



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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

Spring 2008

Vol. 20, No. 1

Note from the President

The Women's Legislative Network is 23 years old, and it is the goal of your officers to bring the Network into a new era to better serve your needs. The Network was created to provide a venue for women legislators to meet with their peers at NCSL meetings, to be supportive and to learn from one another.

A legislator becomes more effective when armed with knowledge. We want the Network to expand by providing substantive tools to gain in-depth knowledge. With your support and assistance, the Network is planning a new project about financial stability that will help legislators understand the issue and gain knowledge of existing resources, develop useful tools, and build leadership skills. If you have experience in the field of financial stability, please let us know. If you want more experience and knowledge, stay tuned. The project will kick off with an informative workshop at the NCSL Legislative Summit in New Orleans on Thursday, July 24. On July 23, the Network will cosponsor *Convening: The Legislator's Powerful Role*. The workshop will explore the legislator's critical role as a convener when working to solve

problems. Have you heard about the Women of the Storm? This grassroots advocacy group is dedicated to restoring and revitalizing New Orleans after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They will share their achievements with us at the Network luncheon on Thursday, July 24.



Rep. Allen

With active participation from women legislators, the Women's Legislative Network can continue to grow with increased attention to financial stability and women's health issues. If we are to succeed in these new adventures, we need your help. Please contact Katie Ziegler at NCSL and become involved. We particularly welcome your application for the Network Board and Advisory Council. Learn more leadership skills through leadership in the Network. You will be the winner and so will your state!

Sheryl Allen
State Representative, Utah
President, Women's Legislative Network of NCSL



Events at the 2008 Legislative Summit

For more information and updates, visit www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/summitagenda08.htm

Tuesday, July 22

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Network Board Meeting

All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, July 23

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Convening: The Legislator's Powerful Role

Learn to embrace your role as a convener to help solve critical problems in both your district and the statehouse. Experienced faculty will lead you in learning the principles and best practices and then applying them to real-life examples.

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Network Reception

Inaugural event for incoming Network president Peggy Welch, State Representative, Indiana.

Thursday, July 24

8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

What Is the Financial Status of American Women? Perception vs. Reality

Faculty: Marsha A. Goetting, Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist, Agricultural Economics and Economics Department, Montana State University. Attend this session to learn more about the Network's financial stability project.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Network Luncheon, Featuring the Women of the Storm

Program includes the annual business meeting and elections.

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

What Every Student, Parent and Legislator Needs to Know About College Costs, Financial Aid and Admissions

The College Board has assembled a panel of experts who will present the latest information about the critical process of paying for college and being prepared for success in higher education.

4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

The Center for American Women and Politics' NEW Leadership: Preparing the Women Leaders of Tomorrow

The NEW Leadership program gives college women the opportunity to learn about leadership and politics from successful women leaders. Hear success stories and find out how your state can develop a program of its own.

Friday, July 25

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Walk for Wellness

Beat the heat first thing in the morning with a 5k walk along the mighty Mississippi and through the French Quarter.

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

What's Driving College Costs?

Students, parents and legislators are well aware that the cost of going to college is rapidly increasing. Examine what drives tuition and cost increases and effective state policies that help to contain them.

To Update You

Visit www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/2007fallforumevents.htm to review the presentations from the Women's Health Across the Lifespan conference at the 2007 NCSL Fall Forum!

NCSL Spring Forum, April 24-26, 2008, Washington, D.C.

Many thanks to Dennis Brown of the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association for hosting an informational luncheon about the Network Alliance on April 24. Dennis worked with Alliance Chair Jackie Clark to invite state government relations professionals who were interested in learning more about the Network. Network board members Rep. Rosie Berger, Sen. Capri Cafaro and Rep. Peggy Welch discussed their valuable Network experiences, as did NCSL's past president, Sen. Leticia Van de Putte. Current Alliance sponsors talked about why they believe in supporting the Network and the benefits of doing so. The group also watched the Network video, *Resolution: Women, Power and Change in America*.



Rep. Welch

The Women's Health Across the Lifespan project hosted a networking reception on April 24. Learn more about the project on page 4.

