



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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

Fall 2011

Vol. 22, No.2

Note from the President

Hello to my fellow legislators and friends,

I am honored to serve as the president of the Network this year. I enjoyed meeting many of you at the NCSL Legislative Summit in San Antonio, and I hope to hear from many more of you over the next several months. The Network depends on feedback from its members. Please contact me, another board member, or Katie Ziegler if you have an interest in a particular topic you think we should address. If you have expertise in an area we are working on, such as women in the military or women's health, we would love for you to become involved as we plan future programs.



Lee

The Network hosted a successful lunch program in San Antonio featuring two speakers related to the topic of women in the military. We learned about the Center for the Intrepid, the state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility at that helps wounded warriors—both women and men—learn to use prosthetic limbs and other modifications that allow them to live independently and thrive. We also learned of the important work of Grace After Fire, an organization that has built a peer support network for female veterans who may be dealing with homelessness, untreated mental health conditions related to trauma, substance abuse, or difficulty finding employment. Grace After Fire presently exists only in Texas; if similar organizations are operating in your state or if you'd like to learn more about their work, please contact us! The Network will continue to sponsor programs about military and veterans' issues relating to women, and I hope you will join us in the future.

I know that the 2012 session will be a difficult one, and I encourage you to call on NCSL for assistance on any policy issue or question. You can contact Katie Ziegler at any time, and she will connect you to the appropriate NCSL expert [katie.ziegler@ncsl.org or (303) 856-1514]. I value the relationships I've developed through my involvement with NCSL over the years, and I encourage you to add your voice to the conversation about all things related to state legislatures.

Marilyn B. Lee

Marilyn Lee
State Representative, Hawaii
President, Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

To Update You

NCSL Fall Forum in Tampa, Florida

Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2011

Visit www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23871 for complete session information, and, after the meeting, presentations, audio recordings and more.



Tuesday, Nov. 29 - Wednesday, Nov. 30 Improving Women's Health: Opportunities and Challenges of Health Reform

Expanding Access to Care for Women and Exploring Health Delivery Models

This session will explore the importance of women's health, examining women as guardians of family health and the challenges they face to find a work and life balance and access to care. With millions of uninsured people expected to gain health coverage by 2014, how can states think creatively about expanding access and exploring new health care delivery models to contain costs and ensure people receive care without putting additional pressure on the already strained health system? Alternative care locations such as retail stores and minute clinics may be a viable way to fill the gaps in primary care, contribute to quality chronic disease management and increase access for traditionally underserved populations.

Keynote Speaker: Cheryl Pegus, Walgreens

Women's Health, the Affordable Care Act and Tough Budget Times

This session will explore opportunities within the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to improve women's health, while also considering the complex landscape of state budget crises. Are the potential gains for women's health worth the long-term budget challenges many initiatives in the ACA may pose for states? As states move forward with implementation, some are challenging aspects of the ACA through state laws or court cases.

*Faculty: Julie Barnes, Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, D.C.
Respondents: Shawn Martin, California Legislative Analyst's Office*

*Representative Mark McCullough, Oklahoma
Senator Harriette Chandler, Massachusetts*

continued on page 2

To Update You

Implementing the ACA: Women and Prevention and Wellness Initiatives

The Affordable Care Act contains numerous provisions to promote women's health and reduce the burden of chronic disease. The ACA emphasizes preventive care by requiring preventive services to be covered without cost-sharing for women. Various grants also are available to help states tackle pressing public health issues such as chronic disease prevention; in addition, Prevention and Public Health Fund dollars are available to each state to invest in public health initiatives, such as working to improve immunization rates. Learn about state roles in these initiatives and the potential effect on women's health.

Faculty: Sharon Moffatt, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, National Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Virginia

Women's Health in the Age of Health Reform Discussion

Participants will review and make recommendations about an NCSL's Women's Health in the Age of Health Reform publication with background information, state implementation examples and policy options related to women's health and the ACA.

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Network Executive Board Meeting

Civic Education: Breaking Through the Barriers

Cosponsored with the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee

Citizen distrust, anger and apathy loom over the legislative process. This session highlights new efforts to educate and involve citizens in more meaningful ways with the legislature and promote greater understanding of how we make choices in a representative democracy.

Moderator: Laura Hendrix, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky

Presenters: Representative Rosie Berger, Wyoming

Karl Kurtz, NCSL Trust for Representative Democracy, Colorado

Thursday, Dec. 1

Legislative Service with Tough Budget Choices

Cosponsored with the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee

With economic fluctuations and budget constraints for the states, effective legislatures must have a strategic and coordinated fiscal focus. Legislative leaders and directors provide advice on how to

prioritize when allocating reduced staff resources and clearly communicate with legislators about changes in services.

