



# WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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

Spring 2012

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## Note from the President

Hello Friends,

By now the legislative sessions have wound down in most states, and many of us are looking ahead to primary season and the November elections. I am eager to see whether the number of female state legislators nationwide increases this year. The 2010 elections actually brought a reduction in the number of women serving in statehouses. Be sure to turn to NCSL for complete election coverage, including data about the number of women elected.

The Network held a popular seminar at the NCSL Fall Forum about women's health policy and federal health reform. NCSL staff produced a special publication on the subject, with input and comments of the meeting attendees (read it at [www.ncsl.org/?TabId=24039](http://www.ncsl.org/?TabId=24039)). The Supreme Court has ruled that the Affordable Care Act is constitutional, and state legislatures will have work to do to implement the law in 2013. To that end, I encourage you to attend a special NCSL briefing about the Court ruling at the Legislative Summit in Chicago on August 6. Also keep an eye on the NCSL website for more extensive information.

Other Network events at the Summit include our board meeting and reception, a luncheon about female veterans, a session on constituent service, and a roundtable discussion. We are holding the roundtable because my fellow board members and I agree that it is important to have a forum where female legislators can put aside partisanship to talk and learn from one another. I hope you will attend to contribute your ideas and knowledge based on the unique situation in your state.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting. If you aren't able to travel to Chicago, you still can be involved with the Network! Please keep us informed of activities and events involving women in politics in your state and share your ideas for future programs. Contact Katie Ziegler at (303) 856-1514 or [katie.ziegler@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.ziegler@ncsl.org) with questions on any topic. I wish for the Network to remain relevant and useful to legislators for many years to come, and your participation is critical.

Thank you,

*Marilyn B. Lee*

Marilyn Lee

State Representative, Hawaii

President, Women's Legislative Network of NCSL



Lee

## To Update You

### Network Events at the NCSL Legislative Summit in Chicago

August 6-9, 2012

Visit [www.ncsl.org/?TabId=24822](http://www.ncsl.org/?TabId=24822) for complete schedule.



#### Monday, August 6

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

#### Women's Legislative Network Executive Board Meeting

#### Tuesday, August 7

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

#### Connecting to Citizens

*Cosponsored with the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee*  
Veteran legislators share some new strategies to sharpen their connections to constituents, and attendees are invited to participate in roundtable discussions on the topic.

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

#### Women's Legislative Network Roundtable Discussion

Join the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL board for an informal, bipartisan discussion related to our recent activities, women in politics and the 2012 session.

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

#### Women's Legislative Network Reception

#### Wednesday, August 8

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

#### Women's Legislative Network Luncheon and Business Meeting

Join the Women's Legislative Network for lunch during the annual business meeting and elections. Hear keynote presentations by Illinois experts about female veterans and their health and mental health care needs.

*Panelist: Erica Borggren, director, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs*

#### Thursday, August 9

6:00 – 8:00 a.m.

#### Walk for Wellness

# To Update You

## Highlights from the NCSL Fall Forum in Tampa, Fla.

Visit [www.ncsl.org/?TabId=23871](http://www.ncsl.org/?TabId=23871) for session handouts, audio recordings and more.



### Improving Women's Health: Opportunities in and Challenges of Health Reform

This seminar, focused on the opportunities for improving women's health within the Affordable Care Act, featured sessions about expanding access to health care, state budget challenges, and prevention and wellness initiatives. The final session was a guided discussion in which attendees evaluated a draft of a publication about women's health and health reform. NCSL staff revised the document based on the discussion, and it is online at [www.ncsl.org/?TabId=24039](http://www.ncsl.org/?TabId=24039).

### Civic Education: Breaking through the Barriers

*NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee, Women's Legislative Network*  
Citizen distrust, anger and apathy loom over the legislative process. This session highlighted 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.

### Legislative Service with Tough Budget Choices

*NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee, Women's Legislative Network*  
With economic fluctuations and budget constraints for the states, effective legislatures must have a strategic and coordinated fiscal focus. Legislative

leaders and directors provided advice about how to prioritize when allocating reduced staff resources, and how to communicate with legislators about changes in services.

### Employment Support for Military Families

*NCSL Labor and Economic Development Committee, Women's Legislative Network*  
When members of the military receive orders to transfer from one state to another, they often have spouses and children who make the move with them. Many military families depend on the non-enlisted spouse's income, and cross-country moves can be disruptive. This session highlighted state actions to support military spousal employment and Department of Defense resources for military families.