The Network and the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee cosponsored **Mentoring: Getting Good Guidance** on Friday, April 25. **Minnesota Rep. Kathy Tingelstad** moderated the session, which included legislator and legislative staff perspectives about successful mentoring programs. **Texas Sen. Leticia Van de Putte** shared some of the differences in various state legislative mentoring programs

and emphasized how crucial it is for a freshman legislator to learn from someone who's "been there." Among the important things for a mentor to explain are expected behavior and decorum, how to work with the other legislative body, how to balance legislative work with constituent work, tips for talking to the media, and how to use one's legislative authority to convene a group of people to work on an issue.

Marti Harkness, staff director of the Florida Office of Program Policy and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA), discussed the office's comprehensive mentoring program for new staff. The purpose of a workplace mentoring program is to help a new employee become familiar with the work environment and proficient with the work skills so that he or she can work efficiently, productively and contentedly. All new OPPAGA employees are assigned a social mentor who helps them through initial orientation activities and acclimates them to the workplace environment, and a skills mentor who introduces them to actual job tasks and evaluates initial performance. Marti cautioned against common mentoring mistakes, including overemphasizing tradition and history and being patronizing, cynical or divisive.

Wyoming Rep. Rosie Berger, a Network board member, said that the task of a mentor is to find the greatness within people and to help them realize it. A mentor should be accessible, trustworthy and interest-



Rep. Berger and
Sen. Van de Putte

The task of a mentor is to find the greatness within people and to help them realize it.

differences to work on institutional skills training.

The Network cosponsored the Legislative Effectiveness Committee session, **The Legislator/Citizen Connection: How to Run a Great Town Hall Meeting**. Frank Spillers, co-owner of Iowa consulting company Global Horizons, described 1) the advantages of conducting legislative town hall meetings that emphasize citizen discussion and 2) the role of listener for the legislator. In Frank's view, these community conversations are not public hearings, lectures or presentations of clear-cut plans. Rather, they offer a chance for citizens to talk with each other, working through the issue and weighing pros, cons, strengths and weaknesses. This approach helps groups reach more satisfactory results, with citizens participating in their future. Town hall meetings should be a place where people feel welcome, comfortable, understood and appreciated. To see a list of questions to ask at a town hall meeting, visit www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/sfevents2008.htm.

ed in what their protégé has to contribute. Mentoring can strengthen the legislative institution and improve both policy-making and constituent services. Mentoring relationships have been a successful component of the Wyoming Women's Caucus; members have been able to put aside party

Announcements

Network Board Member Honored

Texas State Representative Helen Giddings has represented DeSoto since 1996. She recently was honored by several Dallas-area organizations for her lifetime of leadership. The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce named her one of the 2008 Quest for Success Award recipients, she received the Woman of the Year Award from the Women's Council of Dallas County, and she received the Motherhood: Lifetime Achievement Award from Dallas Can! Rep. Giddings is chair of the Business and Industry Committee.



Rep. Giddings

South African Woman Parliamentarian Wins Top Party Post

Those legislators who had the opportunity to meet the delegation of South African women parliamentarians that NCSL's International Programs Office brought to the United States last fall might remember **Thandi Modise**, speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature and a prominent member of that delegation. We're pleased to share the news that, following her return to South Africa, Ms. Modise was elected deputy secretary general of the African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's ruling party. Ms. Modise was one of two women elected to five top leadership positions in the ANC in the mid-December balloting. She will hold the ANC deputy secretary general post concurrently with the speakership of the North West Provincial Legislature.

Women in The Thicket

NCSL's blog, **The Thicket**, written by and for legislative junkies, carries many stories about women legislators (and staff). If you don't read The Thicket, you have missed stories about the record number of women legislators, the first woman speaker, the first woman majority leader, the first African-American woman speaker, where women run for the legislature, the woman staffer who donated a kidney to a legislator and inspired a change in a state's ethics law, women governors, and women and term limits. Visit The Thicket at http://ncsl.typepad.com/the_thicket/ and submit your story!

