



Networking

Special Edition - August 2005

NACW is committed to equality and justice for women by increasing the effectiveness of member commissions and serving as their national voice.

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Officers & Board Members Elected

The 36th annual convention for National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) was held July 13-17, 2005 at the delightful Eden Roc Renaissance Resort & Spa in Miami Beach, Florida. Hosted by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, the convention theme, "Get On Your Feet, Make It Happen!" was based on the hit song by Gloria Estefan and was designed to encourage women to make change happen for the better in their communities.

The opening President's Reception gave attendees an opportunity to network, reconnect with colleagues and meet newcomers. In addition to meetings for association business, convention attendees had the opportunity to hear Florida Representative Faye Culp and Amanda Mason, Chair of 'Making Reading a Reality.

Workshops included "Understanding and Preventing Sexual Harassment," "Parliamentary Procedure for Commissions," information on a women's health initiative in Georgia on osteoporosis, and a presentation by Diane Cabrera, Miss Latina USA. Others included: "ERA: Women's Unfinished Business;" "Rural Women's Health Project;" "Women and AIDS: A Growing Challenge;" "Modern Day Slavery: The Tragedy of Human Trafficking;" "Women's Leadership: Programs of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau;" and "Understanding and Preventing Sexual Harassment."

The Achievement Awards Luncheon on July 14 featured guest speaker Carmen McCrink, PhD, Chair of the Educational Leadership/Higher Education Administration Department, Barry University and Dolores Crockett, Regional Administrator, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor. Achievement Awards are presented to commissions with outstanding programs and projects and are divided into five categories according to annual budgets. Those recognized included:

Commissions with budgets under \$10,000: Baltimore County Commission for Women, with an honorable mention award to Fairfax County (VA) Commission for Women

Commissions with budgets under \$250,000: Lincoln-Lancaster (NE) Women's Commission

Commissions with budgets under \$500,000: New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women

TIP: Share this NACW 'Networking' Newsletter with your commission members, as well as your elected officials. It's a great way to let them know that there is a national professional organization for commissions for women across the country.

NACW Convention Sites

2006 – Austin, Texas
2007 – Kentucky
2008 – New Mexico

Are your NACW dues up-to-date? Join or renew your membership in NACW to continue receiving newsletters and other important information from NACW. Call the national office (800.338.9267) today!!

NACW Dues Structure

● NACW dues are based on commission budgets:

\$50,000+.....\$250/year
\$15,000-\$49,999.....\$125/year
Less than \$15,000.....\$75/year
Zero.....\$50/year

Dues are due and payable on January 1 of each year

TIP: If your commission has no budget, it's easy to take a collection from the commissioners and invest in an NACW membership. You'll gain from the opportunities available from networking via email and in person at the convention, and hints and projects available through the newsletter and website.

Commissions with budgets over \$500,000: Montgomery County (MD) Commission for Women

Additional honorable mention awards were given to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women and the Kentucky Commission on Women.

On Saturday, July 16, NACW attendees had the opportunity to also attend the 2005 Florida Conference for Women, featuring a luncheon with a display of body-casted images by Larry Kirkwood. Mr. Kirkwood uses the art of body-casting to fight against manipulated images of beauty in the media.

The closing banquet featured U.S. District Court Judge Marcia Cooke and the installation of newly elected officers. Elected to serve two-year terms were:

Bonnie Coffey (Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission/Nebraska, President);
Glenda Woods (Kentucky Commission on Women), Vice President;
Robin Stultz (West Virginia Women's Commission), Secretary;
And Debra Sober (Baltimore County Commission on the Status of Women/Maryland), Treasurer.

Newly elected and re-elected members to the Board of Directors were:

Patrice Bourdeau (Broward County [FL] Commission on the Status of Women);
Barbara Albu Lehman (New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women);
Jacqueline Wilson (Baltimore County [MD] Commission for Women; and
Linda Wilson (Greensboro Commission for Women).

They join current Board of Directors members Cynthia Chávez Kelly (Wyoming Council for Women's Issues), Barbara DeBaptiste (Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women), Patricia Presley (Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women), Carol Walker (Utah Governor's Commission for Women and Families) and Cecília Zamora (Marin County [CA] Women's Commission).

Wanted: NACW Board Members

At the NACW national convention, Board members were elected and re-elected, but there continue to be some openings on the Board. According to NACW bylaws, the Board of Directors may fill vacancies on the Board for any office other than the President.