Moderator: Sharon Eubanks, Office of Legislative Legal Services, Colorado

Presenters: Speaker Greg Stumbo, Kentucky

Bob McCurley, Alabama Law Institute

Employment Support for Military Families

Cosponsored with the NCSL Labor and Economic Development Committee

When military service members receive orders to transfer from one state to another, spouses and children often make the move with them. Many military families depend on the non-enlisted spouse's income, and cross-country moves can be disruptive. Learn about state actions to support military spousal employment and Department of Defense resources for military families.

Moderator: Representative Brent Yonts, Kentucky

Presenters: Representative Gayle Harrell, Florida

Ed Kringer, Department of Defense, Virginia

Katie Savant, National Military Family Association, Virginia



New From NCSL!

State Livability Initiatives

www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23795

The U.S. Department of Transportation describes livability as, "Tying the quality and location of transportation facilities to broader opportunities such as access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, and safe streets." State legislatures have passed numerous policies that touch on some of the core principles of livability. This report analyzes Minnesota's legislative and agency livability initiatives and places them within the context of similar activities in other states.

Investing in Higher Education for Latinos

<http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23299>

As the number of jobs requiring postsecondary education increases, the economic vitality of states will largely be determined by the number of citizens who earn a college degree. Latinos

are the largest and fastest growing minority group in the nation, yet they have the lowest education attainment levels. The success of Latino students in our education systems is a key component in ensuring stable state economies. With funding from the Kresge Foundation, NCSL has been engaged in a project to help state legislators become more aware of the trends and issues surrounding Latino educational attainment. As a part of this project, NCSL has released two new briefs.

Climate Change: State Policy Update 2011

<http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23485>

In January 2011, a rule giving the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) power to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act took effect. As this federal initiative emerged, many states responded by considering or adopting resolutions and legislation that reflect their concerns about EPA efforts. Most often, states have introduced and passed resolutions requesting EPA to delay or postpone rule

implementation or for Congress to impose a moratorium on EPA's regulatory actions related to greenhouse gas emissions. Some states also have considered bills and resolutions urging Congress to support the new rules.

Bringing Legislators to the Table: Public-Private Partnerships to Address Hunger

<http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23213>

The NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures launched this initiative to raise the visibility of hunger in America and highlight innovative and lasting solutions. The goal of the project is to connect the public and private sectors to improve the availability of healthy food for hungry families. The Hunger Partnership links legislators, legislative staff and interested businesses to identify innovative and successful programs and develop bipartisan, balanced, and concise materials and mechanisms to support legislators in their efforts to reduce hunger in America.

Highlights from the NCSL Legislative Summit in San Antonio, Texas

Aug. 5-8, 2011

Visit www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23037 for complete information.

Tools for Stressful Times

Cosponsored with the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee and the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society
Budget challenges, constituent needs, redistricting and the looming campaign season place unprecedented demands on lawmakers' time. Mike Collins of The Perfect Workday company in North Carolina helped participants determine the stresses in their lives and personal trigger points. He described the effects of difficult work and life events and helped people establish personal rituals to allow them to relax and refocus when dealing with stressful situations. Mike had each participant identify five key positive areas in their lives and gave tips on how to keep that perspective at hand as stresses occur in the workplace. He also led participants through an exercise to chart their well-being in categories of health, work, relationships and mental state and gave suggestions for how to deal with the assessments.

Caucus Strategic Planning

Cosponsored with the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee and the NCSL Leadership Staff Section
Legislative caucuses need to plan ahead to craft their message, achieve policy and budget successes and promote their individual members. This session shared tips on strategic planning initiatives that identify priorities and energize a caucus. Tom Wright of Alaska's Office of the Speaker moderated the session; the panelists were Alaska Representative Anna Fairclough, Hawaii Representative Marilyn Lee, and former Iowa Speaker of the House Christopher Rants.

Network Reception

The Network's annual reception honored incoming president Hawaii Representative Marilyn Lee, the Network executive board, and female lawmakers around the world.

Walk for Wellness

More than 150 legislators, legislative staff, and other NCSL friends rose early for a 5K walk/run through historic HemisFair Park.



Network Luncheon and Business Meeting: Women in the Military

Hawaii Representative Marilyn Lee was elected president during the Network's annual business meeting and several other legislators were elected to new positions on the board. Rebecca Hooper spoke about the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas. The threefold mission of the center is to provide rehabilitation for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom casualties who have sustained amputations, burns or functional limb loss; to provide education to Department of Defense and Department of Veterans' Affairs professionals on successful rehabilitation practices; and to promote research in the fields of orthopedics, prosthetics and physical and occupational rehabilitation. Col. Hooper discussed the amazing technology the center uses as part of its rehabilitation program for wounded warriors, and shared stories of some of the women who have benefitted from the center's programs and achieved and exceeded their goals.

Kimberly Olson then spoke about Grace After Fire, the Texas-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing outreach to all women veterans and their families, offering confidential peer support and increased access to appropriate trauma, mental health, addiction and community services. Col. Olson discussed some of the unique challenges female veterans face and why it is so important for women to have access to a peer support network.