## New From NCSL!

### Families and Expanded Learning Opportunities

[www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23544](http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=23544)

Expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) offer structured learning environments outside the traditional school day, through before- and after-school; summer; and extended-day, -week and -year programs. With help from the C.S. Mott Foundation, NCSL is collaborating with Harvard Family Research Project on a series of briefs called ELO Research, Policy and Practice. The briefs address topics in expanded learning opportunities by highlighting research evidence on ELO best practices and the effects on youth and discuss the policy implications.

### Natural Gas Development and Hydraulic Fracturing: A Policymaker's Guide

[www.ncsl.org/?tabid=24567](http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=24567)

In recent years, technological advances in hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have led to dramatic growth in natural gas development, with tremen-

dous economic potential for state and local economies. Development currently is occurring in 32 states. Although hydraulic fracturing has been employed for decades, its use has rapidly increased in the past few years, and some states are taking steps to ensure that water and air quality are adequately protected during surface and subsurface natural gas development activities. This report provides an introduction to the domestic natural gas picture, explores the motivation behind state legislative involvement in natural gas regulation, and summarizes state legislation that is being developed to ensure safe, responsible development of this resource.

### Archived Webinar: Reporting Child Abuse: Stopping the Silence

[www.ncsl.org/tabid?=24451](http://www.ncsl.org/tabid?=24451)

The news about child sex abuse scandals at the end of 2011 could not have been more shocking. When policymakers examined statutes, though, some found more disturbing evidence—some state laws did not explicitly require people

such as coaches and athletic directors who might have contact with children to report child abuse. Others did not specify if the requirement for school personnel to report suspected abuse included universities and colleges. Others were not clear about how to make a report or whether a report should be made to law enforcement agencies. Our experts took a look at what state laws are under review and what actions states are taking in 2012.

### Pensions and Retirement State Legislation Database

[www.ncsl.org/?tabid=24512](http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=24512)

Current legislation on pensions and retirement is available in a searchable database. Search 2012 pensions and retirement bills by topic, primary author, state, bill number, status or keyword. The database is updated every two weeks. This database has been created under a partnership project of NCSL's Fiscal Affairs Program in Denver, Colo., and the Pew Center on the States, based in Washington, D.C.

## Announcements



Wallis

### Wyoming Representative Sue Wallis Named Legislator of the Year

The Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance (SAOVA), a nationwide nonpartisan organization of animal owners and sportsmen, named Representative Sue Wallis "Legislator of the Year 2011." Representative Wallis, a Network Advisory Council member, serves as a member of the House Appropriations and Agriculture and Energy committees. She was recognized for her "Outstanding Support to Sportsmen and Animal Owners."

Representative Wallis thanked SAOVA for recognizing her as Legislator of the Year. "Words cannot express how honored I am to receive this prestigious award," says Wallis, "It is only by standing together, shoulder to shoulder, with animal owners and true animal welfare advocates in livestock, sporting animal, pet animal, exhibition and performance worlds, lab research, and every other animal enterprise that we have any hope of preserving our ability to enjoy and benefit from animals in our lives. It is imperative for each of us to stand united if we want any hope of raising our children and grandchildren in a culture that understands animal well-being and husbandry, and that preserves our private property rights to use and enjoy animals. Radical activists cannot succeed in their effort to destroy our livelihoods, cause our animals to suffer, nor push their unhealthy, unnatural vegan agenda if we do so."

### Hawaii Women's Legislative Caucus Session Report



The Women's Caucus traditionally focuses on the diverse needs of women, children and families, and strives to protect and advance their well-being by developing policies and budget priorities that will enhance the status of women. In Hawaii, the bipartisan and bicameral Women's Legislative Caucus has existed for close to 25 years.

This year, the Women's Legislative Caucus was honored to dedicate its 2012 legislative package to the brave women veterans who have served our country abroad, and who continue to live with courage at home, despite the many trials they face post-deployment. The Caucus introduced a set of resolutions in both the House and Senate that sought to enhance the status of these women veterans.

Among these resolutions, HCR 18, which requests Hawaii's congressional delegation to support the efforts of the National Women's History Museum to secure a permanent home in the national capitol, was adopted in its final form. HCR 19, urging the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to develop services for women veterans, also was adopted.

