



# WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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

Spring 2011

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## Note from the President

Happy spring! I know it has been a difficult few months for most legislatures around the country. I hope you are able to find solutions for challenging problems and advocate for your constituents' best interests. We are all dealing with limited resources within statehouses. I would like to remind you of what we in Wyoming view as the premiere resource for state legislative information in the country: NCSL. Think of NCSL as your personal legislative "consultant." Wyoming has received specialized research, training and assistance from NCSL on dozens of occasions in recent years. I hope you will think of the Women's Legislative Network as your gateway to NCSL and the first point of contact if you need information. Please contact Katie Ziegler or me at any time.



*Berger*

My involvement with the Network and with NCSL has given me some incredible opportunities. Along with a small delegation of other legislators, I met with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden during the NCSL Spring Forum in April to discuss the budget deficit and the states' perspectives on other critical issues. One of the most important steps we can take as a nation is to maintain open communication between the state and federal levels and across party lines, whether or not we see eye-to-eye with the current administration. Also during the Spring Forum, the Network joined the NCSL Military and Veterans' Affairs Task Force for a visit to the Pentagon to learn more about the military's community and family policies. The group discussed several interesting ideas that we intend to explore in future programs, including education for military children and job opportunities for military spouses.

We are excited to start planning the Network's activities in San Antonio for the NCSL Legislative Summit! In addition to our annual lunch and reception, we will participate in the Sixth Annual Walk for Wellness. There will be a session about "Tools for Stressful Times" and programs related to women in the military and military families. Check the Network website for updates. I do hope you will join us during the Summit—and bring a friend to our events! We want to increase the participation of women who may not have been involved so far. New ideas are what keep us strong.

*Rosie Berger*

Rosie Berger  
State Representative, Wyoming  
President, Women's Legislative Network of NCSL



## Highlights of Network Events at the Legislative Summit in San Antonio August 8-11

Check the Network agenda online at [www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23037](http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23037) for additional sessions and updated information.

### Monday, August 8

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Network Executive Board Meeting

### Tuesday, August 9

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Tools for Stressful Times

1:45-3:15 p.m.

Caucus Strategic Planning

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Network Reception

### Wednesday, August 10

6:30-8:00 a.m.

Walk for Wellness

11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Network Luncheon and Business Meeting.

Keynote about women and the military.

# To Update You

## NCSL Spring Forum in Washington, D.C.

April 14-15, 2011

For complete meeting information, including session summaries, visit [www.ncsl.org/?tabid=22382](http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=22382).

### Briefings and Tour of the Pentagon

*Women's Legislative Network and the NCSL Military and Veterans' Affairs Task Force*

State legislators received a tour of the Pentagon and met with Robert Gordon III, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy. Mr. Gordon shared information about new and ongoing initiatives within the DOD, including a review of military children's educational status, the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program, military family life counselors, and the new White House Joining Forces program. Legislators also discussed initiatives in their states with Ed Kringer, the director of the State Liaison and Educational Opportunity offices.

### Student Assessments: What Legislators Need to Know

*NCSL Education Committee and the Women's Legislative Network*

This session featured a discussion of student assessments and how they affect state policy and budgets.

### Ensuring Retirement Security

*NCSL Labor and Economic Development Committee and the Women's Legislative Network*

The financial integrity and long-term solvency of Social Security are critical to retirees and workers who are paying into the system. This session examined the finances of Social Security, explored options for ensuring its long-term stability, and considered ideas for including all workers.

### Foreclosures: Strategies for Saving the Neighborhood

*NCSL Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce Committee and Women's Legislative Network*

State policymakers are crafting legislation to help homeowners who are facing foreclosure and to address issues in the foreclosure process. This session examined what policymakers and lenders are doing about problems with the process and to ensure fair treatment for homeowners.



## New From NCSL!

### Federal Health Reform Collaboration Site

(<http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=160&tabs=831,139,1177#1177>)

NCSL has created a members-only online collaboration page to provide easy, instant communication among state legislators and legislative staff involved in health reform implementation.

The Collaborative Network page includes:

- Document Libraries: Federal and State
- Resources and Calendar
- Forum - an online discussion site

You will need to login with your NCSL username and password to access the site. If you do not have a username, you can request one online.

### NCSL e-Newsletters

[www.ncsl.org/?tabid=22151](http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=22151)

A new website with all NCSL e-newsletters in one place.

### Improving Women's Health: State Policy Options

[www.ncsl.org/?TabId=22117](http://www.ncsl.org/?TabId=22117)

This brochure was developed with the advice of the bipartisan group of state legislators who attended the women's health seminar at the 2010 Fall Forum.

### Opportunities for Working Families Web Resource

<http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=21841>

Many American families struggle with financial insecurity and a lack of opportunity. Since 2002, The National Conference of State Legislatures/Annie E. Casey Foundation Partnership on Family Economic Success has helped legislators who want to create more opportunities for working families to succeed. Visit the website to learn more about working families issues at NCSL.

## Announcements

### Colorado Women's Caucus Reunion

Recognizing there is much to learn from the women who came before them, the Colorado Legislative Women's Caucus gathered for their Second Annual Reunion on April 12, 2011. More than 60 current and past women legislators came together to share stories and celebrate women in the legislature. Former minority leader Peggy Kerns (and current director of the NCSL Center for Ethics in Government) brought newspaper clippings from her years in the legislature and read from the news stories to show how unfairly women were treated as recently as the 1990s. The only woman to have served as speaker of the House, Lola Spradley, shared her thoughts about what it means to be a good leader.



