



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK OF NCSL

Fall 2003

Vol. 15, No. 2

To Update You . . .

NCSL Annual Meeting 2003

Network events at NCSL's Annual Meeting 2003 were a fantastic success! Throughout the week of July 21-25, the Network hosted or cosponsored nine events. Kicking off the week by cosponsoring the Center for Women Policy Studies luncheon on the Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action in Higher Education and concluding the meeting with a reception, Network events were well-attended and offered opportunities for women legislators to learn together and build relationships.



Network Board Meeting

The Network Executive Board met to discuss a variety of issues. The Bylaws Review Committee presented its recommendations for changes to the bylaws. Major items included:

- Maintaining two-year executive board member terms and one-year executive board officer terms.
- Changing the name of the "Advisory Board" to "Advisory Council" to minimize confusion between the Network Executive Board and the Network Advisory Council.
- Changing the Advisory Council member terms to one year. Advisory Council members may serve two consecutive terms.
- Creating a Travel Scholarship Fund Committee, which will explore the potential of creating such a fund.
- Determining that legislative staff not be included as members of the Network, but that they be welcome to attend Network events. This recommendation was made in light of the fact that there are thousands of women legislative staffers and only about 1,600 women legislators.
- Affirming the importance of WINGS (Women in Informal Network Groups) organizations to the Network and expressing a commitment to collaborating with them. WINGS organizations include the Center for American Women and Politics, the Center for Policy Alternatives, the Center for Women Policy Studies, the National Order of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL

Women), the National Women's Political Caucus and Women in Government (See page 8 for more information about WINGS.)

- Honoring **Sheryl Wright of Sprint** for her invaluable support and dedication to the Network while serving as Network Alliance Chair (1997-2003), and congratulating Karen Smith of Procter & Gamble for assuming the position of Alliance Chair.

Minutes from the Board Meeting are available upon request.

Network Advisory Council Meeting

Peggy Kerns, director of the NCSL Center for Ethics in Government, facilitated an ethics training for the Network Advisory Council. Thanks to Sen. Delores Kelley (Maryland), Rep. Vicky Riback-Wilson (Missouri), and Rep. Ann Robinson (Wyoming) for their participation.

Status of Women in the States/Network Business Meeting

Dr. Barbara Gault of the Institute for Women's Policy Research presented to a luncheon gathering of 85. The *Status of Women in the States* report describes women's status in five areas: political participation, employment and earnings, social and economic autonomy, reproductive health, and health and well-being.

Left to right: Network board members Rep. Barbara Marumoto (HI), Sen. Liane Sorenson (DE) and Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles (WA); Network Alliance members



Dennis Brown (Equipment Leasing Assoc.), Anne Crews (Mary Kay) and Karen Smith (Procter & Gamble).

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Congratulations to the new Network Executive Board members!



Passing the Torch: Incoming Network President Senator Liane Sorenson thanks outgoing Network President Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles for her work and dedication.

- **Senator Liane Sorenson** (Delaware), President*
- **Delegate Carol Petzold** (Maryland), Vice President*
- **Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles** (Washington), Past President *
- **Assemblymember Susan John** (New York), Eastern Regional Member
- **Representative Nancy**

Detert (Florida), Southern Regional Member

- **Senator Connie Stokes** (Georgia), Southern Regional Member

**These legislators were previously board members, but have been elected to new positions.*

The Price of People

“The Price of People: Trafficking and the Role of the State” session featured three speakers: Leslie Wolfe, Ph.D., president, Center for Women Policy Studies; Brad Schlozman, deputy assistant attorney general, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice; and Norma Timbang, executive director, Asian Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center. The panel was moderated by Washington Representative Velma Veloria, a member of the Network Executive Board.