Preparing for Bringing Home the Troops

NCSL Task Force on Military and Veterans' Affairs

With the end of combat in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom, America's troops will continue to return home to installations, bases and communities that will feel the stress of growth and expansion. This session explored how various levels of government are preparing to meet the needs of returning members of the military, particularly those who have physical and mental injuries.

Spotlight on Human Trafficking

NCSL Law and Criminal Justice Committee, NCSL Human Services Committee, NCSL Task Force on Immigration and the States, Women's Legislative Network, NCSL International Program

Oscar-winning actress Mira Sorvino discussed the human trafficking pandemic in the United States and abroad. As a United Nations goodwill ambassador, her dedication to the issue has taken her around the world. Mira discussed state and federal efforts to combat human trafficking and the important role of state lawmakers in partnership with the federal government to prosecute criminals and help victims.

Announcements

Representative Amy Stephens Honored

Network board member and Colorado House Majority Leader Amy Stephens was recognized by the Denver Women's Commission and the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce at their annual Colorado Lawmaker Awards. Representative Stephens was lauded for her work on the passage of Colorado Senate Bill 200 regarding health exchanges.



Stephens

News from Massachusetts Senator Harriette Chandler

Senator Harriette L. Chandler was recently honored by two state organizations. She received an award of appreciation from the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers.



Chandler

Senator Chandler is a supporter of Community Health Worker Day at the Massachusetts State House.

"The annual meeting was a huge success," Chandler said. "Many legislators and their staff were educated about the importance of funding for community health workers and community-based services and prevention." Senator Chandler also was given the Massachusetts Community College Council Legislative Award, celebrating her as a "Friend of the Community College." "I am pleased to receive this award and to be a supporter of MCCC," Chandler said. "It is my hope that I can continue to partner with educators and help maintain and improve the quality of education in our community colleges."

Senator Chandler is a co-chair of the newly approved Acquired Brain Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury Commission. The goal of the commission is to investigate and study the rehabilitative residential and integrated community-based support services for Commonwealth residents who suffer with acquired brain injury and with traumatic brain. The commission meets monthly and will submit a report of its findings to the legislature by November.

In March 2011, Senator Chandler co-launched the newly formed Massachusetts Legislative Prevention for Health Caucus. The mission of this caucus is to help create a "culture of prevention" in Massachusetts where prevention of disease and promotion of health, based on sound scientific evidence, are top priorities for both policymakers and practitioners. The caucus is comprised of state and local leaders who are working on the front lines of prevention and public health.

Senator Nellie Rivera-O'Reilly Works to Expand Access to Cancer Screening in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Network board member Senator Nellie Rivera-O'Reilly continues her fight to provide access to mammography screening for poor and uninsured women on



Rivera-O'Reilly

the island of St. Croix. As the second leading cause of death among women in the Virgin Islands, breast cancer has ravaged through the territory leaving deep scars in the hearts of young children and other relatives left behind.

Since taking office in 2009, Senator Rivera-O'Reilly has led the fight to expand mammography services, and she has enlisted the help of other women in the community through her monthly Women 2 Women gatherings. This initiative provides women with a forum to engage in open discussions and offer progressive ideas and solutions to the many issues confronting families and the community at large. It also offers participants the opportunity to build a network of professional women, drawing from each other's strengths and abilities. Women 2 Women promotes women-owned businesses by holding monthly meetings at women-operated establishments in the community.

At the first Women 2 Women meeting, the group engaged in a healthy discussion and produced several ideas and recommendations. A list of concerns and suggestions was submitted to the governor and to other members of the Legislature. Senator Rivera-O'Reilly intends to continue the monthly meetings and through discussion develop consensus on important issues and policies. The ultimate goal of the group is to develop a white paper that will include issues that are paramount to women and families. This document will be presented to elected officials in an effort to drive policy.

News from the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

On October 11, Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad was recognized with the Abigail Adams Award. The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus introduced the Tribute to Abigail Adams in 1988 to recognize six Massachusetts women leaders. Award recipients are women who have demonstrated through their work and/or their community activism an outstanding commitment to the realization of equal political, economic and social rights for women. Born in Weymouth, Mass., in 1744, Abigail Adams was one of the earliest women's advocates who held strong beliefs in equal political, economic and social rights for women. Abigail was the wife of the nation's second president, John Adams, and the mother of six children.



Haddad

Representative Haddad is the first woman to hold the position of speaker pro tempore and is the highest-ranking woman in the House. Haddad served two terms as chairwoman of the Joint Committee on Education and, prior to her recent appointment as speaker pro tempore, was assistant majority whip. Prior to her service at the State House, Representative Haddad was a health and physical educa-

Announcements (continued)

tion teacher in her native town of Somerset, where she also served on the Recreation Commission and School Committee. During her tenure in the House, she has undertaken a number of assignments, including the legislative Commission on Public Housing, Special Task Force on the Economy and Economic Development, Legislative Commission on Middle Level Education and the Council of State Governments/Eastern Region Committee on Energy and the Environment. She has been honored by many groups and organizations related to education and community service.