Those attending also enjoyed hearing from Rep. Laura Miller, who served in the House from 1971-1976. Rep. Miller, now 91 years old, reminisced about the lack of women's restroom facilities and replacing the carpet after the last person to chew tobacco left the legislature. The Women's Caucus also showed its support for women in the community by donating baby items for the Denver Health Foundation.

### Illinois Conference of Women Legislators Mentors College Women

Illinois' program, NEW Leadership™ is a nonpartisan, week-long residential program for college women designed to increase women's representation in all aspects of public life, including elected office. The program brings together our brightest students and challenges their critical and creative thinking regarding public policy, as well as encouraging them to make a commitment to public policy early in their careers.



Participants learn firsthand what it means to serve in public office. Women leaders, including current and former women legislators, other elected and appointed officials, and community and business entrepreneurs, serve as mentors and speakers in the program. Students also see public policy in action by visiting government offices, including those in the James R. Thompson Center and Chicago City Council. Hands-on training throughout the sessions allows participants to engage with the faculty and speakers in a fun and collegial atmosphere. NEW Leadership™ culminates in a group policy analysis project, during which students practice their new skills and present their findings in a mock legislative hearing.

NEW Leadership™ Illinois is a joint initiative of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois and the Conference of Women Legislators of the Illinois General Assembly. The program was developed in partnership with the New Leadership Development Network established by the Center for American Women and Politics, a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

### Wyoming Women Asked to Run

The bipartisan Wyoming Women's Legislative Caucus and its partners assembled nearly 225 men and women in Cheyenne Feb. 3 and 4, 2011 to hear speakers and participate in workshops and discussion aimed at increasing the number of women in leadership in the Equality State.

"Be rebellious enough to run," said Rep. Mary Throne of Cheyenne at dinner February 3, drawing on a letter written by Abigail Adams in 1776 to her husband John. Rep. Throne, Rep. Elaine Harvey and Rep. Rosie Berger shared stories of their road to the Legislature, ranging from a conscious plan carried out over five years to being asked to run after approaching more than 20 men to represent her district in the Legislature. Rep. Berger, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, encouraged attendees to become involved and be a leader at every level of their daily lives.

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## Announcements (continued)

On Friday morning, State Auditor Cynthia Cloud, herself a graduate of Leap into Leadership, hosted breakfast in her office in the State Capitol. “We need to work harder to identify women interested in making a difference in their communities and their state,” said Auditor Cloud. Participants attended three workshops Friday offered by the Women’s Legislative Network of NCSL, the White House Project and the Equality State Policy Center.

A panel of speakers at Friday’s lunch included lobbyist Larry Wolfe, an attorney with Holland & Hart, who kicked off the panel by asserting that the Wyoming Legislature might be a more diverse and representative institution if legislators were paid a year-round salary and offered state health insurance. At the end of the day, participants discussed drafting a bill to pay legislators an annual salary as a way to make our Legislature more representative of Wyoming citizens.

Motivated by the engagement and enthusiasm of attendees at the February event, the Wyoming Women’s Legislative Caucus [[www.wyowlc.org](http://www.wyowlc.org)] partnered with the Wyoming Women’s Foundation [[www.wywf.org](http://www.wywf.org)] to offer local Leap into Leadership trainings for women on May 11 and 12 in Evanston and Gillette, Wyoming. Contact Melissa Turley [[info@wyowlc.org](mailto:info@wyowlc.org)] for more information about the Caucus.



*Wyoming Representatives Elaine Harvey, Rosie Berger and Mary Throne, pictured with Wyoming Women’s Foundation President Sandy Caldwell*

## Tennessee Honors Current and Former Women Legislators



The celebration of Women’s History started as a week in March 1978 in Sonoma County, Calif. Later, it became a national week in 1981. Finally, in 1987, Congress expanded it to a national month. Over time, women’s roles have grown from homemakers to lawmakers, wives to business partners, daughters to martyrs, and sisters to activists. Because of the great achievements of women throughout time, and specifically in the Tennessee General Legislative Assembly, it was only right to honor them with a joint resolution. Not long after the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment passed, women began to make their mark in the General Assembly. Women legislators have helped to provide more rights and social initiatives not only to other women, but to the population as a whole—and that must be applauded. More often than not, women are not recognized; thus, it was time to create this masterful resolution and presentation.

On March 31, Rep. Karen Camper, Women’s Caucus chair, presented House Joint Resolution 190 on the House Floor. Speaker Beth Harwell, the first woman speaker in Tennessee, presided. The resolution boasted of the past and present 84 women legislators’ achievements. Some former women members were able to attend this momentous day. Past and present members stood proudly in the well as Rep. Debra Maggart, Republican Caucus chair, and Sen. Thelma Harper, Black Caucus chair, thanked the assembly. Rep. Lois DeBerry, the former and longest-serving speaker pro tempore in the nation, concluded the presentation with a passionate speech about how bridges were built by historic women. She shared how nothing can be accomplished alone, in laud of the men who aided women in their journey. As Rep. DeBerry concluded, applause rolled in not only from the women, but also from the male members. In the galley, guests and interns felt the fervor of the assembly; and I’m more than positive that every woman, member or not, felt grand. In the words of Sen. Delores Grisham, Senate Education Committee chair, “[That day was] not so much a recognition of women and their contribution as an acknowledgement that ideas do not have gender, courage does not have gender.”

