



Networking

Spring 2006

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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See You at Convention July 19-22!

The Plains and Prairies await you in Lincoln, Nebraska July 19-22 for NACW's annual convention – and you won't want to miss this opportunity to connect or reconnect with the only national professional organization for women's commissions! Sponsored by the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission with support from the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women and the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, here's just a part of what's in store for you...

- Terrific hotel room rates! The convention site hotel is Holiday Inn with rates of just \$60; close by are the Embassy Suites and the Marriott/Cornhusker at rates of \$119. Here's your chance to attend your first convention!
- A track of breakout sessions that will focus on commission operations, including performance measures, problem solving, creating a 'status of women' report for your city, county or state, and survival skills to ensure that your commission can withstand attempts to defund and/or dissolve.
- A "Resource Rendezvous" where you can bring your commissions' newsletters, brochures and other materials to share with others – and where you can pick up ideas and examples of great projects from other commissions – all for free!
- An NACW "Members Only" Networking event, as promised, one of the benefits of being part of a member commission or an Affiliate Member.
- A chance to have your commission recognized through NACW's "Achievement Awards" program, slated for the final Awards & Installation Breakfast.
- A chance to attend the long-standing traditional "Commissioners" or "Executive Directors" Exchanges where you can meet and network with peers.

Registration deadline is June 30, so get your registrations and reservations in quickly for this unique opportunity to see the middle of the country and connect with colleagues. Registration packets were sent in February to all known commissions; if you did not receive one, call 402.441.7716 or email bcoffey@lincoln.ne.gov.

TIP: A great way to share your connection to the only national professional organization for women's commissions is to share this newsletter with your appointing authorities and other elected officials.

NACW Convention Sites

2006 – Lincoln, Nebraska
2007 – Louisville, Kentucky
2008 – New Mexico

TIP: Want to be a member of NACW, but you have no budget for your commission? The NACW Board has established a special \$50 membership for commissions with a \$0 budget, and it's easy to have all your commissioners chip in \$5 or \$10 to join NACW. Membership in NACW more than pay for itself through networking and connection, and resources to excellent programming that will make your commission shine!

Quotables

- Every woman should have a purse of her own.
Susan B. Anthony
- Toughness doesn't have to come in a pinstripe suit.
Dianne Feinstein
- Courage is very important. Like a muscle, it is strengthened by use.
Ruth Gordon
- When I dare to be powerful -- to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.
Audre Lord

This year's theme is

Making it REAL

RESPECT EQUALITY ACHIEVEMENT LEADERSHIP

Come to Nebraska and join the fun, the camaraderie, the sharing and the support of women's commissions across the country.

NACW Website Unveiled

Thanks to the generosity of Procter & Gamble, NACW has just unveiled its newly revamped web site, www.nacw.org. The site features complete information on the upcoming annual convention, NACW's resolutions and NACW members in the ten regions across the country – including live links to emails and commission websites. The National Board, Officers and Associate Directors are listed, along with information on membership. A "Members Only" section holds a bulletin board for members to post requests for information or assistance, along with information on bylaws and other NACW business. Information on our upcoming convention is included, with forms to download. Also included are links to other major women's organizations across the country for legislative information.

The NACW Board is pleased to have this important communications tool and a professional image for our professional association – be sure to check it out often and frequently!

NACW Board Changes

The NACW Board bids a reluctant farewell to Patricia Presley, who has resigned to devote her time to running for the U.S. House of Representatives from Oklahoma's 5th District. At the Winter Board Meeting in late March, the Board unanimously approved a replacement for Patty.

Bernice Mitchell of Stillwater, Oklahoma brings a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors. We welcome her to the Board! Bernice, now retired, was the first African American elected to County or City office in Payne County/Stillwater and the recipient of many honors and awards, including Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, and the Excellence in Equality Award from the NWPC Black Caucus. As a commissioner on the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, Bernice has held many positions, including Vice Chair and Chair.

There will be elections for seven vacancies on the Board of Directors at the annual convention in July. Nomination information was sent with the registration packets; if you're interested in running for the national Board, contact bcoffey@lincoln.ne.gov or look at the convention information on NACW's website, www.nacw.org.

Noteworthy

●The Wisconsin Women's Council has developed an important report, "Women and Elected Office in Wisconsin: 2005 Benchmark Study." This report analyzes data on more than 16,600 elected and appointed offices in state and local government in Wisconsin. To download a copy, visit the Wisconsin Women's Council website: <http://womenscouncil.wi.gov/>

For information on how to replicate one for your community, contact Christine Lidbury, Executive Director at 608.266.2219 or via email at Christine.Lidbury@Wisconsin.gov

●At the Winter Board meeting March 27 & 28, the NACW Board voted to become a member of the National Women's History Museum. Take a look at their website (www.nwhm.org) and consider becoming a part of this important effort. Thanks to Dawn Fisk Thomsen, PhD of Columbia, Maryland for suggesting and encouraging NACW's participation!

●The NACW Board also approved payment to the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) as a member. This organization provides terrific resources for those working in women's issues; check out their website for data on your state. www.iwpr.org

●Special thanks to the wonderful women of the Montgomery County (MD) Commission for Women for their TLC during NACW's Winter Board Meeting March 27 & 28! Paula Rodgers arranged all our meals (including coming in her first day of vacation to ensure that we had breakfast!), Tracy Stuger kept us organized and intern Shirley Moore was able to get a better perspective of NACW for the work she does for us. And, of course, Judith Vaughan-Prather extended hospitality and made it possible for NACW to have an office home....thank you all!

●Congratulations to the family of Judith Karandjeff, Executive Director of the Michigan Women's commission - Judith's husband, Bob Kleine, has been appointed by Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm as that state's State Treasurer!

●Kudos to the Miami Beach Commission on the Status of Women who took Equal Pay Day on April 25 to a whole new level! Wearing red, 50 supporters, including local politicians, marched down Lincoln Road in Miami Beach to call attention that women are working "in the red."

NACW Networking newsletter welcomes suggestions, submissions and news. Send to bcoffey123@aol.com

CoffeyTalk

Bonnie Coffey
President



To those who know me, it comes as absolutely no surprise that I like to talk - so, throughout the course of a year, I make quite a few presentations to a variety of groups on the issues that impact women.

Those talks are quite frequently to women who have generally not thought about the impact those issues have on their lives. More often than not, at the end of the talk, women ask me what they can do to help...a hard question to answer. Over time, I have discovered that there is no set answer for these women...there is so much to do and women are the busiest people I know. My response these days is - "find your passion and do something." If you want to impact teenage pregnancy, there are organizations that would welcome your helping hands. If you want your voice to alleviate hunger for women and children, there are food banks that would love to have you walk through their front door. If you want to help women get elected to office, campaigns would cheer when you offer to help.

The trick, I think, is to find something and do it. And so it is with NACW. Your Board has big plans for our professional association, and needs your help to be successful. What are your talents? Where could you best add to our progress? What is your passion? Have you thought about running for a position on the Board? Would you like to join one of the many committees of NACW to help us out in fundraising, membership, or next year's convention in Louisville, Kentucky?

I invite you to become actively involved with NACW - and to seeing you in my hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska for the annual convention. Gosh, I'll bet most of you have never seen Nebraska, so here's your chance - and to meet colleagues from across the country!!

If you want to add your voice, your talents, your skills to NACW, let me hear from you - I can be reached in a variety of ways:

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And - again and as always - thank you - for your daily work in the issues that impact women. If not us, then who?