CHECK OUT THE NETWORK WEBSITE:

www.ncsl.org/wln

Girl Power on the Hill in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts State House recently hosted the Girl Scouts of Massachusetts for **Girl Power on the Hill**, a day-long program for more than 100 scouts that introduced them to the legislature. The girls attended workshops on leadership and public speaking, met women legislators, had lunch with women staffers, and held a simulated legislative session. A highlight was viewing *Citizen Brain*, a video produced by NCSL's Trust for Representative Democracy, that shows how much fun American democracy can be. (Visit www.ncsl.org/trust for information about *Citizen Brain* and other age-appropriate materials about the legislative process.) If you meet with Girl Scout troops or similar organizations in your district, you also may be interested in a video about women legislators, *Resolution: Women, Power and Change in America*, produced by the Network. Contact Katie Ziegler, (303) 364-7700 or katie.ziegler@ncsl.org, to obtain a copy.



NEW from NCSL!

Diabetes Policy

Visit www.ncsl.org/programs/health/Diabetes-Overview.htm for a compendium of resources about diabetes, including issues related to insurance coverage, health disparities and women's health.

Coming Soon! Updates to the Cancer Policy Website

Bookmark www.ncsl.org/programs/health/cancerweb.htm and check back for even more resources about cancer data trends, policies and treatment options.

State Budget Update: April 2008

With a few exceptions, state finances are deteriorating, in some cases considerably. Visit www.ncsl.org/bookstore to download the report.

Financial Stability Project

The Network board has been hard at work developing a new project to promote the participation, empowerment and leadership of women legislators by providing in-depth information and tools about financial stability. A financial disconnect exists for women in America. Consider these facts:

- Women control the majority of consumer spending, yet they are 40 percent more likely to be poor than men.
- Forty-five percent of women do not have the financial resources to cover their basic needs for more than three months if their income is disrupted.
- Consumer debt in the United States (excluding mortgages) is more than \$2.5 trillion.

Knowledge of how to navigate this 21st-century financial world is a crucial life skill, and every woman and girl in America needs the tools to achieve financial stability.

During the coming months, the Network will compile an online library of materials about financial stability. We also will offer in-depth workshops and informational sessions at NCSL meetings. Join us at the NCSL Legislative Summit in New Orleans for our kick-off session, "What Is the Financial Status of American Women? Perception vs. Reality," and other sessions about economic success, including access to higher education. Look for an announcement later this summer about a special financial stability seminar.

For this project to succeed, we need your help. If you have experience working with your constituents on financial issues, please let us know. We'd love to learn from you! The population of women state legislators is wonderfully diverse, just like the constituents you represent, and we want to include all perspectives. Contact Katie Ziegler at NCSL to add your voice and get involved, (303) 364-7700 or katie.ziegler@ncsl.org.

Women's Health Across the Lifespan Project Update

This summer, the Women's Health Across the Lifespan Project will enter its third year at NCSL. During Year 2, legislators and legislative staff received information about the effects of osteoporosis and diabetes on women. These educational materials—a LegisBrief and a color postcard—are available online at www.ncsl.org/programs/health/womenmain.htm.

In April, the project hosted a networking reception at the NCSL Spring Forum in Washington, D.C. More than 60 legislators and legislative staff gathered to relax and talk about the health policy issues that were hot topics during the 2008 session. Bonnie Washington, vice president for health policy with Novartis Pharmaceuticals, the sponsor of NCSL's project, welcomed attendees. She talked about Novartis' commitment to supporting NCSL's work with legislators who devise innovative public policy solutions for some of the most serious women's health challenges, including supporting patients who are living with chronic diseases, reaching underserved populations, and ensuring that women are adequately represented in major medical studies.

During Year 3, the project will focus on educating legislators and legislative staff about chronic diseases and the devastating toll they can take on women and state budgets. The Year 3 kick-off event will be a preconference meeting held in conjunction with the NCSL Fall Forum in Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 9-13, 2008. Watch the mail for your invitation!

NCSL is pleased to introduce legislators to the project who have not previously been involved, and we hope you will continue to visit the website and call us with women's health policy questions. Contact Jody Hatz, (303) 364-7700 or jody.hatz@ncsl.org, for more information.

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS

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William T. Pound, Executive Director

Katie Ziegler, Network Policy Associate

Special thanks to Leann Stelzer and Emily Rogers at NCSL for their help in preparing this edition of the *Network News*.



Printed on recycled paper.