Once again, we thank the women who have served in our Legislative Assembly. We will continue to pay tribute to such strong, groundbreaking women.

*Representative Karen Camper, Women’s Caucus chair*

## Announcements (continued)



### Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Announces Scholarship, Women of Excellence Award Recipients

The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation is committed to the development and preparation of the next generation of women leaders in Louisiana. As one of their primary missions, the women legislators, through the Foundation, are determined to broaden educational opportunities for women in Louisiana to support themselves and their families. Six young women are the first to be awarded the newly created Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Educational Advancement Opportunity Scholarship. Each \$500 scholarship will be used to defray the cost of tuition, room and board, and books. Recipients were chosen from an exceptional pool of scholarship applicants across the state. The women of the Louisiana Legislature are pleased to help these young women with their academic goals and future dreams.

2011 scholarship recipients:

- *Natalie "Sloane" Arena, Lafayette High School, Lafayette*
- *Rachel DiMario, St. Joseph Academy, Baton Rouge*
- *Kelly G. Fleenor, University of New Orleans, New Orleans*
- *Sarah Guidry, South Lafourche High School, Cut Off*

- *Allyson Renae Jones, Northshore High School, Slidell*
- *Breanna ReShawn Riggins, McKinley Senior High School, Baton Rouge*

The Caucus also is pleased to announce the 2011 recipients of the Women of Excellence Award. The award recognizes and honors the exemplary achievements and contributions of extraordinary Louisiana women who personify excellence in their leadership, profession, academics, community service, character and integrity.

Award recipients are:

- **Business:** *Beverly Choppin, Wright & Percy Insurance & Bancorp South Insurance Services Inc., Baton Rouge*
- **Education:** *Phyllis Coleman Mouton, Baton Rouge Community College, Baton Rouge*
- **Health and Medicine:** *Kathryn Grigsby, Hospice of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge*
- **Media and Public Relations:** *Jacqueline "Jacqui" Vines, Cox Louisiana, Baton Rouge*
- **Volunteerism and Civic Involvement:** *Mary Ann Sternberg, LSU School of Mass Communication, Baton Rouge*
- **College Woman of Excellence (ages 18 to 25) and Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship Recipient:** *Alexie D. Gaddis, Loyola University, New Orleans*
- **High School Woman of Excellence and Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship Recipient:** *Emilie Harmeyer, Holy Savior Menard Central High School, Boyce*

### Hawaii Women's Caucus Session Wrap-Up



Hawaii's legislative session ended May 6. Our Women's Caucus package was very successful. We dedicated this year's package to a local physician, Dr. Tricia Wright, who started a clinic

for pregnant, drug-addicted mothers and who has had great success helping them deliver healthy babies and start new lives. We became one of several states that have made it illegal to shackle incarcerated pregnant women in labor. We also passed legislation extending the statute of limitations in child sexual abuse cases, and fixed a loophole in our Temporary Restraining Order law.

We sponsored a successful "Easter Basket" project for our local homeless shelter, collecting baskets filled with useful items for homeless families to use when moving from shelters to new homes.

Two new freshman women joined our ranks this session, and I interviewed them both on my weekly public access TV show. It looks like Hawaii has one of the higher percentages of women in elective office, but we still need to do better.

*Representative Marilyn Lee*

### Wyoming Representative Rosie Berger Honored by Youth Services Association

The Wyoming Youth Services Association (WYSA) recognized Rep. Rosie Berger as one of two "Co-Legislators of the Year" for 2010. A member of the House of Representatives since 2003, Rep. Berger has served on numerous committees, including the House Judiciary Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Berger, who represents District 51, has chaired the Appropriations Committee since 2009. In her work with appropriations, Rep. Berger worked diligently to secure additional funding for the state's crisis shelters. In addition, Rep. Berger sponsored the graduated driver's license legislation that has helped to reduce the number of accidents involving young drivers. She has consistently advocated for community-based programming that kept kids safe, and she also has supported treatment programs around the state. WYSA is comprised of 17 nonprofit crisis shelters, group homes and residential treatment centers around Wyoming. Last year, WYSA served more than 2,100 children in its programs, which focus on helping youth return successfully to their homes.



*Berger*

**Announcements (continued)****Illinois State Representative Karen Yarbrough Selected for Leadership Role**

Rep. Karen Yarbrough, at the start of her sixth term, was named assistant House majority leader. This will allow her to play an even greater role in shaping public policy in Illinois, and also make her a stronger advocate for residents of her district. She also was named chair of the Housing Committee, where she will continue her efforts to prevent foreclosure and help communities and families deal with the aftermath of the nation's housing crisis.



Yarbrough

**Tennessee Representative Brenda Gilmore Hosts "New Beginning" Job Fair, Honored by Community Organization**

Rep. Brenda Gilmore welcomed more than 2,000 men and women to a "New Beginning" job fair for ex-offenders in Nashville on April 23. She was motivated to organize the event after meeting many constituents who had trouble securing a job because of past offenses on their records. "If success happens when people come out because they need help, I'll say it was a success," Rep. Gilmore said. "These were just ordinary people who had families they are trying to care for. But they have, for some reason, gotten caught up in the system, many of them because they made an error in judgment when they were young that has followed them throughout their lives." The fair had 26 information booths, including employers, community organizations, attorneys and ministers.