Arkansas' Ladies of the Legislature from Diverse Backgrounds with a Variety of Interests

The Arkansas General Assembly's newer lady members may be typical legislators in many

ways, but several have interests that make them unique.

- For example, Representative Leslee Milam Post (D) and her family own and operate the noted Post Winery, located atop St. Mary's Mountain in the beautiful Ozark Mountains near Altus, Ark. Representative Post also is the former director of a women's crisis program in nearby Fort Smith, Ark.
- Representative Kathy Webb (D), a restaurateur and business woman from the Little Rock area, serves as the first woman to co-chair the powerful Joint Budget Committee in the Arkansas General Assembly. She also was named Restaurateur of the Year by the Arkansas Hospitality Association. Her latest project sponsoring a women's issues study group during the legislative interim.
- Representative Lori Benedict (R) is a respected cattle/dairy rancher and businesswoman from Salem, Ark. Representative Benedict has the unusual distinction of being named a former Senior Ladies World Champion Cowboy Mounted Shooter! She and her family also operate a flight service at Ozark Regional Airport in Mountain Home, Ark.
- Representative Sheilla Ezelle Lampkin (D) of Monticello, Ark., is an amateur historian and preservationist. She writes a weekly historical column in the local media as well as articles for the county historical journal. She has won two state awards for her writing, has been named "Outstanding Member of the Year" in Delta Byways, a tourism organization, and received an "Excellence in Preservation through Restoration" award for her leadership in rehabilitating a 1924 Rosenwald School in Drew County, Ark.

These are a few samples of the diversity among the ladies of the Arkansas General Assembly in 2011. The array of major issues faced by our state legislature is as widespread as our women legislators' backgrounds. These issues include health care reform and health exchanges, tax cuts, higher education and common core standards, highway funding, jobs, social services, prison reform and energy, among others.

The diverse interests and insights of these women help them offer unique ideas to find balance and common ground as the legislature tackles major state issues.

—Rep. Sheilla E. Lampkin was recently named a member of the Advisory Council of the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL.

Indiana Sen. Jean Leising Honored as "Friend of Family Health Services"

This August, an Indiana community health organization named State Senator Jean Leising a "Friend of Family Health Services" for her ongoing support of quality health care. Leising, a former nurse and a member of the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services, supported many positive health care initiatives during the 2011 legislative session, including suicide prevention training; criminal background checks for licensed health care professionals; and student athlete head injuries and concussions education; and A prescription drug take-back program.



Leising

Throughout the summer months, Leising also served on the Health Finance Commission, which studied innovations in nursing-home services, proposed regulations on dispensing generic prescription drugs, working to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and creating more job and training opportunities for Hoosiers with disabilities.

Leising currently serves as a legislative member of Governor Mitch Daniels' Alzheimer's Disease and Related Senile Dementia Task Force. "At this time, more than 120,000 Hoosiers have Alzheimer's Disease," Leising said. "This past legislative session, the governor's special task force was formed to develop a state plan on how to manage the increasing number of Indiana residents afflicted with senile dementia." Leising said task force members also are gathering Hoosier opinions to influence a larger, nationwide strategy to fight the disease in the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

When asked about plans for the 2012 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly, Leising said her work as a member of Health and Provider Services will continue, as will her efforts to help protect Hoosier patients and ensure quality health care. "I enjoy working as a liaison between medical professionals and my Senate colleagues to help provide patients with top-notch services here in Indiana," Leising said. "I look forward to continuing these efforts in the future."

Save the Date! Wyoming Women's Organizations to Host Three Leadership Events

Wyoming women juggle numerous roles, including those of wife, mother, professional, family caregiver, athlete, volunteer, rancher, philanthropist and more. Adding political leadership and engagement may seem impossible at times, as reflected by the small representation of women in the Wyoming Legislature. The Wyoming Women's Legislative Caucus and Wyoming Women's Foundation are hosting three events this winter that will help women assume community leadership roles while juggling their other responsibilities.



continued on page 6

Announcements (continued)

On Feb. 7 in Cody and Feb. 9 in Laramie, half-day Leap into Leadership workshops will give area women the tools they need to run for office, including information about local boards and elected positions, and ways to become more active in local leadership. Last year's successful workshops in Gillette and Evanston attracted close to 100 women; nearly half said they were contemplating a run for political office afterwards.

On March 1 and 2, 2012, women are invited to Cheyenne to participate in Leap into Leadership, a networking conference with speakers, workshops and a visit to the Capitol. Keynote speaker Lisa Belkin has written a monthly column and blog for the New York Times as well as several books on issues of balancing work and life. Ms. Belkin will address how women can balance effective community leadership with their other commitments.

