



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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

Spring 2003

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The Network News has a new look! The Women's Legislative Network of NCSL is now a program of the NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures. To reflect its new status, a new design incorporating both the Network and NCSL logos has been created. Look for future editions in your mailbox!

We're flexible! If you would prefer to receive your editions of Network News via e-mail, please contact Leah Oliver, Network coordinator, at (303) 364-7700, ext. 1486 or leah.oliver@ncsl.org.

To Update You ...

Network Events At NCSL's Fall Forum 2002

The Network events at NCSL's Fall Forum were a success. A strategic planning session, board meeting and reception were held on Dec. 11, 2002.

Rich Jones, NCSL's director of Legislative Programs, facilitated the strategic planning session. Women legislators, Alliance members and NCSL staff attended the interactive and educational session. The strategic planning session included a stakeholder analysis and "Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses and Threats (SWOT)" analysis, as well as an identification of strategic issues. Overall, participants agreed that the Network should emphasize reaching out to women legislators; electing more women legislators; fundraising, partnering with members of the private sector; promoting women to higher positions within NCSL; holding events, programs and trainings at NCSL meetings and at regional and state meetings; and increasing the attendance at board meetings.

The board meeting followed the strategic planning session. The board voted to accept the recommendations of the nominating committee, and installed six new board members: Rep. Annie Kuether (D-Kan.), Sen.

Connie Lawson (R-Ind.), Rep. Cynthia Thielen (R-Hawaii), Rep. Velma Veloria (D-Wash.), Assemblymember Carol Liu (D-Calif.) and Rep. Deborah McNeil (R-Maine). Louisiana state Senator Diana Bajoie will serve as NOBEL representative—an honorary position. (See page 3 for more information about Network board members).

Additional issues discussed at the meeting included the Network's new relationship with NCSL, upcoming events, programming and fundraising. In addition, a Bylaws Review Committee was established. The committee will present its recommendations at the Network board meeting in July. Minutes from the December 2002 board meeting are available upon request.

The afternoon concluded with a reception in honor of retiring NCSL staff and Network board members. Nancy Brown, former Network executive director, and Annette Durlam, former Network staff liaison, were honored and presented with gifts of appreciation.

Arizona Luncheon

The Network hosted a luncheon in honor of Arizona women legislators in conjunction with NCSL's Executive Committee meeting in Tucson. More than 30 people attended, including legislators and legislative staff. Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Network board president, and Senator Angela Monson, president of NCSL, welcomed the group and encouraged participation in future Network activities.

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Many thanks to the Equipment Leasing Association for sponsoring the event!



At lunch with the Network at the NCSL Executive Committee Meeting in Tucson, Ariz.

NCSL's Spring Forum

The Network hosted an exciting program at NCSL's Spring Forum in Boston, Mass. On April 24, with two other NCSL programs, the Network cosponsored a session entitled "Hot Topics in Adolescent and School Health." The session focused on psychotropic medications at school, health and academic achievement, and obesity in adolescents.

In the afternoon, the Network cosponsored a luncheon with Women in Government. The luncheon and panel discussion featured ...



- The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, a fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University, who spoke on women in leadership. Ms. Shaheen is a former state senator and former governor of New Hampshire.

- The Honorable Myrna L. Bair, director of the Women's Leadership Development Program at the University of Delaware, who spoke on women leaders in state legislatures. Dr. Bair is a former state senator from Delaware and past president of the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL.



- The Honorable Liane Sorenson, Delaware state senator and vice president of the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL, who moderated the session.

Network Events at NCSL's Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars! Plans for Network events at NCSL's Annual Meeting are under way! This year, NCSL's Annual Meeting will be held July 21-25 in San Francisco, Calif. Please join us for a substantive and stimulating week of activities. (See preliminary agenda below or go to <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/networkagenda03.htm> for up-to-date information.)

Monday, July 21

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Luncheon event at the Marriott (cosponsored by the Center for Women Policy Studies, Center for American Women in Politics, Center for Policy Alternatives, NOBEL Women and the Women Legislators' Lobby/Women's Action for New Directions)

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Network Executive Board Meeting (all are welcome)

4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Network Advisory Board Meeting (all are welcome)

6:00 p.m.