Gilmore

Rep. Gilmore recently received the Crowning Achievement Award from the organization FiftyForward, the leading resource for adults 50+ in Middle Tennessee who seek to live longer, more fulfilling lives. It is the premier provider of innovative programs and services for older adults and their families through a powerful leadership team of staff, volunteers and community partners. Rep. Gilmore is a past president and current member of the FiftyForward Endowment board and a longtime community volunteer and leader.

**U.S. Virgin Islands Senator Nellie Rivera O'Reilly Sponsors Women's History Month Essay Contest**

March was Women's History Month, during which the achievements of women in all areas of life are recognized, including their effect on the development and growth of girls and young women in our community. March 8 marked the centennial anniversary of International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. In honor of Women's History Month, Senator O'Reilly's office sponsored an essay contest, "Our History Is Our Strength." All students in the seventh and eighth grades were invited and encouraged to participate. Each student answered the following essay question: "Name a woman of influence and explain how



O'Reilly

her accomplishments helped change or will help change the lives of women." The winner from the St. Croix district was Shaquane' Fenton, an eighth grader at St. Mary's, who wrote about Rosa Parks. The winner from St. Thomas was Ja'Viere Morris, an eighth grader from Tutu Church of God Academy, who wrote about black women throughout history. I thank everyone who participated and congratulate the winners!

**Rhode Island Senator Elizabeth Crowley Works to Improve Women's Heart Health**

Senator Elizabeth Crowley is the sponsor of a bill that now is under consideration by the Rhode Island House to create a cardiovascular disease screening and lifestyle-intervention pilot program for uninsured and underinsured low-income women between the ages of 40 and 64. Cardiovascular disease kills more women annually than the next five leading causes of death combined, but many women still are not aware of the dangers of heart disease. The pilot program would be in one of the state's six core cities and be modeled on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WISE-WOMAN program. Services would include blood pressure and cholesterol testing, smoking cessation assistance, and nutrition and physical activity programs. "There are ways women can reduce their own risk of cardiovascular disease, but women who can't afford good health care may not ever hear about them," said Sen. Crowley. "This program not only would improve the health of those participating, but also would save public dollars because it would mean fewer uninsured and underinsured women would end up in hospitals with expensive cardiovascular health emergencies."



Crowley

**A Woman's Guess**

Arkansas is known for many things. World-renowned businesses such as Dillard's, J.B. Hunt, Tyson, Riceland, and, of course, Wal-Mart are not only located in Arkansas but were founded here. We're the second largest producer of rice in the world. The state's landscape is as varied the nation's, spanning the Ozark Mountains in northwest Arkansas all the way to historic Delta in the eastern part of our state. Growing up in Arkansas inspired the songs of Johnny Cash and the stories of John Grisham and Maya Angelou. Arkansas has been the home of one U.S. President, Bill Clinton (D) and presidential contenders Mike Huckabee (R) and General Wesley Clark (D). More than 50 years ago, the country watched the courage of nine black students from Arkansas walk into the doors of Central High School that inspired a new generation to work toward equality in educational opportunity.



Roebuck

One thing that may not come to mind is our women leaders. Arkansas is one of five states (along with Colorado, Illinois, Iowa and Vermont) with a woman serving as the majority leader for the House of Representatives. While I'm honored to serve in that capacity, I would be remiss if I did

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## Announcements (continued)

not also recognize my women colleagues, many of whom also serve in leadership positions. Senator Ruth Whitaker (R) serves as the Senate Minority Leader, and Senator Joyce Elliott (D) serves as Senate Majority Whip. Rep. Debra Hobbs (R) serves as House Minority Whip. Several women in the Arkansas House of Representatives serve as chairman and vice-chairman for committees and task forces. Representative Kathy Webb (D) serves as co-chair of the powerful Joint Budget Committee, as the first woman in the history of our state to serve in this position. While this is a tremendous achievement, it demonstrates how much further we must work to ensure that women are equally represented in elected office.

Across our country and in our own state, the number of women seeking public office is decreasing on all levels. But I would like to challenge women throughout our country to reverse this trend. Women bring a unique perspective to elected office on a variety of issues from education and health care to transportation and taxes. In 2009 Arkansas census projections, women accounted for 51 percent of the entire population, and nearly one-quarter of Arkansas families are led by single mothers. It is important that our statehouse is as varied and diverse as our state's population so all people see equal representation.

My sincere hope is that generations of women will step up to the call of leadership and not only run for public office but assume leadership positions when they get there. In Arkansas, we have seen significant achievements that benefit Arkansas families by cutting the state sales tax on groceries, increasing funding for K-12 education, providing universal Pre-K education, and creating over 20,000 jobs during an economic recession. Certainly, this work was not accomplished by women alone, but our contributions to the discussion and leading on these initiatives benefits women and their families in our state tremendously.

A woman's perspective often can lead to the best policy. To steal a quote from Rudyard Kipling, "a woman's guess is much more accurate than a man's certainty." So I encourage women everywhere to use their best guess and seek public office. For a complete list of women in legislative leadership, visit [www.ncsl.org/?tabid=22036](http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=22036).