Left to right: Leslie Wolfe, Brad Schlozman and Norma Timbang

For more information, visit:

- Center for Women Policy Studies (CWPS) (www.centerwomenpolicy.org)
- Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crt-home.html>)
- Asian Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center (<http://www.apialliance.org/>)

Madame Chair: The Changing Face of Legislative Leadership

Session available on NCSL Annual Meeting CD



Dr. Cindy Simon Rosenthal, associate director of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center and well-known expert on women in politics, moderated a panel of five legislative leaders:

Speaker Pro Tempore

Lois DeBerry

Tennessee



Senator Sheila Kuehl
California

Senate Majority Leader

Lana Oleen

Kansas



Senate Majority Leader

Mary Panzer

Wisconsin

Senate Minority Whip

Liane Sorenson

Delaware



The panel was introduced by Washington Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Network President. The session provided the bulk of the information used in an article by Michael Dresser entitled, “Women’s Political Gains Stall,” published on page 2A of the August 12, 2003, *Baltimore Sun*.

Congratulations to new Network Advisory Council members!

- Rep. Cheryl Chase (Arizona)
- Rep. Gayle Berry (Colorado)
- Rep. Catherine Tymniak (Connecticut)
- Rep. Colleen Meyer (Hawaii)
- Sen. Elizabeth Tori (Kentucky)
- Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (Minnesota)
- Rep. Vicky Riback Wilson (Missouri)
- Rep. Kathlyn Fares (Missouri)
- Sen. Vickie McDonald (Nebraska)
- Rep. Sheila Miller (Pennsylvania)
- Rep. Margaret Gillespie (South Dakota)
- Rep. Sheryl Allen (Utah)
- Sen. Karen Fraser (Washington)

Women in Global Politics

Session available on NCSL Annual Meeting CD



The breakfast session, “Women and Global Politics: How Are Women Changing the Political Arena?” attracted a diverse crowd, including state legislators and many international delegates. Patricia de Stacy Harrison, assistant secretary of state for Education and Cultural Affairs, provided the keynote presentation. Katherine Blakeslee, director, Office of Women in Development, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Doris Mpoumou, director, Gender and Governance Program, Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), provided responding remarks. Each speaker, an inspiration in her own way, left the audience with challenging thoughts:



South African officials sang about the importance of women serving in elected office.



When you see a roadblock, it means there’s a road on the other side. — Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison



For women, the glass is half full, even if our legislatures aren’t half full. — Katherine Blakeslee



Women’s under-representation in government is a global disease. — Doris Mpoumou

Many thanks to the event cosponsors:

- Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated
- Coca-Cola Company
- Coca-Cola Enterprises
- National Soft Drink Association
- Pepsi-Cola North America

For more information, visit:

- U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (<http://state.gov/history/>)
- Office of Women in Development, U.S. Agency for International Development (http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/index.html)
- Women’s Environment and Development Organization (<http://www.wedo.org/>)

What Do You Think?

The Network is interested in learning how our members benefit from our services and what they think about Network programming. For this reason, those who attended Network events were asked to fill out evaluation forms.

We learned that most evaluation respondents prefer to be contacted via email. They would like to receive the *Network News* quarterly, and most would prefer to receive it electronically rather than in the mail. In terms of programming, respondents valued issue-oriented sessions more than receptions or travel opportunities. When asked what they like most about the Network, many respondents mentioned that they appreciate the opportunity to meet other women legislators, learn from each other, and network. When asked what they would like to change about the Network, respondents asked for more opportunities to get together, for more opportunities to provide input on Network programming, and to increase the participation of women legislators in Network activities.

Idaho Luncheon

The Network hosted a luncheon in honor of Idaho, Montana and Washington women state legislators in conjunction with NCSL’s Executive Committee meeting in Coeur d’Alene. About 30 people attended, including legislators and legislative staff. Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, immediate past president of the Network board, welcomed the group and encouraged participation in future Network activities. Many thanks to Albertsons for sponsoring the event!