In the Senate, SR 5, encouraging a state health plan initiative to combat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Hawaii was adopted; SR 6, encouraging the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs to develop programs for women veterans was adopted; SR 8, requesting support for a National Women's History Museum at the Capitol was adopted; and SR 10, which resolved to support the repeal of combat exclusionary rules, was adopted.

Several proposed bills that emerged from the Women's Caucus passed final reading—HB 2226, which provided for an Automated Victim Notification system; HB 2232, which prohibited pelvic examinations for female patients without consent; and SB 2579, which allowed a person committing the offense of prostitution to file a motion to vacate judgment under special circumstances.

The Caucus also led another successful Easter basket drive for the Institute for Human Services (IHS). More than 100 baskets were collected and donated to spread some Easter cheer to those using HIS services.

Overall, this was a successful session for the Women's Caucus, and we are eager to put forth new legislation in support of the Women's Legislative Caucus next year.

### Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Caucus Media Appearances

The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus appeared in a recent episode of Louisiana Public Broadcasting's Public Square Meeting.

The topic was "The Louisiana Legislature: Where Are the Women?" More than half the population of Louisiana—51 percent—is female, yet only 11 percent of the state's legislators are women. The show addressed why the number of female legislators decreased in recent years and what is missing from the deliberative process when nearly all the lawmakers are men.

The Women's Caucus, through the Women's Caucus Foundation, taped the first public service announcement in a series to invoke parental engagement and call parents "back to the basics" in parental involvement in Louisiana. The first PSA was titled "Bad Company Corrupts Good Character." This PSA will encourage parents to know who their children's friends are and what their kids are doing while in

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## Announcements (continued)

and away from home. Parents are encouraged to make their children accountable for their selection of friends.

### Women of Excellence Awards and Scholarship Gala

On May 9, 2012, the Women's Caucus, through the Foundation, awarded \$6,000 in scholarships to deserving women in Louisiana at its fifth Annual Women of Excellence Awards and Scholarship Gala. During the gala, the women legislators recognized and honored seven extraordinary women of outstanding professional excellence across the state for their remarkable achievements and contributions. The Foundation also awarded six \$500 Educational Advancement Opportunity Scholarships to high school seniors and women pursuing advanced degrees in college.

The Women of Excellence honorees were:

- **Business:** Dawn Sharpe-Brackett, East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, Slidell
- **College Woman of Excellence (age 18 to 25) and Recipient of the \$1,000 LLWC Foundation Scholarship:** Danielle Lauren Borel, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- **Education and Research:** Alma Thornton, Ph.D., Southern University A&M, Baton Rouge
- **Government and Law:** Shelly Deckert Dick, Forrester, Dick & Clark, Baton Rouge
- **High School Woman of Excellence and Recipient of the \$1,000 LLWC Foundation Scholarship:** Jennifer Young Tu, Benjamin Franklin High School, New Orleans
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):** Annette Oertling, Ph.D., Tulane University, New Orleans
- **Volunteerism and Civic Involvement and Recipient of the \$1,000 LLWC Foundation Scholarship:** Madison Julia Matherne, John Ehret High School, Marrero

**The Women's Caucus Foundation held a Public Policy Leadership Retreat** on March 15 and 16 at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The retreat was attended by more than 100 policy experts and women representing various areas of interest. The retreat focused on issues that affect women, including the state of women in Louisiana, economic equity, education, health care and public safety.

### Partnership with Text4baby

The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus and the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation announced its partnership with the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) on Text4baby during a press conference at Louisiana State University in March. Text4baby is a free mobile information service designed to promote maternal and child health. An educational program of the HMHB, text4baby provides pregnant women and new moms with information to help them care for their health and give their babies the best possible start in life. Women who sign up for the service by texting BABY to 511411 (or BEBE in Spanish) will receive free SMS text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby's date of birth.

### Women's Caucus Network

The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus, through the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation, launched the Women's Caucus Network. Through the Women's Caucus Network (WCN), we hope to unite women in a nonpartisan fashion to further help equip and develop women and the next generation of women leaders in Louisiana. The purpose of the WCN is to support the initiatives of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation and to promote empowerment, leadership and participation of women through collaborative partnerships.