*Representative Johnnie Roebuck  
Majority Leader, Arkansas House of Representatives*

### 2011 Session Wrap-Up from Indiana Senator Jean Leising

Each session of the Indiana General Assembly has a personality of its own—it's simply never the same. The 117<sup>th</sup> session was no different and can be, in fact, considered one for the history books. This year, Indiana House Democrats staged the longest government walkout in our state's history. During the five-week ordeal, Senate lawmakers persevered through the turmoil, conducting 33 committee hearings on 69 bills and six resolutions. We made the best of a difficult situation and are proud to say we finished our work on time, avoiding extra costs to Hoosiers. In fact, we accomplished many goals set for this great state, including passing a fourth consecutive balanced state budget.



*Leising*

The \$28 billion budget is structurally balanced and would end the biennium with about \$1 billion in reserves to help offset future economic downturns. It allocates \$7 billion for public K-12 schools in 2012 and \$7.1 billion in 2013 and funds Medicaid to help cover lost federal dollars and enrollment growth. As passed, the budget automatically returns money to taxpayers if reserves rise above 10 percent of appropriations in the future, while at the same time allocating a portion of excess reserves to pay down unfunded state public pension obligations.

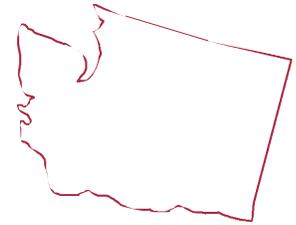
Several 2011 legislative measures may have the combined effect of being the most aggressive private-sector jobs package in state history. Lawmakers approved a reduction in the state's relatively high corporate tax rate from 8.5 percent to 6.5 percent. We also passed a "Buy Local" initiative so local units of government will reinvest in their communities by purchasing materials and supplies from area vendors. Lawmakers also supported adding a "Young Entrepreneurs Program" to initiatives of the Indiana Economic Development Corp. My legislation passed to aid Indiana residents who currently are out of work to take advantage of recently approved federal unemployment benefits. It also protects state unemployment funding by requiring Indiana's Department of Workforce Development to suspend unemployment benefits for those who fail to take or pass prospective employers' drug tests. Education reforms passed this session will:

- Allow private universities to sponsor charter schools and increase their accountability;
- Create Indiana's first school voucher program;
- Require locally designed and administered performance evaluations of teachers and principals based in part on student learning and academic growth;
- Give great teachers the opportunity to earn pay increases based on their effectiveness, not just on seniority; and
- Return collective bargaining for teachers to its original intent—wages and wage-related benefits.

Lawmakers also supported my legislation to create an interim study committee focused on learning how to curb low graduation rates in Indiana high schools. The proposal will require a legislative review of potential causes for low graduation rates and the effect that school counselors, teachers, administrators and parents have on them. Committee members also will explore best practices used to improve graduation rates throughout the country and use training and technical assistance opportunities to effectively address low rates.

**Announcements (continued)****Women's Right to Vote Is No Accident: Washington State Celebrates its Women's Suffrage Centennial**

In each of our states, we should honor and celebrate the brave women and men who campaigned so persistently, over generations, to achieve the right to vote for women. They courageously and selflessly worked for a better future for all, from which we benefit every day. They fought against traditional social and cultural prejudices and against powerful, entrenched political and moneyed interests. Many stories are extraordinary.



Achievement of women's suffrage was one of the most significant civil rights movements in the history of our nation—the success of which so often is taken for granted. The successful women's suffrage movement began in the West and moved East. It also began with individual states' actions and culminated in 1920 with states' ratification of the U.S. Constitutional amendment granting nearly all women in all states the right to vote.

1911	California
1912	Oregon
1912	Kansas, Arizona
1913	Alaska Territory, Illinois Presidential Suffrage
1914	Montana, Nevada
1917	North Dakota Presidential Suffrage, Nebraska Presidential Suffrage, Rhode Island Presidential Suffrage, New York, Arkansas Primary Suffrage, Michigan Presidential Suffrage
1918	Michigan, Texas Primary Suffrage, South Dakota, Oklahoma
1919	Indiana Presidential Suffrage, Maine Presidential Suffrage, Missouri Presidential Suffrage, Iowa Presidential Suffrage, Minnesota Presidential Suffrage, Ohio Presidential Suffrage, Wisconsin Presidential Suffrage, Tennessee Presidential Suffrage
1920	Kentucky Presidential Suffrage

**Source:** The National American Woman Suffrage Association. *Victory: How Women Won It: A Centennial Symposium 1840-1940*. New York: The H.W. Wilson Company, 1940.

During 2009 and 2010, Washington engaged in a lively, comprehensive commemoration of the centennial of Washington women achieving the right to vote. Leadership was provided by the Washington Women's History Consortium, a statutory entity affiliated with the Washington State Historical Society.

Activities included a large educational exhibit, "Women's Votes, Women's Voices," that traveled to five separate museums in the state, and smaller traveling panel exhibits that went to smaller locations; an accompanying book about women's suffrage history in Washington; many excellent community programs and events associated with the exhibits; partnerships with many public and private entities to co-sponsor programs and activities; media presentations; development of a classroom curriculum; theatrical performances; award of the state's prestigious Medal of Merit posthumously to the two key state women's suffrage leaders of 100 years ago; legislative resolutions; summer parade entries throughout the state with suffragists marching in period attire with Votes for Women signs and banners; county fair exhibits; installation of historical markers; historical conference presentations; digitiza-

tion of historical papers; grant awards to fund individual projects; re-enactment of a major State Supreme Court trial; a superb website; and more.