Representative Rosie Berger, statewide spokesperson for Leap into Leadership and chair of the House Appropriations Committee, cites the scarcity of women in elected positions at all levels in Wyoming as the nexus for this event, which will raise women's voices to add their perspective to the public dialog statewide. "As one of 13 women in the Wyoming Legislature, it's my responsibility to share my leadership experience and encourage others to participate in local and state politics," says Berger.

Event details will be available in December 2011. Contact Melissa Turley, info@wyowlc.org, or Sarah Mikesell Growney, sarah@wywf.org, for more information. These events are hosted in partnership with The Equipoise Fund, The White House Project and the Wyoming Community Foundation.

Founded in 2006, the bipartisan Wyoming Women's Legislative Caucus is a project of The Equipoise Fund. For more information, visit www.wyowlc.org. The Wyoming Women's

Foundation invests in the economic self-sufficiency of women and the future of girls. For more information, visit www.wywf.org.

Louisiana Women's Caucus to Give Scholarships and Awards in 2012

The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation is accepting applications for the Educational Advancement Opportunity (EAO) Scholarship. This scholarship is the brainchild of the women of the Louisiana Legislature, who are determined to broaden the educational opportunities available to young women in the state. Each \$500 scholarship award can be used to defray the costs of tuition, room and board and/or books. Scholarships can be applied to a licensed proprietary school, theological or seminary school, two-year technical or community college, four-year college or university, or a graduate or professional school.



The Women's Caucus Foundation also is accepting nominations for the 2012 Women of Excellence Awards. The awards recognize and honor the exemplary achievements and contributions of extraordinary Louisiana women who personify excellence in their leadership, profession, academics, community service, character and integrity. The categories for the awards are Business; College Woman of Excellence (ages 18 to 25); Education and Research; Government and Law; High School Woman of Excellence (for graduating seniors); STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics); and Volunteerism. The High School Woman of Excellence Award and the College Woman of Excellence Award winners each will receive the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship for \$1,000.

Application forms and additional criteria for the EAO Scholarship and Women of Excellence Awards can be found at llwc.louisiana.gov. Applications must be received by Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012.



New From NCSL!

States Implement Health Reform Brief: Women's Health

Visit <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?TabId=19023> for complete information.

The 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA) contains many measures that affect women. This brief focuses on initiatives that relate specifically to health insurance coverage, Medicaid requirements and the states' role related to these issues.

Key federal provisions include insurance coverage, Medicaid, other provisions and authorized but unfunded provisions. Also covered are state roles in implementation. Most provisions in the ACA on women's health do not require state action; however, lawmakers may consider:

- Enforcing provisions, including within the exchanges.
- Exploring state roles on abortion coverage in the exchanges.
- Amending Medicaid to cover standing birth centers or to adopt the family planning option.
- Adopting other authorized programs as funding is provided to states.

Women in State Legislatures 2012

Four states (Louisiana, New Jersey, Mississippi and Virginia) held regular state legislative elections in 2011. Based upon preliminary returns, 1,737 women will be serving in state legislatures around the country in 2012. This is a decline from the 1,745 women who served as of November 2011, which was itself a decline from the 2010 session's record high of more than 1,800 women.

State	Women in the House	Women in the Senate	Total Women	Percentage of Female Legislators
Alabama	14	5	19	13.6%
Alaska	10	4	14	23.3%
Arizona	20	11	31	34.4%
Arkansas	22	8	30	22.2%
California	22	12	34	28.3%
Colorado	24	17	41	41.0%
Connecticut	47	9	56	29.9%
Delaware	9	7	16	25.8%
Florida	27	14	41	25.6%
Georgia	47	9	56	23.7%
Hawaii	17	9	26	34.2%
Idaho	19	9	28	26.7%
Illinois	39	16	55	31.1%
Indiana	21	11	32	21.3%
Iowa	24	7	31	20.7%
Kansas	33	12	45	27.3%
Kentucky	19	6	25	18.1%
Louisiana	12	4	16	11.1%
Maine	47	9	55	29.6%
Maryland	47	11	58	30.9%
Massachusetts	37	11	48	24.0%
Michigan	27	4	31	20.9%
Minnesota	44	20	64	31.8%
Mississippi	21	8	29	16.7%
Missouri	39	6	45	22.8%
Montana	28	8	36	24.0%
Nebraska	0	11	11	22.4%
Nevada	12	6	18	28.6%
New Hampshire	98	6	104	24.5%
New Jersey	22	11	33	27.5%
New Mexico	20	10	30	26.8%
New York	34	11	45	21.2%
North Carolina	32	6	38	22.4%
North Dakota	15	6	21	14.9%
Ohio	22	8	30	22.7%
Oklahoma	15	4	19	12.8%
Oregon	17	8	25	27.8%
Pennsylvania	33	11	44	17.4%
Rhode Island	19	10	29	25.7%
South Carolina	16	0	16	9.4%
South Dakota	14	7	21	20.0%
Tennessee	17	7	24	18.2%
Texas	32	6	38	21.0%
Utah	13	5	18	17.3%
Vermont	58	11	69	38.3%
Virginia	18	7	25	17.9%
Washington	29	18	47	32.0%
West Virginia	22	2	24	17.9%
Wisconsin	23	10	33	25.0%
Wyoming	12	1	13	14.4%
TOTAL	1,309	428	1,737	23.5%

(Data as of Nov. 21, 2011. Subject to change due to resignations and special elections).