### State of Women in Louisiana

On March 16, 2012, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation held a "State of Women in Louisiana" breakfast to discuss the current status of women in Louisiana. Retired Tulane University professor Dr. Beth Willinger provided sobering statistics. According to Dr. Willinger's report:

- On nearly every measure of women's social and economic status, Louisiana is among the states with the lowest rankings.
- Louisiana women often carry household and family responsibilities alone.
- Louisiana women work, and women and their families depend on their earnings.
- Women earn less than men in all occupations, at all education levels and in each parish.

### Back to School Outreach at McKinley High School

The women legislators of Louisiana, through the initiatives of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation, visited McKinley High School in Baton Rouge on March 16, 2012. They delivered a message to more than 600 ninth through 12th graders about excelling in school, dreaming big, maintaining self-discipline, pressing hard in life, and refuting negative influences and bad company. The visit was truly phenomenal. The Women's Caucus hopes continue outreach efforts statewide at schools to influence young women.



McGill

### Nebraska Senator Amanda McGill Supports Military Families

In February, Network board member and Nebraska state Senator Amanda McGill attended a briefing at the Pentagon by First Lady Michelle Obama, who announced a new military spouse initiative. The goal is to have all 50 states pass legislation to create a smoother pathway for military spouses to receive a professional license in a new state as they move around the country due to military orders. Senator McGill was invited because she introduced such legislation in Nebraska during the 2012 session.

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## Announcements (continued)

Military families move from state to state far more often than the general population. These frequent moves create difficulties for military spouses who seek to maintain their careers. Spouses serving in professions that require state licenses or certifications bear disproportionately high financial and administrative burdens, since credentials from one state often do not transfer to another state. Senator McGill is building a coalition to pass the bill in 2013.



Harper-Brown

### Texas Representative Linda Harper-Brown Named President of Policy Research Foundation

Network board member and Texas state Representative Linda Harper-Brown was elected president of the board of directors of the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute (TCCRI), an Austin-based public policy research foundation. TCCRI was founded in 1996 by state legislators who had a vision to develop and implement conservative public policies in state government. TCCRI has distinguished itself as a leading state-based think tank, living up to its mission of shaping public policy through a principled approach to government. Its research reports and policy forums have been instrumental in generating proposals that are shaping Texas government and influencing a new generation of conservative leaders.

John Colyandro, TCCRI executive director, stated: “Rep. Harper-Brown is a strong and decisive member of the Legislature, whose personal commitment to learning and leadership has allowed her to be recognized as one of the ablest and most effective conservatives in the Texas House. Her virtues will be invaluable in helping TCCRI continue to fulfill its mission of a principled approach to state government.”

### Wyoming Representative Mary Throne Honored by County Commissioners

The Wyoming County Commissioners Association presented Legislator of the Year Awards during its spring meeting in Sheridan to Representative Mary Throne and Senator Hank Coe. “The awards are given to one exceptional member of the House and one exceptional member of the Senate,” said Joel Bousman, president of the association.



Throne

Representative Throne, a Network Advisory Council member, was selected as House Legislator of the Year for her exceptional work on many pieces of legislation, such as industrial siting, impact assistance funding for local government, education reform and a variety of other topics. “Her out-of-the-box thinking and her expertise in industrial siting has made Representative Throne an authority on items related to impact assistance and industrial development. Representative Throne was a strong advocate this session for local government funding, as she recognizes that a healthy

local economy is essential for the future development of jobs and the economy in Wyoming,” said Bousman. He added, “Her no-nonsense, common-sense approach to legislative items has made her the strong leader in the Capitol that she is, and we are very proud of her work.” “I am honored to share this award with Senator Coe because we have worked together on so many issues of importance to Wyoming. I find it extremely rewarding that Republicans and Democrats can work side by side on statewide issues,” said Rep. Throne.

### Massachusetts Senator Harriette Chandler Honored

In February, the National Association of Insurance and Financial Assistance honored Senator Harriette Chandler, a Network board member, as Legislator of the Year for her efforts on a long-term care insurance bill. Senator Chandler’s work on brain injuries led to her recognition by two organizations in March. The Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers and the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts presented Senator Chandler with State Senator of the Year Awards for her leadership with the Brain Injury Commission.



Chandler

### More Women in Leadership in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray added several women to her leadership team in January, prompted by the resignation of a senator near the end of last year. Senator Harriette Chandler is the new majority whip, and Senator Karen Spilka now is assistant majority whip. Senator Gale Candaras is the new Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development, and Senator Katherine Clark is now is Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue. Massachusetts is one of only three states with a female president of the Senate in 2012.