Apply to the Network Executive Board

The Executive Board is responsible for the ongoing administration of the Network, for maintaining a close working relationship with NCSL, and for managing Network affairs. Board members are expected to attend the twice-yearly board meetings and participate in other Network events. Please ensure that you will have your leadership's approval to travel to NCSL events before submitting an application. Board members are responsible for their travel costs.

Open Positions, 2008-2009:

Vice President (Democrat)

One Midwestern Regional position (Republican)

(IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)

Two Southern Regional positions (Democrat & Republican)

(AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV)

One Western Regional position (Democrat)

(AK, AS, AZ, CA, CO, GU, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY)

One At-Large position (Republican)

Please circle the position of interest and attach your biography or resume as well as a brief description of why you are interested in becoming a board member.

Name _____

Position _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If selected by the Nominating Committee, I will ____ will not ____ be able to attend the NCSL Legislative Summit July 22-26, 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you in the future!

Please respond by Friday, June 13, 2008

Katie Ziegler, Policy Associate

Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

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Denver, CO 80230

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katie.ziegler@nctl.org

The Network needs you for the
Executive Board!

Please return the application on
the reverse side!

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Alliance members are a vital part of the Network. We value our relationships with Alliance members and appreciate the support they provide to women legislators through the Network.

*Sponsor (\$5,000)

- AstraZeneca
- ExxonMobil
- Novartis
- Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

*Partner (\$2,500)

- Abbott Laboratories
- Kraft Foods Global Inc.
- Pfizer
- Procter & Gamble
- Sprint Nextel

*Contributor (\$1,000)

- 1-800 CONTACTS
- Alticor
- American Beverage Association
- Daimler Chrysler
- Equipment Leasing and Finance Association
- Hallmark Cards Inc.
- International Council of Shopping Centers Inc.
- Johnson & Johnson
- Mary Kay Inc.
- Merck & Co. (Vaccine Division)
- National Education Association
- sanofi-aventis
- State & Federal Communications
- Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America
- Waste Management

*Friend (\$500)

- Anheuser Busch
- Aquila
- Avon
- Barr Pharmaceuticals
- BMI
- Direct Selling Association
- Edison Electric Institute
- Energy Solutions
- General Motors Corporation
- Pepco Holdings Inc.
- Personal Care Products Council
- Polsinelli Shalton Flanigan Suelthaus PC
- SelectHealth
- UCLA State Government Relations
- Utah Education Association
- Utah Medical Association

Hello from the Alliance Chair

Businesses and associations recognize the importance of women state legislators. Many women legislators who have been active in the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL have advanced their political careers in their respective states and in Washington, D.C. Businesses and associations want to be sure to communicate with women legislators about their priority issues.



Clark

During the past two years, a reception to honor the incoming Network president was established and has netted in excess of \$12,000, which is more than 10 percent of the funds the Network raises annually. Aside from the fun and interaction everyone enjoys at the reception, which is held during the NCSL Legislative Summit, relationships are built and important network programs gain funding.

This year in New Orleans, we'll toast the incoming Network president, Indiana State Rep. Peggy Welch of Bloomington. We welcome new donors to support this important event and begin a long-term relationship with the Network and its members. I've been a part of the Network since the early 1990s. As I join the Ash Grove Cement Company, headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, as the company's director of communications and public affairs, you can be assured that I'll recommend that Ash Grove become a part of this valuable organization.

Please contact me with any questions. My new contact information is below.

Jackie Clark

Jackie Clark
 Director of Communications and Public Affairs
 Ash Grove Cement Company
 (913) 319-6131 or jackie.clark@ashgrove.com

Sharing Our Views

Sharing Our Views 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 Katie Ziegler at (303) 856-1514 or katie.ziegler@ncsl.org

Recent polls have shown that health care costs remain



one of the top issues for voters. What's driving health care costs is, in large part, chronic illness. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that chronic disease accounts for more than 75 percent of the \$2 trillion spent annually on health care.

What is chronic disease? Chronic diseases—such as asthma, diabetes, cancer and heart disease—are generally incurable, but most are preventable or manageable when detected and treated early. More than 133 million Americans currently suffer from at least one chronic disease.