Thank You to Alliance Members!

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)

- Novartis
- Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Partner (\$2,500)

- Coca-Cola
- Equipment Leasing and Finance Association
- Exxon-Mobil
- Intuit

Contributor (\$1,000)

- Alticor
- Ash Grove Cement Company
- Hallmark Cards Inc.
- Mary Kay Inc.
- Procter & Gamble
- State & Federal Communications

Friend (\$500)

- American Beverage Association
- Avon
- International Council of Shopping Centers

Note from the Alliance Chair

Hello to Alliance members,

The Network had a very successful Legislative Summit in San Antonio. It was great to see so many Alliance friends at the reception, luncheon and other events. Thank you for your support, and I hope you will continue to stay involved throughout 2012.



Brown

We are considering updating the Alliance sponsorship levels and benefits, but we want to hear your ideas before making any changes. The Network depends on Alliance support, and we hope that you value your participation. Please call me with suggestions that could make the Alliance's relationship with the Network even stronger in the future.

I also encourage you to contact me with suggestions for companies and organizations with whom we can share the benefits of joining the Alliance, as we would like to recruit new sponsors in 2012.

Thank you in advance for your advice.

Dennis Brown
Vice President, State Government Relations
Equipment Leasing & Finance Association
(202) 238-3411
dbrown@elfaonline.org

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@nsl.org.

Equipment Leasing - Equipping Business for Success

The Equipment Leasing and Finance Association (ELFA)



represents the \$628 billion commercial equipment finance sector. ELFA members do not have retail stores nor do they have inventories of equipment. Our more than 500 members include many of the nation's largest financial services companies and manufacturers, as well as regional and community banks and independent medium and small commercial finance companies throughout the country. ELFA members' clients range from Fortune 100 companies to small and medium enterprises to governments and nonprofits. Issues of concern include data security, commercial contract law, electronic recycling, and sales and income tax. If you have questions about this business-to-business marketplace contact ELFA Vice President Dennis Brown at dbrown@elfaonline.org or telephone (202) 238-3411.

Coca-Cola and WWF Partner to Protect the Polar Bear's Home

Polar bears have been a part of the Coca-Cola tradition since 1922, when they first appeared in a Coca-Cola print advertisement in France. Now, however,



the polar bears need our help in the Arctic. That's why in October Coca-Cola and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) announced a major initiative, "Arctic Home," to raise awareness and funding to help protect the polar bears' Arctic habitat. To call attention to this cause, Coca-Cola is making 1.4 billion of its iconic red Coke cans white for the holidays. The company is making an initial donation of \$2 million to WWF and inviting fans to join them by texting \$1 donations. Coca-Cola will match consumer donations made with a package code by March 15, 2012, up to \$1 million. Funds will go toward WWF's polar bear conservation work. To find out how you can become involved and to learn more, visit www.ArcticHome.com.

Novartis: A Leader in MS Treatment Innovation

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex and



unpredictable neurological disease that affects more than 2.1 million people worldwide, including more than 400,000 people in the United States, and also is a leading cause of disability. The most common forms of the disease, relapsing forms of MS, are characterized by exacerbations or flare-ups interspersed with periods of disease remission. Typically, MS strikes in early adulthood, and it affects twice as many women as men.

While the exact cause is unknown, MS affects the body's immune system by attacking the myelin sheath, a layer that protects nerve fibers in the central nervous system. When the myelin is repeatedly attacked, permanent nerve damage can result. Patient symptoms differ, but the most common include serious fatigue, numbness, balance problems and difficulty walking.

Although there is no cure for MS, treatments are available that reduce the frequency of relapses and disability progression. The first treatment option for MS was introduced in 1993. Today, most treatments available to MS patients are administered via injection or infusion, leaving an unmet need for more treatment options.

Novartis is committed to meeting the needs of the MS community by offering effective and innovative treatment options and support services to help people with MS manage the disease. This commitment has led to FDA approval of two Novartis treatments for MS. Much remains to be done to help the MS community, but Novartis remains devoted to being a leading innovator in MS and to bringing hope to MS patients and their families.