WASRG Event

Sen. Liane Sorenson, Network president, was the featured speaker at the Washington Area State Relations Group (WASRG) meeting at the National Press Club on October 17, 2003. She spoke about the state of the Delaware legislature and about the Network. She encouraged attendees to become involved with the Network and to become Alliance members. Many thanks to Dennis Brown of Equipment Leasing Association for inviting Sen. Sorenson to speak. For more information about WASRG, visit: <http://www.wasrg.com/>.



Meet YOUR Board



President
Senator Liane M. Sorenson (R)
Delaware



Vice-President
Delegate Carol Stoker Petzold (D)
Maryland



Past President
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D)
Washington

Eastern Regional Members



Senator
Judith G. Freedman (R)
Connecticut



Assemblymember
Susan V. John (D)
New York

Western Regional Members



Representative
Cynthia H. Thielen (R)
Hawaii



Representative
Velma Veloria (D)
Washington

Midwestern Regional Members



Representative
Annie Kuether (D)
Kansas



Senator
Connie Lawson
(R)
Indiana

At-Large Members



Assemblywoman
Carol Liu (D)
California



Representative
Deborah Kaler
McNeil (R)
Maine

Southern Regional Members



Representative
Nancy C. Detert (R)
Florida



Senator
Connie Stokes (D)
Georgia

NOBEL Representative



Senator
Diana E. Bajoie (D)
Louisiana

Names in italics indicate newly elected board members.

2003-2004 Women's Legislative Network Advisory Council

State/ Jurisdiction	Advisory Board Member
Ala.	Senator Sundra Escott
Ala.	Representative Laura Hall
Alaska	Senator Bettye Davis
Alaska	Representative Beverly Masek
Ariz.	Representative Cheryl Chase
Ariz.	Vacant
Ark.	Vacant
Ark.	Vacant
Calif.	Senator Betty Karnette
Calif.	Vacant
Colo.	Representative Alice Borodkin
Colo.	Representative Gayle Berry
Conn.	Representative Marie Kirkley-Bey
Conn.	Representative Catherine Tymniak
Del.	Senator Patricia M. Blevins
Del.	Representative Nancy H. Wagner
Fla.	Representative Joyce M. Cusack
Fla.	Representative Carole Green
Ga.	Representative Sharon Beasley-Teague
Ga.	Representative Nan Grogan Orrrock
Hawaii	Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Hawaii	Representative Colleen Meyer
Idaho	Representative Donna H. Boe
Idaho	Vacant
Ill.	House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie
Ill.	Representative Elizabeth Coulson
Ind.	Representative Peggy M. Welch
Ind.	Vacant
Iowa	Representative Pam Jochum
Iowa	Vacant
Kan.	Representative Ruby Gilbert
Kan.	Senate Majority Leader Lana Oleen
Ky.	Senator Elizabeth Tori
Ky.	Representative Joni L. Jenkins
Ky.	Representative Susan Westrom
La.	Representative Melinda Schwegmann
La.	Representative Kay Kellogg Katz
Maine	Senate Majority Leader Sharon Treat
Maine	Vacant
Md.	Senator Delores G. Kelley
Md.	Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
Mass.	<i>Representative Marie St. Fleur</i>
Mass.	Representative Mary S. Rogeness
Mich.	Senator Martha G. Scott
Mich.	Vacant
Minn.	Representative Nora Slawik
Minn.	Representative Kathy Tingelstad
Miss.	Senator Barbara Blackmon
Miss.	Senator Alice Harden
Mo.	Representative Vicky Riback-Wilson
Mo.	Representative Kathlyn Fares
Mont.	Vacant