The memorable "Day of Jubilation" at the State Capitol celebrated the November 1910 victory at the polls! At this event, Votes for Women banners were presented to delegations from California (2011) and Oregon (2012) Suffrage Centennial Organizing Groups to cheer on their commemorative activities.

Visit the Washington Women's History Consortium website [www.washingtonwomenshistory.org](http://www.washingtonwomenshistory.org) for images and recordings of the events, including a re-enactment of a Territorial suffrage court case by the Washington State Supreme Court—video recorded by Television Washington (TVW). We hope our work will inspire yours! I also refer you to the book written by Consortium coordinator Shanna Stevenson, entitled *Women's Votes, Women's Voices: The Campaign for Equal Rights in Washington, 2009*, published by the Washington State Historical Society and distributed by Washington State University Press.

Washington was the fifth state to grant women's suffrage, and the first during the 1900s. The first four states in the late 1800s were Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Idaho. I hope our success will encourage other states to celebrate their own women's suffrage centennials. During the next 10 years, the states above will celebrate suffrage centennials. The National Women's Suffrage Amendment was ratified in 1920. The centennial commemoration of the achievement of national women's suffrage will occur in 2020. If you would like to join early planning for this event, contact me or Shanna Stevenson, coordinator, Washington Women's History Consortium, at [sstevenson@wshs.wa.gov](mailto:sstevenson@wshs.wa.gov)

Karen Fraser  
Senate Majority Caucus Chair and  
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**New Women Legislators: Be Prepared**

**Q:** What do the terms 100 percent and 40 percent mean to women in elected office?

**A:** It's what we give and what our very lowest elected glass ceiling should be.

Recent research concludes that, until women comprise at least 40 percent of any elected body, they are less able to individually and collectively succeed in affecting the overall agenda. At the moment, only 16 percent of the members of Congress are women, and only one state has achieved a 40 percent representation rate. The research shows that, where women comprise less than a baseline of 40 percent representation, the public policy issues about which women members seem to care more do not receive primary attention in political agendas. As a result, it is more diffi-

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**Announcements (continued)**

cult for these issues to be resolved or gain necessary and adequate funding. Several articles discuss the reasons for the gender gap and why it grows as women move from local to state to federal offices. Given these facts, it is important to prepare newly elected women to be successful at the onset, and to give them the tools they need to succeed the minute they enter the State Capitol.



Berg

Kuehl

In 2009, spurred by the desire to effectively aid women legislators to achieve early success in California's State Capitol, former State Assemblywoman and Women's Legislative Caucus Chair Patty Berg, under a contract with former California Assembly Speaker (now Congresswoman) Karen Bass, designed the nation's first nonpartisan, intensive and comprehensive training and two-year mentoring program for women elected to the California State Legislature in 2010. Dubbed the Institute for Elected Women: California, the training occurred in the Capitol in Sacramento over a two-day period in November, 2010 and a three-day period in January 2011. The Institute was co-facilitated by Berg and former California State Senator Sheila Kuehl.

One factor that made this training program unique was inclusion of 31 former and current women legislators, both Democrats and Republicans. These state legislators not only participated in one of

the 12 subject-matter panels, but all reconvened at the end of each day to share invaluable gems in response to the question: "If I Knew Then What I Know Now, What Would I Have Done Differently." Thirty former women state legislators also agreed to mentor the newly elected women in 16 specific subject areas for two years following the training.

The institute is designed to supplement, not replicate, "new member orientation" programs conducted by most state legislatures for new members. Designed from the start to provide a model for other states that may be interested, the institute has two national partners: The National Conference of State Legislatures Foundation (the institute's fiscal administrator) and the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Both national partners joined in the training sessions and are helping to market the program nationwide.

Assemblywoman Berg and Senator Kuehl are willing to talk to anyone interested in exploring this model that can help better prepare elected women representatives to be effective leaders. Visit our website at [www.ncsl.org/californiainstitute](http://www.ncsl.org/californiainstitute) and/or contact the Hon. Patty Berg, [pab12@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pab12@sbcglobal.net) or the Hon. Sheila Kuehl, [SJKuehl@aol.com](mailto:SJKuehl@aol.com).

**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
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  - Pfizer

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- Ash Grove Cement Company
- BMI
- Hallmark Cards Inc.
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- American Beverage Association
- Avon
- International Council of Shopping Centers
- Pepco Holdings Inc.
- Personal Care Products Council
- Procter & Gamble

**Note from the Alliance Chair**

Hello to all Alliance members,

I hope 2011 has been a productive year so far. As we look ahead to summer and warm days, I hope you will make plans to join the Network during the Legislative Summit in San Antonio.



Brown

We value the participation of all Alliance sponsors and hope to see many familiar faces at the meeting. We also welcome new faces! I hope you will consider bringing a friend or colleague who is less familiar with the Network to one of our events. I would like the Alliance to grow and become an even stronger forum for legislators and the private sector to share ideas. I hope you will contact me if you have questions or concerns, or ideas about future programs.