Johns Hopkins University professor Gerard Anderson outlined the problem perfectly, “The costs of chronic illness continue to increase every year. As a society, we must act now to adapt our health care system to meet this challenge, just as we responded to meet the crisis of infectious diseases a century ago.” Leaders are increasingly focused on changing health care to address detection, prevention and management of disease and to reward healthy lifestyle choices such as weight management, smoking cessation and compliance with treatment.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation has embraced this concept through its employee health insurance programs that reward healthy behavior and adherence to medications. Novartis is not only assisting employees, however; more importantly, it offers resources such as the BP Success Zone Program, which provides patients and physicians information and support about managing high blood pressure.

Working together, we can address the challenge of chronic illness by using best practices from across the country to implement common sense solutions.

*Bonnie Washington
Vice President, Health Policy
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation*

Top Things You Should Know About Fibromyalgia



- Fibromyalgia is a very common chronic widespread pain condition in the United States. Studies indicate that at least 6 million Americans suffer from fibromyalgia, but estimates range as high as 10 million to 12 million people.
- Fibromyalgia usually is accompanied by poor sleep, stiffness and fatigue; sufferers also report experiencing deep tenderness, soreness and flu-like aching. Because it often results in lost work days, lost income and disability payments, fibromyalgia imposes economic burdens on society and on affected individuals.
- Women are much more likely to report suffering from fibromyalgia than men (between 80 percent to 90 percent of people diagnosed with fibromyalgia are women), although the condition affects both.
- The prognosis for people with fibromyalgia has never been better. Diagnostic criteria have been developed by the American College of Rheumatology to help patients and their physicians recognize the condition, learn to manage the disease, and receive treatment to provide relief for symptoms. Individualized therapeutic strategies may include lifestyle measures (such as exercise, nutrition and relaxation techniques), behavioral support, and drug therapy.
- People who think they may have fibromyalgia need to know they are not alone. Support is available. They can talk to their health care provider or contact the National Fibromyalgia Association at (714) 921-0150 or go to www.FMaware.org.

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors; NCSL and the Network do not endorse the views on this page.

Sharing Our Views

Hunger Relief in Today's Economic Landscape

America's Second Harvest, the leading hunger relief organization in the United States, reports that food insecurity affects more than 35.5 million Americans. America's Second Harvest and its local affiliates feed more than 25 million people each year, many of whom are children.

Hunger has real effects on our communities and it is an increasingly important concern in the current economic landscape. It's widely known that when children are forced to attend school without healthy, nutritious food sources, they perform at academic levels lower than their peers who have access to such resources. In addition, hunger can cause significant emotional insecurity for struggling families.

That's why, on April 30 Wal-Mart, a long-time partner with America's Second Harvest, announced a \$1.5 million donation to the organization to help with hunger relief efforts. The contribution will provide approximately 16 million meals and add thousands of children



to the organization's Back Pack Program. It comes as food prices continue to rise and hunger relief organizations nationwide struggle to meet higher demands during tough economic times.

Wal-Mart also announced that the rollout of its America's Second Harvest food donation program to all Sam's Club locations throughout the country will be complete by the end of the summer. The program stocks community food banks with unsold items that are fit for consumption, including meat and baked goods.

As we move into the summer months when children do not receive the benefits of school lunch programs, it is even more important to consider the needs of local food banks. It is incumbent upon us, both women legislators and the private sector, to help make our communities healthy and more sustainable by helping end hunger. Please consider making a contribution to your local food bank.

Maggie Sans is vice president for Public Affairs and Government Relations for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. She also sits on the NCSL Foundation board of directors.

Opinions expressed in this section are those of the authors; NCSL and the Network do not endorse the views in this section.

We are pleased to announce a new NCSL publication. *Health Care Access for Children in Immigrant Families: A Primer for State Legislators* is available online at www.ncsl.org/programs/immig/immighealthprimer.htm.

Children from immigrant families are more likely than their U.S. counterparts to be uninsured. Although legal and unauthorized children comprise only 4 percent of the country's 78 million children, they constitute a disproportionate share of the uninsured. In 2005, 45 percent of low-income immigrant children were uninsured, compared with 17 percent of all low-income citizen children.

This primer offers an introduction to health care access for children in immigrant families in the United States, including eligibility requirements for Medicaid and SCHIP, enrollment barriers to public programs, and examples of state efforts to improve coverage.