### Women in Arkansas Politics: A Work in Progress

In 1917, Arkansas became a national leader for women’s voting rights when women were granted the right to vote in primary elections. It was not until three years later, under the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920, that all women in the United States gained full suffrage. However, the Arkansas attorney general ruled that, although women could vote, they could not run for the legislature. The first woman to serve in the Arkansas legislature, Frances Hunt, appointed upon the death of her husband in 1922, went on to win elections in her own right and led the way for other women to serve. From 1922 until 1953, only 10 women served in the Arkansas General Assembly.



Roebuck

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## Announcements (continued)

Unfortunately, it is often difficult to find women who are interested in seeking office. Women offer many reasons for their reluctance to run. Some say they are too busy with family and work obligations. Others fear the rigor of the campaign and would rather work behind the scenes instead of stepping forward as the candidate. Today, however, more Arkansas women candidates are pushing forward with strong determination, unafraid to be judged and proud of their outstanding qualifications. Gender, they know, has nothing to do with quality of service, but they do know that every time a woman runs, women win!

Today, 105 women have served in the Arkansas General Assembly. While Arkansas shows 50.9 percent female population as compared to 50.8 percent nationally, the number of women serving in the legislature does not match the data. In fact, the 2010 elections saw a decrease in women in the legislature for the first time, with 30 serving in 2011—one less than in 2009 but with the most bipartisan representation in history—11 Democrats and 11 Republican women in the House, and five Democrats and three Republicans in the Senate. The 2012 elections reveal a record number of women seeking office; 45 women are filing for seats in the Arkansas Senate and House.

Women who have served have made a significant difference in the policy conversations and have demonstrated their keen attention to detail, in addition to networking, organizational and networking skills. While the dialogue women lawmakers bring forth often has included topics of stereotypical female interest—such as breast cancer, domestic violence, heart disease and educational issues—today’s female legislators are breaking the mold, finding themselves at the table in all areas of policy discussion and counted upon to offer data-driven decisions in various policy topics. Male legislators agree that women bring a different—and needed—frame of reference to government that reflects the realities of society.

Arkansas currently is only one of five states to have a woman serving as House majority leader, and I am extremely proud to serve in that position. Arkansas also has a woman Senate majority whip. The 2011 Senate minority leader and House minority whip were women. Today, Arkansas has the first woman to serve as House chair of the powerful Joint Budget Committee and the first woman to serve as Senate chair of the Arkansas Legislative Council. In addition, women serve as chairs of the House Health; Joint Energy; House and Senate Aging, Children, Youth and Military Affairs committees; and Senate Transportation and Senate State Agencies committees.

In 2005, Arkansas state Representative Lindsley Smith began a project sponsored by the University of Arkansas Women’s Giving Circle (<http://wgc.yark.edu/>) and Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society (<http://blair-center.uark.edu>).

Representative Smith’s ongoing project, which spotlights all Arkansas women legislators, is a model for other states as she captures, in video interviews, the essence of women’s political leadership by interviewing women legislators, including family members of those deceased. Representative Smith donates the videos to the University of Arkansas’s David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History. The center’s mission is to document the history of Arkansas by collecting spoken memories and visual records, preserving the collection in perpetuity, and connecting Arkansans and the world to the collection through the Internet, TV broadcasts, educational programs and other means. To learn more about the Pryor Center project, go to <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/pryorcenter/>.

*Johnnie Jones Roebuck*  
Arkansas State Representative  
House Majority Leader  
Member, NCSL Women’s Legislative Network Executive Board

## Wyoming Women’s Legislative Caucus Promotes Representative Government

A record number of women attended Leap into Leadership on March 1-2 in Cheyenne, and nearly 20 percent of attendees surveyed said they plan to run for elected office in 2012. Hosted annually by the bipartisan Wyoming Women’s Legislative Caucus, Leap into Leadership aims to increase women’s leadership at all levels. “We hope to promote a more representative face of government in the equality state,” said Melissa Turley, coordinator of the Wyoming Women’s Legislative Caucus.



Women hold less than 15 percent of the seats in the state Legislature and represent less than 6 percent of county commissioners across Wyoming, yet women comprise 49 percent of the population, according to 2010 census data. This is despite the fact that, although the median age in Wyoming is 37, only eight of 90 state legislators are under age 40.