State/ Jurisdiction	Advisory Board Member
Neb.	Senator Vickie McDonald (Nebraska's legislature is unicameral)
Neb.	Senator DiAnna R. Schimek
Nev.	Assemblywoman Genie Ohrenschall
Nev.	Vacant
N.H.	Vacant
N.H.	Representative Phyllis M. Katsakiores
N.J.	Senator Nia H. Gill
N.J.	Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg
N.M.	House Majority Leader Danice R. Picraux
N.M.	Representative Jeannette O. Wallace
N.Y.	Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark
N.Y.	Assemblywoman Adele H. Cohen
N.C.	Representative Beverly M. Earle
N.C.	Representative Julia Craven Howard
N.D.	Representative Kathy Hawken
N.D.	Vacant
Ohio	Senator Teresa M. Fedor
Ohio	Representative Merle G. Kearns
Okla.	Deputy Majority Leader Jari Askins
Okla.	Assistant Majority Leader Angela Z. Monson
Ore.	<i>Senator Margaret Carter</i>
Ore.	Representative Donna G. Nelson
Pa.	Representative Linda Bebko-Jones
Pa.	Representative Sheila Miller
P.R.	Senator Luz Z. Arce-Ferrer
P.R.	Vice-President of the Senate Velda Gonzalez de Modesti
R.I.	Senator Elizabeth H. Roberts
R.I.	Vacant
S.C.	Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter
S.C.	Senator Linda H. Short
S.D.	<i>Representative Margaret Gillespie</i>
S.D.	Senator Marguerite M. Kleven
Tenn.	Representative Kathryn I. Bowers
Tenn.	Representative Beth Halteman Harwell
Texas	Vacant
Texas	Vacant
Utah	Representative Sheryl Allen
Utah	Representative Karen W. Morgan
Vt.	Vacant
Vt.	Vacant
Va.	Senator Yvonne B. Miller
Va.	Senator Patricia S. Ticer
Va.	Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
Wash.	Senator Karen Fraser
Wash.	Senator Shirley Winsley
W.Va.	Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer
W.Va.	Senator Donna J. Boley
Wis.	Representative Johnnie Morris-Tatum
Wis.	Vacant
Wyo.	Representative Ann Robinson
Wyo.	Vacant

Names in italics: Legislators who have been nominated, but not confirmed by the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL Board of Directors.

Advisory Council Corner

I would say my favorite story is the one that happened to me. I was appointed to the State Senate in 1985 and there were four Republicans (I was the only woman). I ran again in 1986 to finish the term and again in 1988. In 1990, I did not have to run again; however, all Republicans were defeated and I ended up being the only Republican in the 34-member Senate (West Virginia). A check nationwide revealed no other state had ever had a one member party representative. I served those two years (1991 and 1992)

and was successful in getting a much-needed “Debt Management Office” bill passed that keeps track of our state debt and is published quarterly. In 1991, I became Minority Leader—the first woman to fill that position. Today we have a total of 10 Republicans—four women and six men—and I have the fourth highest continuous seniority in the state Senate... outranked only by the President Pro Tem, The Senate President and the Majority Leader (all Democrats). Moral of this story: Never give up!!!



Senator
Donna Boley

—Submitted by Senator Donna Boley

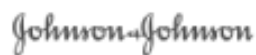
We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Network Alliance members are a vital part of the Network. We value our Alliance members and appreciate the support they provide to women legislators through the Network. Our Alliance members include: Alticor, Astra-Zeneca, AT&T, Avon, Barr Laboratories, Equipment Leasing Association, Hallmark Cards Inc., Hoffmann-La Roche, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble Co., Mary Kay, GlaxoSmithKline, Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association, BellSouth Corporation, National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), National Education Association, Nuclear Energy Institute, Reliant Energy, Kodak Colorado Division, Kelly Services, Johnson & Johnson and the National Soft Drink Association.

Sponsor (\$5,000)



Partner (\$2,500)



Note from the Alliance Chair

As with all organizations, the Network Alliance—composed of the Network’s corporate sponsors—is only as strong as the members who participate. In this case, it’s light duty because Network members are so eager to work with Alliance members that it’s both enjoyable and productive. Alliance membership has many advantages, including the opportunity to contribute to and participate in the Network’s programming. Best of all, membership brings with it Network members’ sincere appreciation, and lots of opportunities to network and get to know a group of key legislators from around the country.