I wish you all the best,

Dennis Brown  
Vice President, State Government Relations  
Equipment Leasing & Finance Association  
(202) 238-3411  
[dbrown@elfaonline.org](mailto: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@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.ziegler@ncsl.org).*

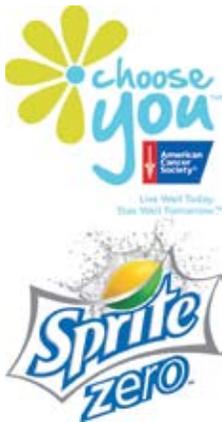
### Equipping Business for Success

The Equipment Leasing and Finance Association (ELFA) represents the \$521 billion commercial equipment finance sector. The 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 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](mailto:dbrown@elfaonline.org) or telephone (202) 238-3411.



### The Use of Value-Based Insurance Design

While an insurance concept known as value-based insurance design (VBID) has existed for more than a decade, it recently gained attention when it was included in the Affordable Care Act. VBID programs reduce barriers to treatment of chronic illnesses, with the goal of raising patient compliance and avoiding or minimizing future medical costs. During the past several years, a broad range of organizations have embraced VBID to support their goal to improve their employees' health. Organizations as large as Caterpillar, a Fortune 50 company with 80,000 employees, and as concentrated as the City of Springfield, Ore., a municipality with 241 employees, have deployed VBID. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation launched a VBID program in 2005 with reduced patient out-of-pocket cost for three chronic conditions: asthma, hypertension and diabetes. Our experience over a three-year period revealed significant improvement in patient adherence to medication regimens for these conditions. More VBID resources are available at [www.npcnow.org](http://www.npcnow.org).



**The American Cancer Society** has a message for women: "Choose You." While one in three American women will be diagnosed with cancer in her lifetime, about 50 percent of cancer deaths could be prevented if more emphasis were placed on early detection and healthier lifestyles. That's why the society created Choose You, a movement to raise awareness about the simple actions people can take that can significantly reduce their risk of cancer. Choose You challenges women to make healthier choices and supports them in their commitments to eat right, become active, quit smoking, see a healthcare provider regularly and protect their skin. As a national partner for the second year in a row, SPRITE ZERO™ will help build awareness for cancer prevention through its marketing efforts. All SPRITE ZERO™ cans and 12-packs will feature the Choose You logo starting in May. In addition, SPRITE ZERO™ will donate \$1 to the American Cancer Society (up to \$450,000) for each person who registers on [ChooseYou.com](http://ChooseYou.com) and for each person who shares Choose You on Facebook. The Coca-Cola Company is committed to helping people achieve active, healthy lifestyles as part of its Live Positively philosophy. Together, we can all "Choose You" by putting our health first, committing to healthier living and inspiring others to do the same. For more information, visit [LivePositively.com/ChooseYou](http://LivePositively.com/ChooseYou).

# Meet The Network Board . . . . .



President  
Representative  
Rosie Berger (R)  
Wyoming



President-Elect  
Representative  
Marilyn Lee (D)  
Hawaii



Vice President  
Senator  
Dori Connor (R)  
Delaware



Past President  
Representative  
Elsie Arntzen (R)  
Montana

## Eastern Regional Members



Representative  
Gloria Fox (D)  
Massachusetts



Senator  
Diane Allen (R)  
New Jersey

## Western Regional Members



House Majority  
Leader  
Amy Stephens (R)  
Colorado



Senator  
Bettye Davis (D)  
Alaska

## Midwestern Regional Members



Senator  
Jean Leising (R)  
Indiana



Senator  
Amanda McGill (X)  
Nebraska

## At-Large Members



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



Representative  
Brenda Gilmore (D)  
Tennessee

## 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](mailto:katie.ziegler@ncsl.org) or (303) 856-1514 for more information.