“Leap into Leadership combines training with inspiration and motivation to move women into leadership roles in their communities and our state,” said Representative Elaine Harvey, chairwoman of the Wyoming Women’s Legislative Caucus.

Twenty women attended a campaign planning workshop on March 2, which was intended to prepare them for the 2012 filing period from May 17 to June 12. Others participated

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in workshops focused on social media, community and personal leadership, and messaging. Participants reported they found these leadership development workshops beneficial: “I learned how to run a campaign and be inspired by women who are engaged in the process,” wrote one.

Leap into Leadership is a two-day event that includes speakers, training and a networking dinner. Keynote speaker Lynda Clarizio, CEO of INVISION, shared her eight principles of leadership with the 250 attendees at a dinner co-hosted by the Wyoming Women’s Foundation. Clarizio encouraged women to take charge, seek out mentoring and networking opportunities, and inspire others by being true to themselves. She outlined the family-friendly practices she offers in her company—65 percent of her employees of are women—such as flexible hours, video conferencing and part-time schedules.

The following morning, State Auditor Cynthia Cloud hosted breakfast in her State Capitol office, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kite spoke of the need for both a Legislature and judiciary representative of the people. Justice Kite pointed out that, while 35 percent of attorneys in Wyoming are women, only 7 percent of judges are female. She called on Wyoming women to wield the collective strength of both genders. “The health of our state depends on you running,” she said.

First Lady Carol Mead and former first ladies Nancy Freudenthal and Sherri Geringer spoke about the opportunities and challenges they experienced as first lady of Wyoming and the issues important to them, specifically women and children. The program concluded on Friday with a presentation by Wyoming’s lone congresswoman, Cynthia Lummis, who currently co-chairs the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues. Lummis stressed that women are best-qualified to discuss women’s issues, and that a representative government should more closely resemble the people they represent.

Leap into Leadership 2012 was sponsored by Arch Coal, BNSF Railway, BP America, Brimmer Communications, Brent Kunz, Devon Energy, Exxon Mobil, Jona Inc., KKW Consulting, Larry Wolfe – Holland and Hart, Levin Strategic Resources, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, QEP Resources, State Farm Insurance, Tarantola Consulting, Wyoming Associations and Government Affairs Network and Wyoming Woman Magazine.

## 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 female legislators through the Network.

### **Sponsor (\$5,000)**

- Exxon-Mobil
- Intuit
- Novartis
- Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

### **Partner (\$2,500)**

- Equipment Leasing and Finance Association

### **Contributor (\$1,000)**

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

### **Friend (\$500)**

- American Beverage Association
- Avon
- Procter & Gamble

Dear Alliance Sponsors and Friends of the Network,

The 2012 legislative sessions have kept us busy, and as we look ahead to the November elections, it seems as though the work never stops. I hope you will take the time, however, to join NCSL and the Network at the Legislative Summit in Chicago. The meeting is an excellent opportunity to make new connections and renew longtime friendships at the Network events throughout the week. We would love to thank you in person for your support of the Network.



*Brown*

My tenure as Alliance chair will end at the Legislative Summit. I have enjoyed my three years of service in this role and greatly value the relationships I’ve developed with legislators and with my private sector colleagues. I have served with three Network presidents—Montana Representative Elsie Arntzen, Wyoming Representative Rosie Berger and Hawaii Representative Marilyn Lee—and thank them for their leadership. During this time, the task of making me look good has been ably shouldered by our trusty NCSL staff manager, Katie Ziegler. She is an asset to us all.

I welcome Laurie Smalling from Walmart as the new Alliance chair. She will bring great experience and enthusiasm to this role as the Network works to expand its roster of sponsors in the 2012-2013 year. I encourage you to attend the Network events in Chicago to meet Laurie and share your ideas for the future. As we start to plan programs for the remainder of 2012 and beyond, your advice will be invaluable.

Best wishes and thank you,

Dennis Brown  
Alliance Chair  
Equipment Leasing and Finance Association

## 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).*

### Equipment Leasing - Equipping Business for Success

Equipment Leasing and Finance Association (ELFA) member companies finance acquisition of commercial capital equipment and software, including IT, medical technology, retail and office, trucks, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, vessels and containers. These companies 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. ELFA members clients range from Fortune 100 companies to small and medium enterprises to governments and nonprofits. Public policy 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.