Please join us. You will make the Alliance stronger, help the Network grow, and meet new people. During Fall Forum, we’ll meet on Wednesday, December 10, at 5:15 pm. There will also be a Network Reception on Thursday, December 11, at 5:15 pm. For more information about Network activities, please see page 9 of the Network News or visit <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/calendar.htm>.

Karen Smith

Procter & Gamble

Network Alliance Chair

(513) 983-2393 or smith.ka.1@pg.com

Sharing Our Views

Sharing Our Views, a new addition to the *Network News*, provides an opportunity for some of our most dedicated Alliance members to express their perspectives. If you would like to see your company's viewpoint included in the next edition, contact Leah Oliver at (303) 856-1486 or leah.oliver@ncsl.org.

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Procter & Gamble's corporate tradition is rooted in the principles of personal integrity, respect for the individual and doing what's right for the long-term. More than 98,000 P&G people work every day to provide products of superior quality and value to the world's consumers.

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Breaking the Barriers to Mental Health Treatment

A commentary by

*James W. Jordan Jr., Executive Director
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Pennsylvania*

Over the last decade, tremendous strides were made in how we view and treat mental illness. Studies indicate that approximately 20 percent of the population suffers from mental disorders. While the success rate for treating mental illness was once viewed with pessimism by some, medical advancements are rapidly changing that view.

The National Institute of Mental Health indicates a 60% success rate for treating schizophrenia, a 70-80% success rate for treating depression and a 70-90% success rate for treating panic disorders. These statistics equal and can greatly exceed the success rates for other illnesses.

Despite the opportunities created by effective treatment, many individuals do not receive services. Barriers, whether they relate to stigma or restrictions on access to medications or treatment, prevent those suffering from mental illness from living healthy, productive lives.

More must be done to educate the public on mental illness, to provide better treatment options, and to educate policymakers on the importance of open access to effective medications. Barriers to access, such as preferred drug lists, fail-first policies, and other restrictions hurt patients and can truly mean the difference between successful treatment and failure, health and sickness, and, in extreme cases, life and death.

Through education and awareness, we can create an environment where individuals suffering from mental illness are not afraid or ashamed to seek treatment and when they do, the most appropriate treatment options are available to them.

Opinions expressed here are those of the authors; NCSL does not endorse the views on this page.

Mark Your Calendars!

April 28-May 1, 2004

NCSL Spring Forum in Washington, D.C.



July 19-23, 2004

NCSL 30th Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah

The Forum for Newly Elected Women State Legislators

The Women's Legislative Network of NCSL is pleased to cosponsor the third national Forum for Newly Elected Women State Legislators with the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). The Forum will be held November 19-22, 2003, at the historic Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. All women who have been elected or appointed to legislatures since 2001 are invited to this year's Forum, along with a dynamic group of veteran women lawmakers who will serve as speakers and mentors. The Forum will combine a mix of practical information about process and policies, opportunities to build connections with colleagues from other states, and inspiration delivered by veteran women lawmakers and prominent national women leaders. To learn more about the meeting, go to the CAWP Web site: <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu>.

Good Housekeeping Award for Women in Government

Each year, *Good Housekeeping* magazine and the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) honor women in government—elected or appointed officials, career civil servants, or members of the military—whose work exemplifies how government improves people's lives. The top winner receives \$25,000, and six other winners receive \$2,500. We invite you to nominate women in government whose achievements deserve national recognition and honor, whether for general achievement in government or for achievement in the area of women's health. To learn more about the award or to download a nomination form, go to: <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/Programs/GHaward.html>.