Meet The Network Board



President
Representative
Marilyn Lee (D)
Hawaii



President-Elect
Senator
Dori Connor (R)
Delaware



Vice President
Senator
Amanda McGill (X)
Nebraska



Past President
Representative
Rosie Berger (R)
Wyoming

Eastern Regional Members



Senator
Harriette Chandler (D)
Massachusetts



Senator
Diane Allen (R)
New Jersey

Western Regional Members



Representative
Amy Stephens (R)
Colorado



Senator
Bettye Davis (D)
Alaska

Midwestern Regional Members



Senator
Jean Leising (R)
Indiana



Representative
Shirley Meyer (D)
North Dakota

At-Large Members



Senator
Nellie Rivera-O'Reilly (I)
U.S. Virgin Islands



Representative Sharon
Beasley-Teague (D)
Georgia

Southern Regional Members



Representative
Linda Harper-Brown (R)
Texas



House Majority Leader
Johnnie Roebuck (D)
Arkansas

NOBEL Women Representative



Senator
Sharon Weston Broome (D)
Louisiana

Become an Advisory Council member!

The Advisory Council consists of two members from each state and is politically balanced. Advisory Council members serve as liaisons between their states and the Network to fulfill the Network's purpose: to promote the participation, empowerment and leadership of women legislators. Advisory Council members work with the Network on activities and events within their state, provide information to the Network regarding organizations and activities involving women legislators, and assist with program and fundraising efforts as determined by the Executive Board.

Review the list of members on the following page, and consider applying to represent your state. Contact Katie Ziegler at katie.ziegler@ncsl.org or (303) 856-1514 for more information.

Women's Legislative Network of NCSL Advisory Council (2011 - 2012)

State/Jurisdiction	Title/Name	Party
Alabama	VACANT	R
Alabama	Rep. Laura Hall	D
Alaska	VACANT	D
Alaska	Sen. Lesil McGuire	R
Arizona	Sen. Kyrsten Sinema	D
Arizona	VACANT	R
Arkansas	Rep. Sheila Lampkin	D
Arkansas	VACANT	R
California	VACANT	D
California	VACANT	R
Colorado	Sen. Suzanne Williams	D
Colorado	VACANT	R
Connecticut	Sen Andrea Stillman	D
Connecticut	VACANT	R
Delaware	Sen. Patricia Blevins (Majority Leader)	D
Delaware	Rep. Valerie Longhurst	D
Dist. of Columbia	VACANT	D
Florida	Sen. Arthenia Joyner	D
Florida	Sen. Evelyn Lynn	R
Georgia	Rep. Dee Dawkins-Haigler	D
Georgia	VACANT	R
Hawaii	Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland	D
Hawaii	Rep. Corinne Ching	R
Idaho	VACANT	D
Idaho	Rep. Maxine Bell	R
Illinois	Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (Majority Leader)	D
Illinois	VACANT	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. Vicki Schmidt	R
Kentucky	Rep. Joni L. Jenkins	D
Kentucky	Rep. Susan Westrom	D
Louisiana	VACANT	D
Louisiana	VACANT	R
Maine	VACANT	D
Maine	Sen. Debra Plowman	R
Maryland	Sen. Delores Kelley	D
Maryland	Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam	D
Maryland	Del. Donna Stifler	R
Massachusetts	VACANT	D
Massachusetts	Rep. Anne Gobi	D
Michigan	Rep. Lesia Liss	D
Michigan	VACANT	R
Minnesota	Rep. Nora Slawik	D
Minnesota	VACANT	R
Mississippi	Rep. Jessica Upshaw	R
Mississippi	Sen. Alice Harden	D
Missouri	VACANT	D
Missouri	Rep. Jeanie Lauer	R
Montana	Sen. Trudi Schmidt	D