It has always been the goal of NACW to have representation from each region, and to be mindful of diversity. The NACW Officers and Board of Directors are seeking board members from the following Regions and States:

TIP: Pictures from the NACW Convention are available for viewing and ordering online! Go to <http://www.allstareventphoto.com>. To access the photos for purchase, go to the 'Session Proof' page of the website and enter the session ID "nacw_event" – this must be in all lower-case letters. There, you'll be able to purchase photos. Photos may be purchased with Visa or MasterCard. For more information, contact: Imago Photo Studio, Inc. 305.969.6993 Ed@imagophoto.com

Quotables

- Once a woman has climbed the ladder of success, she shouldn't push it away so that other women can't come up.
Madeleine Albright
- Whether women are better than men I cannot say – but I can say they are certainly no worse.
Golda Meir
- You don't have to make a decision when you're eighteen about what you're going to do when you're fifty, but you do need to keep your options open.
Jean Auel

Region 1 – Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Region 2 – New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

Region 3 – District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia

Region 4 – Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee

Region 5 – Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Region 6 – Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas

Region 7 – Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa

Region 8 – Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota

Region 9 – Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada

Region 10 – Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

If you are – or know someone who is – interested in becoming a board member for NACW, contact the NACW Office (contact information on the front page of this newsletter). It is a rewarding and exciting opportunity to become more involved on a national level!

Board members are expected to attend board meetings (either in person or via conference call) and expenses for attending these meetings are the responsibility of the Board member. At public functions and during the national convention, Board members act as diplomats/ambassadors, welcoming attendees and assisting as requested by the National President. A Board member may be assigned to represent NACW at events or meetings. Board members support the organization by actively pursuing funding sources for NACW to ensure its viability.

Currently, meeting venues are being discussed to better utilize Board members' time and resources (i.e., use more conference calls, conduct efficient meetings, etc.). More information will be forthcoming.

CoffeyTalk

Bonnie Coffey
President

Judging from my daily email and the cards, notes and letters that continue to come in from friends, colleagues and family, more people know that I've been elected to

president of NACW that I ever imagined!



I am honored and thrilled to have been elected president of your national organization. The vision I have for NACW is a big one, but as someone once told me, "Go big or stay home!" I believe we have a charge to develop and provide value to our member commissions for their annual

Noteworthy

- Congratulations to the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) for their recent re-funding! Thanks to the efforts of Executive Director, Lisa Good, NCSW Commissioners and Nebraska State Senator Ernie Chambers, the NCSW has had full funding restored after being defunded for two years.

- Many thanks to outgoing NACW Officers and Board members for their dedicated work during the past two years:

Ruth Jackson – President/Utah

Agnes Roseboro – Vice President/North Carolina

Donna Kreiser – Treasurer/Pennsylvania

Blanca Bichara – Director/Florida

Ossie Clay – Director/Maryland

Maria Hernandez – Director/Texas

NACW Networking newsletter produced by Bonnie Coffey, Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission. Suggestions, submissions and news welcome. Send to bcoffey123@aol.com

dues. I believe we have a charge to reach out to women's commissions across the country to not only lend a hand and help one another succeed in what we are all about, but to also bring them into NACW's membership rolls. I believe we have a charge to strengthen NACW's infrastructure.

When I returned home after the convention, I told my partner-in-life that I may have bitten off more than I can chew. He quietly responded, "Bonnie, that's never stopped you before." And so it is with NACW – nothing has ever stopped us before. We do have challenges, but we have always had challenges.

Your Board of Directors is a remarkable group of people who are talented and dedicated to the greater good of this organization. They have committed their time, skills and resources to ensure that NACW becomes all it was intended to be. Already, they have stepped forward to offer their help in ensuring that NACW not only exists, but succeeds. They have all chosen to work together and have already begun to tend to the tasks at hand.

It is my intent to have the Executive Committee meet via conference call monthly, with the entire Board meeting every other month via conference call. Discussions are underway to reduce the number of face-to-face Board meetings to once annually rather than twice. This will not only save money for existing Board members, but will help make the Board experience more affordable for those who wish to serve.

I will send monthly updates to the NACW member commissions so that they are kept aware of what is happening within NACW. In return, I ask that you continue your support of NACW, both in spirit and financially. Together, we are better.

As we move forward, remember that we cannot fix what we don't know is broken, and we love to hear when we're doing something right – everyone likes positive encouragement, even a volunteer Board of Directors! I encourage you to become actively involved with NACW and to let me hear from you – I can be reached in a variety of ways:

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Lastly, thank you – for your daily work in the issues that impact women. If not us, then who?