Board Dinner (invitation only)

Tuesday, July 22

12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

Network Business Meeting (luncheon event to include elections)

Wednesday, July 23

4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Madame Chair: The Changing Face of Legislative Leadership (cosponsored with NCSL's Legislative Effectiveness and State Government Committee)

Thursday, July 24

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Women In Politics: How Do U.S. State Legislatures Stack Up Internationally? (breakfast event cosponsored by Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated, National Soft Drink Association, Pepsi Cola North America, The Coca-Cola Company and NCSL's International Program)

4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

The Price of People: Trafficking and the Role of the State (cosponsored with NCSL's Economic Development, Trade and Cultural Affairs Committee)

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Network Reception (sponsored by Equipment Leasing Association)

Getting to Know Your Network Board Members



President
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D)
Washington



Vice-President
Senator Liane Sorenson (R)
Delaware



Past President
Representative Barbara Marumoto (R)
Hawaii

Eastern Regional Members



Senator
Judith G. Freedman (R)
Connecticut



Delegate
Carol Petzold (D)
Maryland

Western Regional Members



Representative
Cynthia Thielen (R)
Hawaii



Representative
Velma Veloria (D)
Washington

Midwestern Regional Members



Representative
Annie Kuether (D)
Kansas



Senator
Connie Lawson (R)
Indiana

At-Large Representatives



Assemblymember
Carol Liu (D)
California



Representative
Deborah McNeil (R)
Maine

Southern Regional Members



Representative
Kathy Ashe (D)
Georgia



Senator
Evelyn Lynn (R)
Florida

NOBEL Representative



Senator
Diana Bajoie (D)
Louisiana

Names in italics indicate newly elected board members.

Network Advisory Board

We need you! The Women's Legislative Network advisory board has openings for members from the following states: Ariz., Ark., Calif., Hawaii, Ind., Iowa, Maine, Mich., Mont., Nev., N.H., Ore., R.I., S.D., Texas, Vt., Wis. and Wyo. (See chart below).

Advisory board members serve as liaisons between the states and the Network. The Network advisory board strives to be politically and geographically balanced. If you are interested in serving on the advisory board or you would like to nominate a fellow Network member, please send nominations to wln-info@ncsl.org. For more information, visit the Network Advisory Board Members' Web page: <http://www.ncsl.org/wln/AdvBoard03.htm>.

2003 Women's Legislative Network Advisory Board

State/ Jurisdiction	Advisory Board Member
Ala.	Senator Sundra Escott-Russell
Ala.	Representative Laura Hall
Alaska	Senator Bettye Davis
Alaska	Representative Beverly Masek
<i>Ariz.</i>	<i>Representative Cheryl Chase</i>
Ariz.	Vacant
Ark.	Vacant
Ark.	Vacant
Calif.	Senator Betty Karnette
Calif.	Vacant
Colo.	Representative Alice Borodkin
<i>Colo.</i>	<i>Representative Gayle Berry</i>
Conn.	Representative Marie Kirkley-Bey
<i>Conn.</i>	<i>Representative Catherine Tymniak</i>
Del.	Senator Patricia M. Blevins
Del.	Representative Nancy H. Wagner
Fla.	Representative Joyce M. Cusack
Fla.	Representative Stacy J. Ritter
Ga.	Representative Sharon Beasley-Teague
Ga.	Representative Nan Grogan Orrock
Hawaii	Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Hawaii	Vacant
Idaho	Representative Donna H. Boe
<i>Idaho</i>	<i>Representative Elaine Smith</i>
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.	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.	Representative Shirley A. Gomes
Mass.	Representative Mary S. Rogeness
Mich.	Senator Martha G. Scott
Mich.	Vacant
Minn.	Representative Nora Slawik
<i>Minn.</i>	<i>Representative Kathy Tinglestad</i>
Miss.	Senator Barbara Blackmon
Miss.	Senator Alice Harden
<i>Mo.</i>	<i>Representative Vicky Riback-Wilson</i>
<i>Mo.</i>	<i>Representative Kathlyn Fares</i>
Mont.	Vacant
Mont.	Vacant

State/ Jurisdiction	Advisory Board Member
<i>Neb.</i>	<i>Senator Vickie McDonald</i> (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.	Speaker of the House Janet Wentz
Ohio	Senator Teresa M. Fedor
Ohio	Representative Merle G. Kearns
Okla.	Deputy Majority Leader Jari Askins
Okla.	Assistant Majority Leader Angela Z. Monson
Ore.	Vacant
Ore.	Representative Donna G. Nelson
Pa.	Representative Linda Bebeko-Jones
<i>Pa.</i>	<i>Representative Sheila Miller</i>
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.	Vacant
S.D.	Senator Marguerite M. Kleven
Tenn.	Representative Kathryn I. Bowers
Tenn.	Representative Beth Halteman Harwell
Texas	Vacant
Texas	Vacant
Utah	<i>Representative Sheryl Allen</i>
Utah	Representative Judy Ann Buffmire
Utah	Representative Karen W. Morgan
Vt.	Vacant
Vt.	Vacant
Va.	Senator Yvonne B. Miller
Va.	Senator Patricia S. Ticer
Va.	Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
<i>Wash.</i>	<i>Senator Karen Fraser</i>
<i>Wash.</i>	<i>Senator Shirley Winsley</i>
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 Board Corner

Speaker of the House Janet Wentz is hard at work in North Dakota, both personally and professionally. Professionally, she is enjoying her role as Speaker, setting goals for herself to do

as well as her predecessors, and perhaps a little better. Speaker Wentz has tried to be inclusive, focus on relationships, and create an atmosphere of openness. She asserts, "I was not elected Speaker of the Republican party, I was elected Speaker of the House."