We also invite you to visit our updated website on health care and children in immigrant families. The site includes information on access to care, state laws, language access, and presentations from our 2008 roundtable on health promotion and prevention of health disparities, at www.ncsl.org/programs/immig/immighealth.htm.

Meet The Network Board



President
Representative
Sheryl Allen (R)
Utah



President-Elect
Representative
Peggy Welch (D)
Indiana



Vice President
Representative
Elsie Arntzen (R)
Montana



Past President
Representative
Annie Kuether (D)
Kansas

Eastern Regional Members

*Photo
not
available*

Representative
Marjorie Smith (D)
New Hampshire



Senator
Lois Snowe-Mello (R)
Maine

Western Regional Members



Representative
Rosie Berger (R)
Wyoming



Assemblywoman
Kathryn McClain (D)
Nevada

Midwestern Regional Members



Representative
Fran Amos (R)
Michigan



Senator
Capri Cafaro (D)
Ohio

At-Large Members



Senator
Dori Connor (R)
Delaware



Representative
Marilyn Lee (D)
Hawaii

Southern Regional Members



Representative
Helen Giddings (D)
Texas



Representative
Cecily Hill (R)
Georgia

NOBEL Representative



Senator
Margaret Carter (D)
Oregon

More about the Network
Executive Board is available
at [www.ncsl.org/
programs/wln/offi-
cers2007-2008.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/officers2007-2008.htm).

We need you!

The Network Nominating Committee is accepting applications for Network Executive Board and Advisory Council membership for 2008-2009. The Executive Board is responsible for the ongoing administration of the Network, for maintaining a close working relationship with NCSL, and for managing Network affairs. See the enclosed application form for more information about vacant Executive Board positions. The Advisory Council has vacancies in several states (see chart on page 9). Advisory Council members serve as liaisons between their states and the Network. If you are interested in serving on the Advisory Council or you would like to nominate a fellow legislator, please send nominations to wln-info@ncsl.org.

Women's Legislative Network of NCSL Advisory Council (2007-2008)

State	Title/Name	Party
Alabama	VACANT	R
Alabama	Rep. Laura Hall	D
Alaska	Sen. Bettye Davis	D
Alaska	Sen. Lesil McGuire	R
Arizona	VACANT	D
Arizona	VACANT	R
Arkansas	Rep. Betty Pickett	D
Arkansas	Rep. Shirley Walters	R
California	Assy. Betty Karnette	D
California	VACANT	R
Colorado	Rep. Alice Borodkin	D
Colorado	VACANT	R
Connecticut	Sen Andrea Stillman	D
Connecticut	VACANT	R
Delaware	Sen. Patricia Blevins	D
Delaware	Rep. Nancy Wagner	R
Florida	Rep. Joyce Cusack	D
Florida	VACANT	R
Georgia	Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague	D
Georgia	VACANT	R
Hawaii	Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland	D
Hawaii	Rep. Colleen Meyer	R
Idaho	Rep. Donna Boe	D
Idaho	Rep. Maxine Bell	R
Illinois	Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (Majority Leader)	D
Illinois	Rep. Elizabeth Coulson	R
Indiana	Rep. Terri Austin	D
Indiana	Sen. Connie Lawson (Majority Leader)	R
Iowa	Rep. Pam Jochum	D
Iowa	VACANT	R
Kansas	Rep. Barbara Ballard	D
Kansas	Sen. Barbara Allen	R
Kentucky	Rep. Joni L. Jenkins	D
Kentucky	Rep. Susan Westrom	D
Kentucky	Sen. Elizabeth Tori	R
Louisiana	VACANT	D
Louisiana	Rep. Kay Kellogg Katz	R
Maine	Rep. Hannah Pingree	D
Maine	VACANT	R
Maryland	Sen. Delores Kelley	D
Maryland	Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam	D
Massachusetts	Rep. Marie St. Fleur	D
Massachusetts	Rep. Mary Rogeness	R
Michigan	Sen. Martha G. Scott	D
Michigan	VACANT	R
Minnesota	Rep. Nora Slawik	D
Minnesota	Rep. Kathy Tingelstad	R
Mississippi	Rep. Jessica Upshaw	R
Mississippi	Sen. Alice Harden	D
Missouri	VACANT	D
Missouri	Rep. Kathlyn Fares	R
Montana	Sen. Trudi Schmidt	D
Montana	Rep. Janna Taylor	R