## Women's Legislative Network of NCSL Advisory Council (2010-2011)

State/Jurisdiction	Title/Name	Party
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Alabama	Rep. Laura Hall	D
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Alaska	Sen. Lesil McGuire	R
Arizona	Sen. Kyrsten Sinema	D
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<i>Arkansas</i>	<i>Rep. Sheila Lampkin</i>	<i>D</i>
<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>California</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>California</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Colorado	Sen. Suzanne Williams	D
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Connecticut	Sen Andrea Stillman	D
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Delaware	Sen. Patricia Blevins (Majority Leader)	D
Delaware	Rep. Valerie Longhurst	D
<b>Dist. of Columbia</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Florida	Sen. Arthenia Joyner	D
Florida	Sen. Evelyn Lynn	R
Georgia	Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague	D
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Hawaii	Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland	D
Hawaii	Rep. Corinne Ching	R
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Idaho	Rep. Maxine Bell	R
Illinois	Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (Majority Leader)	D
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Indiana	Rep. Terri Austin	D
Indiana	Sen. Connie Lawson (Majority Leader)	R
Iowa	Rep. Pam Jochum	D
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Kansas	Rep. Barbara Ballard	D
Kansas	Sen. Vicki Schmidt	R
Kentucky	Rep. Joni L. Jenkins	D
Kentucky	Rep. Susan Westrom	D
Louisiana	Rep. Jean Doerge	D
Louisiana	Rep. Kay Kellogg Katz	R
<b>Maine</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Maine	Sen. Debra Plowman	R
Maryland	Sen. Delores Kelley	D
Maryland	Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam	D
Maryland	Del. Donna Stifler	R
<i>Massachusetts</i>	<i>Sen. Harriette Chandler</i>	<i>D</i>
Massachusetts	Rep. Anne Gobi	D
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Minnesota	Rep. Nora Slawik	D
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Mississippi	Rep. Jessica Upshaw	R
Mississippi	Sen. Alice Harden	D
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
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
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
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
<b>New York</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
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
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
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
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
South Dakota	Rep. Joni Cutler	R
Tennessee	Rep. Karen Camper	D
Tennessee	Rep. Beth Halteman Harwell (Speaker)	R
Texas	Rep. Dawnna Dukes	D
<b>Texas</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Utah	Sen. Karen Morgan	D
Utah	Rep. Merlynn Newbold	R
Vermont	Rep. Anne O'Brien	D
<b>Vermont</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Virginia	Sen. Yvonne Miller	D
Virginia	Sen. Patricia Ticer	D
Virginia	Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple	D
Washington	Sen. Karen Fraser	D
<b>Washington</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
West Virginia	Del. Bonnie Brown	D
West Virginia	Sen. Donna Boley	R
Wisconsin	Rep. Donna Seidel	D
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
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/](http://www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter/))
- Center for American Women and Politics ([www.cawp.rutgers.edu](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu))
- Center for Women Policy Studies ([www.centerwomenpolicy.org](http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org))
- National Order of Black Elected Legislative Women ([www.nobel-women.org](http://www.nobel-women.org))
- National Women's Political Caucus ([www.nwpc.org](http://www.nwpc.org))
- Women in Government ([www.womeningovernment.org](http://www.womeningovernment.org))
- The Women Legislators' Lobby ([www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org))
- Women's Legislative Network of NCSL ([www.ncsl.org/wln/](http://www.ncsl.org/wln/))



The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL-Women) will convene its 2011 Annual National Legislative Conference June 23-26, 2011,

in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center Hotel.

The National President of NOBEL-Women and the 2011 National Conference Chair, Louisiana State Senator Sharon Weston Broome, is excited about the annual conference being held in Louisiana's capital city. This year's conference theme, "Architects of Innovation: Creating a Blueprint for Legislative Success," speaks to the opportunity that legislators have to meet the challenges they currently face in state government. Everything revolves around leadership, and that is why NOBEL-Women has been at the forefront of empowering women for transformational leadership since its inception 25 years ago.

Nationally known guest speakers invited to this comprehensive three day-event include Gwen Ifill, moderator of "Washington Week;" Alabama Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell; Valarie Jarrett, senior advisor to President Obama; and others.

For additional information, contact our National Office at (303) 355-7288 or visit our website at [www.nobel-women.org](http://www.nobel-women.org)

As heated debates about the federal budget rage in Washington and states again face budget shortfalls, the Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL) has



continued to focus on the effect the federal budget has on states. We are raising awareness about ways to responsibly reduce unnecessary military spending while still keeping our constituents safe. Nearly 350 women legislators from across the country signed WiLL's letter to members of Congress to affirm that any responsible conversation about the federal budget cannot ignore the enormous portion of funding directed to the Pentagon. As states continue to face unprecedented budget challenges, responsible federal spending is a high priority. Reducing the federal deficit continues to loom as an issue, and finding savings in the military budget can be a pathway to that goal. More information is available at [www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org).

At the end of 2010, we celebrated when the U.S. Senate ratified the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). This was the culmination of a year of hard work by WiLL members nationwide who lobbied their senators in Washington and at home, published op-eds and letters to the editor, and raised awareness in their communities about this critical national security issue. The treaty keeps us all safer by ensuring we can continue to monitor Russia's nuclear weapons. This year, we will build on this success to take part in other efforts to help keep our nation and our world safe from the devastating risks posed by nuclear weapons.

WiLL's biennial women's leadership conference—"Women at the Table of Power"—will be held in Washington September 18-20, 2011. We hope many of you will be able to join us for this inspiring and empowering three-day event that includes a congressional luncheon and a day on the Hill. Highly regarded media/message trainers will offer valuable skills-building sessions. Dynamic women speakers will discuss women's political participation and our efforts to create a safer world for generations to come. Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming months and hold the date!

Legislators are invited to contact WiLL president, Georgia Senator Nan Orrock, [willpres@wand.org](mailto:willpres@wand.org), (404) 524-5999; and Maureen Campbell, [will@wand.org](mailto:will@wand.org), (202) 544-5055, ext. 2603, for information about the conference, trainings and future opportunities.

# 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 the affairs of the Network. Board members are expected to attend board meetings (either in person or via conference call) 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 own travel costs.

Open Positions, 2011-2012:

**Vice President (Democrat)**

**One Eastern Regional position (Democrat)**

*(CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, PR, RI, VT, VI)*

**One Midwestern Regional position (Democrat)**

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

**One At-Large position (Democrat)**

The Network board is bipartisan, with an equal number of Democrats and Republicans from each region. Because of staggered terms of office, only Democratic seats are open for 2011-2012.

Please circle the position of interest and attach your biography or résumé as well as a brief description of why you are interested in serving as 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 August 8-11, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas.

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

**Please respond by Wednesday, June 29, 2011**

Katie Ziegler, Program Manager

Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

7700 East First Place

Denver, CO 80230

Phone: (303) 856-1514 FAX: (303) 856-2594

katie.ziegler@nctl.org