She is trying to "represent the people of North Dakota in a dignified way, even when it isn't easy."

Although her job is difficult, it presents a particular challenge for Speaker Wentz. As she leads the North



Janet Wentz

Dakota House, she is also battling cancer. She credits family, friends and colleagues with tremendous support that gives her the strength to do her job. That support is clear. Wentz's colleague in the House and fellow Network Advisory Board member Representative Kathy Hawken commended her, saying, "Janet is an amazing woman and a role model for other women in politics." Wentz's advice for future women leaders? "Trust yourself. Be true to your own style and your own way."

Many Thanks to Our Alliance Members!

For the Network, 2003 is off to a great start! Thanks to support from our committed and enthusiastic Alliance members, the Network hopes to continue to work to find new ways to make our relationships with our Alliance members more mutually beneficial. Special thanks to the following companies that have provided support to the Network this year:

- Alticor
- AstraZeneca
- AT&T
- Avon
- BellSouth
- Equipment Leasing Association
- Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Hallmark
- Hoffmann-La Roche
- Kelly Services
- Mary Kay
- National Education Association
- Pfizer
- Procter & Gamble
- Sprint



At the Network Luncheon at NCSL's Spring Forum, New York State Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann and Kay Coles of the National Educational Association show their appreciation for the support of the Network Alliance members.

Women Leaders

Although the number of women legislators has leveled out at about 22 percent, the number of women in positions of legislative leadership is rising. Forty-three women hold major positions of legislative leadership in 18 states. In Colorado, women fill all four of the major leadership positions, and the Washington Legislature is led by three female leaders. For more

details, check out the Women Leaders page of the Women's Legislative Network Web site by clicking on "Women Leaders" on the home page or going to <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/womenleaders03.htm>. Also, watch for an article in the July issue of *State Legislatures* that highlights several of these leaders.

Note from the President ...

Dear Colleagues,

As many state legislatures have adjourned, many of you may have more time to plan for the coming months. I hope you are arranging to attend NCSL's Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Calif., July 21-25, 2003. The Network's agenda is full of dynamic 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. The Network promotes the participation, empowerment and leadership of women legislators. I hope you become involved through participating in meeting sessions, becoming an Advisory Board member, and using our resources, which are 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. Most recently, because of my Network involvement and as a member of the Executive Committee of NCSL, I attended an NCSL Executive Committee meeting in Quebec. While there, I met with the Conselliere of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas (NWPA), and with the President of the Network of Women Parliaments of the Commonwealth, who is also a parliamentarian (legislator) in the Quebec National Assembly. As women are gaining in their participation in global leadership, NWPA provides an important forum for discussion and learning. I encourage you to visit the NWPA Web site to learn more about its programs and opportunities for collaboration with other organizations that serve women leaders: <http://www.copa.qc.ca/Anglais/Femmesang/femmes.html>. Join us for a discussion of women in global politics on Thursday, July 24, at NCSL's Annual Meeting!

This year has been one of growth and change for the Network, and I, along with the other Network Board members, am proud of the work that we have accomplished and the vision we have for the future. The Network is a valuable resource for women legislators, and I encourage you to become involved. If you have questions or comments about the Network, please feel free to contact me at (360) 786-7670 or Kohl_je@leg.wa.gov.

Warm regards,



Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Senator, Washington State Senate
President, Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

The Network Web site Has a New Face! (www.ncsl.org/wln)

What's New:

- "Women Legislators In The News" The Network Web site highlights several recent stories about women legislators from newspapers around the country. Click on "Women Legislators In The News" on the home page.
- "More News ..." There are 50-state maps highlighting the number and percentage of women legislators in each state for 2003. Check out "More News ..."
- For up-to-date information, visit the Network page often!

Tips for Navigating: Accessing Information from the Home Page

- For general information, click on "About the Network" or "Frequently Asked Questions."
- For upcoming events, click on "Meetings".
- For information about Network members, click on "Find a Member."
- For information about Network board members, advisory board members and Alliance members, click on "About the Network."
- For legislative or informational resources, click on "Publications," "Selected NCSL Resources," "Other Resources" or "Caucus Resources."

Do you have questions about the Network, ideas for programming or suggestions for changes? We want to hear from you. Please contact Leah Oliver, network coordinator, at (303) 364-7700, ext. 1486, or leah.oliver@ncsl.org with your feedback.

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William T. Pound, Executive Director

Leah Oliver, Network Coordinator

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