides campaigning. "It takes a lot out of me," she says, "but it's worth it because we can't give up on the system. We have to think not only of ourselves but even more of what we are leaving our children." At that point, she glows as she talks of her three children and her granddaughter, Ashley.

Speaking of her candidacy for County Commissioner, District 2, Position 3, Norma asserts, "I'll go in as Norma Lester and I'll come out as Norma Lester." Nothing could state more succinctly the integrity, independence and self-awareness of this outstanding Network sister. But, though she is very sure of who she is, she is clear in putting the center of her life beyond herself. "The most important thing about me," she says, "is my belief in God and the blessings of family and friends." We are fortunate to be counted among her friends.

## Calendar of Events 2010 Submitted By: Karen Madlock, 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.

- March 8<sup>th</sup>** Monthly Meeting  
**Location:** Racquet Club  
**Program:** Guest Speaker, Connie Ross, Program Director  
**Topic:** Family Safety Center
- April 12<sup>th</sup>** Monthly Meeting  
**Location:** Racquet Club  
**Program:** Guest Speaker, Glenda Stark, LCSW and Clinic Supervisor  
**Topic:** Just Care Family Network

## Job Resources/Opportunities/Events

If anyone would like to submit a job related resource or event, please send it to Lori Harris at [harris.lorid@gmail.com](mailto:harris.lorid@gmail.com).

## 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).

MARCH 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29