



STRONG. AMBITIOUS. SUCCESSFUL.

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Empowering Women

To empower women to succeed in business personally and professionally through networking and education while building key relationships and having fun!

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Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month

Giordano's Pizza

Randall Road, Algonquin, IL

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

\$25.00 (includes dinner)

From Our President - Lisa Davidson

It's Time To Step Up Our Game

Wow! I can't believe how the time has flown this year! Thank you, Pat for all your hard work the last few years!

I am very excited to be your new President and I am looking forward to another great year working with all you wonderful women. I have been with WLN now for four years and have truly enjoyed the relationships that I have built over the years personally and professionally. The things that I have learned from the women around me is priceless and I truly appreciate every new opportunity to help someone extend their market as well.

Now is the time to step up our game and get involved as much as we can to improve all of our memberships. Take advantage of the opportunities to establish a new relationship with someone you meet by inviting them to a WLN meeting! The more we put into the group as a whole determines what we will get out of it in the long run. Remember, networking is building relationships and the more we interact, the more we trust each other and rely on one another for business. If you would like to be more involved in WLN, please let one of the board members or ambassadors know. Please feel free to contact me with any of your comments or concerns as well. We welcome any feedback as we are

always striving to improve.

See you on July 8th at Giordanos!

Let's make it a great day!



"When one door of happiness closes- another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened before us."

Helen Keller

Check Us Out on MeetUp.com!

WLN has joined MeetUp! If you are unfamiliar with this site, go to Meetup.com and enter networking in the search. Please add yourself as a member of the WLN group!



Member

Spotlight

"Success means having the courage, the determination, and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be."

George Sheehan

Siree Sandberg Bakakos President, SSB Financial Services, Inc.

My mission is to be in the forefront of the financial services industry by consistently providing financial strategies for today and tomorrow. I offer educational services and non-proprietary consumer oriented products that strive to fit my client's objectives. I conduct my business with integrity, diligence, full candor, and imagination. My focus is on wealth management, financial strategies, individual and group benefit plans, retirement planning, business succession, estate planning, college funding, investments*, insurance planning, banking, and mortgage services.

SSB Financial Services, Inc. is an independent financial services firm, offering diversified and comprehensive quality products and services for the individuals, small to medium size businesses, and large corporations. Each service is tailored and individualized to meet each client's specific needs, goals, and means. SSB Financial Services, Inc. was established in 1995. Prior to establishing the business, I worked for Prudential Insurance and Investments, North Shore Agency, and Lincoln Financial Advisors.

What inspired me to get into the financial services industry was the drive to personally be financially independent, run my own business, and work with clients that share similar beliefs of being financially independent and secure. With the variety of skills I acquired from an extensive manufacturing business background in finance, human resource, marketing, and sales, combined with my passion for assisting others in striving to fulfill their financial dreams; I believe I have found my niche.

I love to see plans come together through thoughtful planning and diligence. There is nothing more rewarding than to see the smile on someone's face when they are able to buy their first home, or to be able to send their children off to college without financially panicking about where the finances are going to come from. Seeing the pride on someone's face when they have set aside enough finances to start their own business, or retire with a comfortable nest egg. Knowing that your client's family has been taken care of due to an untimely illness, disability, or death. Clients want to know you are there for them through good times and bad. My strongest suit is in strategizing and counseling, especially through the rough times. As a business owner,

I understand the emotional and financial issues involved in running a successful business, taking good care of your employees, as well as your own family needs.

I am committed to helping my clients pursue an improved standard of living during their working careers and when they retire. I help clients address their financial needs through educating, identifying their long-term financial goals, and assisting them in making well-informed financial decisions.

The financial management process begins with an in-depth evaluation of your current financial situation. Once I have identified your overall objectives, I will then focus on your specific investment, retirement, tax planning, and estate conservation goals and develop a course of action.