Visit the Network Web site!!
www.ncsl.org/wln

WINGS (Women In Informal Network Groups)

WINGS is an interactive network of national organizations that serve women leaders in a variety of capacities. These organizations have joined to share information and resources and to work together on leadership, education, training and development in order to empower legislative women throughout the nation. Participating organizations include:

- Center for American Women and Politics (<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu>)
- Center for Policy Alternatives (<http://www.stateaction.org/>)
- Center for Women Policy Studies (<http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/>)
- National Order of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women)
- National Women's Political Caucus (<http://www.nwpc.org>)
- Women in Government (<http://www.womeningovernment.org/>)
- Women's Legislative Network of NCSL (<http://www.ncsl.org/wln/>)

In The News. . .

ISLAND VOICES: Harness Hawai'i's wave power

Hawaii Representative Cynthia Thielen, a western regional member of the Executive Board of the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL, recently wrote an article about harnessing wave energy as a renewable energy source. The article appeared in the Sept. 19, 2003, *Honolulu Advertiser* (www.HonoluluAdvertiser.com).

Status of Women...from page 1

Did you know? . . .

- Women's status is highest in the northeastern and western states.
- Women's status is lowest in many of the southeastern and midwestern states.

More information about IWPR and their *Status of Women in the States* report is available at <http://www.iwpr.org/>. Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Network president, conducted the business meeting and elections. At the meeting, new board members and Advisory Council members were elected.

Note from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Most of you are preparing for the upcoming legislative session, and as you do, I encourage you to call on the Network if we can be of any assistance. I hope you are arranging to attend NCSL's Fall Forum in Washington, DC, December 9-13, 2003. The Network's agenda features interesting and timely sessions, and I hope to see you at our events!

As you may know, the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL is unique in its relationship to NCSL, and like NCSL, represents all women legislators by virtue of their election to office. I hope you will become involved through participating in meeting sessions, becoming an Advisory Council member, and using our resources available on the web and in print.

My involvement with NCSL and with the Network has provided me with numerous opportunities for networking, professional development and leadership. Often my work as President requires me to work behind the scenes, contacting women legislators and Alliance members, planning Network programming, and working directly with the Network Board to fulfill the mission of the Network—promoting the participation, empowerment, and leadership of women legislators. I invite you to help the Board and me make the Network your organization!

The Network is entering its second year as a program of the NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures. The relationship has proved to be a beneficial one, and I am appreciative of the Foundation's support of the Network. Leah Oliver, Network Coordinator, has provided invaluable staffing support and I am proud of the Network and its accomplishments over the past year.

The Network has a long history of serving women legislators, and I hope you will continue to partner with me to uphold its role as an essential tool for networking and learning for women legislators. If you have questions or comments about the Network, please feel free to contact me at 302-234-3303 or Liane.Sorenson@comcast.net.

Best wishes,



Liane Sorenson
Senate Minority Whip, Delaware
President, Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

Our Thanks Go To...

With the election of new board members came the retirement from the Network Executive Board of three legislators: Senator Evelyn Lynn (Florida), Representative Kathy Ashe (Georgia), and Representative Barbara Marumoto (Hawaii). The Network is grateful to all three for their dedication and leadership.



Representative Ashe



Senator Lynn



Representative Marumoto

**** Network Events at NCSL's Fall Forum ****

The NCSL Fall Forum will be held **December 9-13, 2003**, at the **Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill** in Washington, D.C. The Network will host several events throughout the week. Please plan to join us. (See preliminary agenda below or go to <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/calendar.htm> for up-to-date information.)

Wednesday, December 10

5:15 pm Alliance Meeting

Thursday, December 11

5:15 pm Network Reception

Friday, December 12

8:00 am – 11:00 am Network Board Meeting

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm How Can State Legislators

Help Low-Income Women Achieve Economic Success?

(session co-sponsored by the Women's Legislative

Network and the Annie E. Casey Project at NCSL)

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS

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William T. Pound, Executive Director

Leah Oliver, Network Coordinator

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future newsletters via e-mail,
contact Leah Oliver (303-856-
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WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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