State	Title/Name	Party
Nebraska	Sen. Vickie McDonald	X
Nebraska	Sen. DiAnna Schimek	X
Nevada	Sen. Maggie Carlton	D
Nevada	VACANT	R
New Hampshire	VACANT	D
New Hampshire	Rep. Phyllis Katsakiones	R
New Jersey	Sen. Nia Gill	D
New Jersey	Assy. Loretta Weinberg	D
New Mexico	Rep. Patricia Lundstrom	D
New Mexico	Rep. Jeannette Wallace	R
New York	Assy. Barbara Clark	D
New York	VACANT	R
North Carolina	Rep. Beverly Earle	D
North Carolina	Rep. Julia Craven Howard	R
North Dakota	Rep. Nancy Johnson	R
North Dakota	Rep. Lois Delmore	D
Ohio	Rep. Tracy Maxwell Heard	D
Ohio	VACANT	R
Oklahoma	Sen. Nancy Riley	D
Oklahoma	VACANT	R
Oregon	VACANT	D
Oregon	Rep. Donna Nelson	R
Pennsylvania	Rep. Babette Josephs	D
Pennsylvania	VACANT	R
Puerto Rico	Sen. Luz Z Arce-Ferrer	N
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>Rep. Jennifer González Colón</i>	<i>N</i>
Rhode Island	VACANT	R
Rhode Island	VACANT	D
South Carolina	Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter	D
South Carolina	Sen. Linda Short	D
South Dakota	Rep. Margaret Gillespie	D
South Dakota	Rep. Joni Cutler	R
Tennessee	VACANT	D
Tennessee	Rep. Beth Halteman Harwell	R
Texas	Rep. Ruth McClendon	D
Texas	Rep. Linda Harper-Brown	R
Utah	Rep. Karen Morgan	D
<i>Utah</i>	<i>Rep. Merlynn Newbold</i>	<i>R</i>
Vermont	VACANT	D
Vermont	VACANT	R
Virginia	Sen. Yvonne Miller	D
Virginia	Sen. Patricia Ticer	D
Virginia	Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple	D
Washington	Sen. Karen Fraser	D
Washington	VACANT	R
West Virginia	Del. Bonnie Brown	D
West Virginia	Sen. Donna Boley	R
Wisconsin	VACANT	D
Wisconsin	VACANT	R
Wyoming	Rep. Mary Throne	D
<i>Wyoming</i>	<i>Rep. Sue Wallis</i>	<i>R</i>

Names that are italicized are legislators who have been nominated to serve on the Network Advisory Council, but have not been confirmed by the Network Executive Board.

WINGS Announcements

Women in Informal Networking Groups (WINGS) is an interactive network of national organizations that serve women legislators in various capacities. These organizations have joined to share information and resources and to work together on leadership, education, training and development to empower legislative women throughout the nation. Participating organizations include:

- Center for American Women and Politics (www.cawp.rutgers.edu)
- Center for Policy Alternatives (www.stateaction.org)
- Center for Women Policy Studies (www.centerwomenpolicy.org)
- National Order of Black Elected Legislative Women (www.nobelwomen.org)
- National Women's Political Caucus (www.nwpc.org)
- Women in Government (www.womeningovernment.org)
- The Women Legislators' Lobby (www.willwand.org)
- Women's Legislative Network of NCSL (www.ncsl.org/wln/)

Don't throw away that survey!

You've recently received an invitation to complete a survey from the Center for

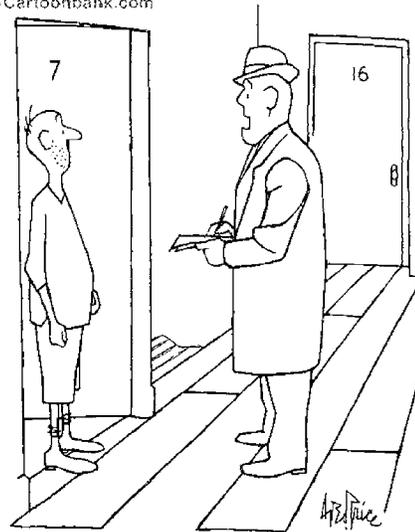
CAWP

American Women and Politics (CAWP), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. Although you may receive many such requests, this one is different. It comes from the most respected source of nonpartisan research and information about U.S. women's political participation.