In the face of changing economic conditions and market swings, I advocate investing sensibly and conservatively over the long run and maintaining an adequate level of insurance coverage. I will work side by side with you so that you are confident and comfortable with the financial recommendations I make. Whether the aim is to create a college education for your children, plan for your own retirement, or protect your estate from probate and undue taxation, I utilize a group of professionals that have the answers and solutions that can help you make the most of your finances.

My process is not a get rich quick strategy based on "hot tips". Instead I employ a disciplined process that sophisticated investors have followed successfully for decades.

I became involved with WLN a few years ago through Kathy Hardkte, who initially started this group. Kathy and I met at one of the annual NAWBO Luncheons. She began to discuss the formation of the WLN group, and mentioned that this group was affiliated with ABWA. Kathy invited me to attend. Years prior to that, I was involved with the Northwest Chapter of ABWA as the Vice President. Over time, that chapter retired. I have always felt that the ABWA organization has a great deal to offer its members, so naturally, I rejoined. Since that point, WLN has branched off to where it is today.

My best clients are business owners, independent contractors, retirees, and those who are nearing retirement. I work with a wide variety of

individuals assisting them in numerous financial issues from financial strategizing, wealth management, group benefits, health, disability, and life insurance, group and individual 401(k)'s, mortgages, banking, business succession, and estate planning.

What keeps me ahead of the competition is the hands on and personal approach I take with each of my clients and their employees. While working with companies on their retirement plans, all employees are offered my personal assistance in their portfolio management, based on their risk tolerance and future plans. In many cases, several of those employees become permanent clients, even after they leave employment. Several clients of mine have referred to me as their financial psychologist and/or the sister who always listens to them when they need it.

Several perfect power partners come to mind in my industry, CPA's, Attorneys, Realtors, Mortgage Lenders, Business Owners, School Teachers, Human Resource Management, Directors of Chamber of Commerce and Networking Organizations. I am in the business of strategizing.

Businesses and individuals that look for my services are people that do not have the time or the manpower to investigate every resource in the industry to make informed decisions. As a non-proprietary broker, I work for the client, not a specific insurance or investment company. This enables me to be able to investigate the various products that are available in the marketplace, which allows me to offer comprehensive and cost effective benefit programs for employers and employees.

The way I deal with stress is by walking. I try to get outside in the fresh air, and walk a couple of miles with my four toy poodles, weather permitting. I find the fresh air and exercise is great for stress relief. I also hold a Second Degree Black Belt in Tai Kwon Do. I try to work out and assist teaching a couple times a week, with my daughter, who currently holds her First Degree Black Belt. Tai Kwon Do has also been great for adding balance.

For more information and questions:

Siree Sandberg Bakakos

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Dates To Remember

July 17th: Intro to Pilates, 6:00 PM
Body & Mind Pilates, 1500 Carlemont, Crystal Lake.
Cost of \$5.00. Both members and guests are welcome.

August Meeting: August 12th
Giordano's, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, \$25.00

Speaker: Deb Jay, "New Beginnings: The Art of Simple Living!"
Please note the location change!

September Meeting: September 9th
Hennessy's OnQ, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, \$35.00

Progressive Dinner

October Meeting: September 9th
Hennessy's OnQ, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, \$35.00

Speaker: Bonnie L. Richter

Introducing the NEW Board!

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE 2009-2010

The following positions are slated by the Nominating Committee of WLN.
These ladies will begin their service after being installed at our July meeting.

President - Lisa Davidson
VP Membership - Gwynne Knutson
VP Finance - Siree Sandberg Bakakos
VP of Programs - Judy Nepil-Shaw
VP of Administration - Mary Dickson
VP of Events - Robin Braga
VP of Marketing - Jackie Prehn
VP of Website - Anne Ward
Past President - Pat Kolodziej

Welcome New Members!

Northern Kane Chamber of Commerce
Melissa Hernandez, Director

Newsletter designed by
Jackie Prehn, T.R.I.M. Designs, Inc.

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