## 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/))

### Center for Women Policy Studies

During 2012, the Center for Women Policy Studies' global leadership programs are taking center stage. In April, we convened our first Pacific Rim Program, a multidisciplinary intellectual exchange on migration and trafficking, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Participants included women leaders from Japan, the Republic of Korea, the U.S. Pacific Rim states, and the Philippines. Each country sent women elected officials and representatives of academia and civil society organizations. In June, the Center's GlobalPOWER® Caribbean program on international trafficking of women and girls welcomes women members of Parliament/ministers from Caribbean nations to Washington. Then, in October, we will convene our GlobalPOWER® Africa program for women members of Parliament/ministers from 15 African nations to address the effects of HIV/AIDS on women on the Continent. Finally, through our ongoing Contract With Women of the USA® State Legislators Initiative, we will convene a special session as part of our participation in the NCSL Annual Meeting in Chicago to update our work together on three signature issues facing U.S. state-level policymakers—reproductive rights, justice and health; women and HIV/AIDS; and access to postsecondary education for low-income women, including TANF recipients.



### Center for American Women and Politics How Redistricting Affects Women Incumbents

Attention women state legislators:  
The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University is examining the effects of redistricting on women incumbents. Here in New Jersey, the new legislative map had a disproportionate and negative effect on women incumbents. While only 28 percent of the Garden State's Legislature is female, women made up 50 percent of the legislators who lost their seats as a result of redistricting. Almost 12 percent of women legislators lost their seats, compared with 4.7 percent of male legislators. We have heard anecdotes and seen news stories from around the country indicating similar patterns in other states. As we begin to collect data nationally, we'd love to hear directly from you. To share your stories or data, please contact Jean Sinzdak, director of CAWP's Program for Women Public Officials, at [sinzdak@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:sinzdak@eagleton.rutgers.edu) or (732) 932-9384, ext. 260. Thank you in advance for your help!



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# 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](mailto: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
<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Rep. Becky Nordgren</i>	<i>R</i>
Alabama	Rep. Laura Hall	D
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Alaska	Sen. Lesil McGuire	R
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Arkansas	Rep. Sheila Lampkin	D
<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>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Connecticut	Sen Andrea Stillman	D
<i>Connecticut</i>	<i>Rep. Sandi Nafis</i>	<i>D</i>
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. Dee Dawkins-Haigler	D
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Rep. Donna Sheldon</i>	<i>R</i>
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
<i>Illinois</i>	<i>Rep. Patricia Bellock</i>	<i>R</i>
Indiana	Rep. Terri Austin	D
<b>Indiana</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
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
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<i>Maine</i>	<i>Rep. Susan Morissette</i>	<i>R</i>
Maine	Sen. Debra Plowman	R
Maryland	Sen. Delores Kelley	D
Maryland	Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam	D
Maryland	Del. Donna Stifler	R
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Massachusetts	Rep. Anne Gobi	D
Michigan	Rep. Lesia Liss	D
<i>Michigan</i>	<i>Rep. Amanda Price</i>	<i>R</i>
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>
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
<i>Nevada</i>	<i>Assy. Teresa Benitez-Thompson</i>	<i>D</i>
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
New Hampshire	Rep. Phyllis Katsakiones	R
New Jersey	Sen. Nia Gill	D
New Jersey	Sen. Loretta Weinberg	D
New Mexico	Rep. Patricia Lundstrom	D
<i>New Mexico</i>	<i>Rep. Jane Powdrell-Culbert</i>	<i>R</i>
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
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
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	NPP
Puerto Rico	Rep. Jenniffer González Colón	NPP
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. Brenda Gilmore	D
Tennessee	Speaker Beth Halteman Harwell	R
Texas	Rep. Dawnna Dukes	D
<b>Texas</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<i>Utah</i>	<i>Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck</i>	<i>D</i>
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
<i>Virginia</i>	<i>Del. Beverly J. Sherwood</i>	<i>R</i>
Washington	Sen. Karen Fraser	D
<i>Washington</i>	<i>Rep. Katrina Asay</i>	<i>R</i>
West Virginia	Del. Bonnie Brown	D
West Virginia	Sen. Donna Boley	R
Wisconsin	Rep. Donna Seidel	D
<i>Wisconsin</i>	<i>Rep. Amy Loudenbeck</i>	<i>R</i>
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.*