With a lead grant from the Barbara Lee Family Foundation and additional support from many foundations and individual donors, CAWP is studying who officeholders are, why they run, and what motivates them. This research, comparing samples of women and men in state legislatures, will update findings from a 1982 study and shed new light on women's routes to public office. The findings should prove helpful to those who encourage more women to run for office. It will take only a few minutes of your time, but your participation is vital to ensuring a complete picture of women's routes to elective office. (It's not nearly as complicated as the question in the cartoon!)

If you need another copy of the survey or a reminder of your PIN, contact the team conducting the survey for CAWP at (646) 486-8424 or LegislatorsSurvey@srbi.com. On behalf of CAWP, thanks to those who have already completed the survey and to those who will take a moment to do it now!

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"Next question: I believe that life is a constant striving for balance, requiring frequent tradeoffs between morality and necessity, within a cyclic pattern of joy and sadness, forging a trail of bittersweet memories until one slips, inevitably, into the jaws of death. Agree or disagree?"

The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL/Women)

2008 Annual National Conference will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, June 26-29, 2008, at the Renaissance Savery Hotel. Symposia will feature an array of topics, including health care with emphasis on prevention and wellness, leadership in the 21st century, education reform and others. Join us for an informative weekend. For additional information, visit our website at www.nobelwomen.org.





Women In Government is pleased to bring a new meeting topic to state legislators this year, with the upcoming Breast Cancer Policy Is Personal: Legislative Survivor's Summit! The summit will be held September 25-27, 2008, at the Fairmont Hotel in

Washington, D.C. The registration deadline is July 1, 2008. Space is available on a first-come basis and all states are welcome!

The summit will begin with a reception and dinner on September 25 and will conclude by noon on Saturday. Topics will include:

- Advancements in detecting and treating breast cancer;
- State tactics for breast cancer prevention and treatment;
- Addressing cancer health disparities;
- Breast cancer prevention, treatment and using survivorship in advocacy;
- Reaching uninsured and underinsured populations; and,
- Roundtable discussions and policy consensus.

Women In Government asks your help in identifying breast cancer survivors among state legislators across the country who may benefit from participating in the summit. As you know, men also suffer from breast cancer; therefore, we are recruiting both female and male state legislators to the summit.

If you have questions, contact Sarah Gonzales at sgonzales@womeningovernment.org or (202)333-0825, ext. 241.

The Women Legislators' Lobby is wrapping up a busy season of congressional action that includes record-breaking support for the WiLL Federal Budget Priorities Letter. The letter was delivered to members of Congress with an



astounding 343 signatures from women state legislators in all 50 states! This campaign added nearly 100 new WiLL member signatures this year, proving that women legislators are truly at the forefront of their states' budgets and demonstrating their concerns about this country's outdated budget priorities. Be on the lookout for our next budget letter campaign in January 2009. Special congratulations to the WiLL state directors for their extraordinary efforts and for helping to boost WiLL's membership to more than one-third of women legislators nationwide (view the letter at www.willwand.org).

The 2007 WiLL/WAND Conference, "Women at the Table of Power," convened several hundred women state legislators and community leaders for issue and policy briefings and media training with leading experts and with members of Congress. The conference culminated in a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill; this year, there were more than 60 meetings with congressional delegations. Save the date for the upcoming 2009 WiLL National Conference to be held Oct. 4-6, 2009, in Washington, D.C. Additional updates about WiLL activities can be found at www.willwand.org. Legislators are invited to contact WiLL president Georgia Senator Nan Orrock at willpres@wand.org, (404) 524-5999, and Christina Cernansky at WiLL, will@wand.org, (202) 544-5055, ext. 192.



Join us at the WALK FOR WELLNESS

Friday, July 25, 6:30 a.m.

Visit www.ncsl.org/summit/walk.htm