State/Jurisdiction	Title/Name	Party
Montana	Rep. Janna Taylor	R
Nebraska	Sen. Kate Sullivan	X
Nebraska	Sen. Kathy Campbell	X
Nevada	Assy. Debbie Smith	D
Nevada	VACANT	R
New Hampshire	VACANT	D
New Hampshire	Rep. Phyllis Katsakiones	R
New Jersey	Sen. Nia Gill	D
New Jersey	Sen. Loretta Weinberg	D
New Mexico	Rep. Patricia Lundstrom	D
New Mexico	VACANT	R
New York	Assy. Barbara Clark	D
New York	VACANT	R
North Carolina	Rep. Beverly Earle	D
North Carolina	Rep. Shirley Blackburn Randleman	R
North Dakota	Rep. Nancy Johnson	R
North Dakota	Rep. Lois Delmore	D
Ohio	Rep. Tracy Maxwell Heard	D
Ohio	VACANT	R
Oklahoma	Rep. Lee Denney	R
Oklahoma	Rep. Leslie Osborn	R
Oregon	Rep. Sherrie Sprenger	R
Oregon	Rep. Sara Gelsler	D
Pennsylvania	Rep. Babette Josephs	D
Pennsylvania	Rep. Marguerite Quinn	R
Puerto Rico	Sen. Luz Z. Arce-Ferrer	N
Puerto Rico	Rep. Jenniffer González Colón	N
Rhode Island	Sen. Elizabeth Crowley	D
Rhode Island	Sen. Rhoda Perry	D
South Carolina	Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter	D
South Carolina	Rep. Jenny Anderson Horne	R
South Dakota	VACANT	D
South Dakota	Rep. Joni Cutler	R
Tennessee	Rep. Karen Camper	D
Tennessee	Rep. Brenda Gilmore	D
Tennessee	Speaker Beth Halteman Harwell	R
Texas	Rep. Dawnna Dukes	D
Texas	VACANT	R
Utah	Sen. Karen Morgan	D
Utah	Rep. Merlynn Newbold	R
Vermont	Rep. Anne O'Brien	D
Vermont	VACANT	R
Virginia	Sen. Yvonne Miller	D
Virginia	VACANT	D
Washington	Sen. Karen Fraser	D
Washington	VACANT	D
West Virginia	Del. Bonnie Brown	D
West Virginia	Sen. Donna Boley	R
Wisconsin	Rep. Donna Seidel	D
Wisconsin	VACANT	R
Wyoming	Rep. Mary Throne	D
Wyoming	Rep. Sue Wallis	R

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:

- Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics (www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter/)
- Center for American Women and Politics (www.cawp.rutgers.edu)
- Center for Women Policy Studies (www.centerwomenpolicy.org)
- National Order of Black Elected Legislative Women (www.nobel-women.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/)

Center for Women Policy Studies Programs on Reproductive Rights, HIV/AIDS and College Access



At the Center for Women Policy Studies' National Strategic Action Convening on Reproductive Rights and Justice in July, 18 female state legislators from 15 states met to craft plans to ensure protection of reproductive rights and health in their states and nationwide. The legislators created a Policy Resolution on Reproductive Rights and Justice that calls for legislatures to establish Reproductive Rights Awareness Week (Jan. 22-28, 2012) "to encourage public awareness, conversation, and support for reproductive rights and justice nationwide."

The center's National Summit for State Legislators on Women and HIV/AIDS (Oct. 28-31, 2011) addressed the effects of HIV/AIDS on women in the United States and developed strategies for legislators to take the lead on state-level policy change to ensure that woman-centered HIV/AIDS prevention, access to care, and support systems are in place. The center gave participants DVD copies of its film, *"Fighting For Our Lives": Women Confronting AIDS*, to share with colleagues and constituents.

The 15 legislators who participated in the center's National Seminar on Access to Postsecondary Education for Low-Income Women (Nov. 3-6, 2011) focused on new policy options and strategies that promote access to at least two years of college for low-income women, especially TANF recipients. This is an essential "welfare reform" effort, since research and data analyses demonstrate that even two years of college is the most effective strategy to move women from poverty to self-sufficiency.

To learn more about the center's 2011 programs and plans for 2012, contact center president Leslie R. Wolfe at LWolfe@centerwomenpolicy.org.

News from WiLL/WAND

This September, WiLL (the Women Legislators' Lobby) brought more than 100 state legislators and community leaders to Washington for its biennial confer-



ence, *Women at the Table of Power*. We came together to celebrate women elected to state and federal office, to hone networking and messaging skills, and to bring our voices to the critical national policy debates. We also celebrated WiLL's 20th birthday!

Congresswoman Donna Edwards welcomed us to Washington and shared her perspective on national and international concerns. We were honored to welcome Under Secretary of State Ellen Tauscher, who gave an inspiring speech about the critical role women can play in protecting our nation and the world from the threats posed by nuclear weapons. The Truman National Security Project and ReThink Media shared training and tips to help participants connect with diverse audiences on today's national security issues. Christine Jahnke, author of *The Well-Spoken Woman*, offered practical advice for effective and powerful communication with the public.

Honoring the work of current and former state legislators is always a conference highlight. This year U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen, a WiLL member when she served in the New Hampshire State House, was recognized as our 2011 Torchbearer.

Our 2011 WiLL Pacesetters were recognized for their contributions to sound public policy and their inspiring models of leadership. Awardees included Senator Kyrsten Sinema (Ariz.), Representative Nancy Todd (Colo.), Representative Gloria Frazier (Ga.), Representative Deborah Berry (Iowa), Representative Mary Lou Marzian (Ky.), Delegate Sheila Hixson (Md.), Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez (Md.), Representative Karen Camper (Tenn.), Representative Jennifer Seelig (Utah), and Representative Sarah Edwards (Vt.).

Legislators held a total of more than 100 meetings with their members of Congress, highlighting urgent needs in the states and urging a shift in national priorities to address those needs amid the economic downturn. We look ahead with optimism to building the number of women who are seated at the power table.