



Networking

Spring 2008

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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New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women

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Be Included in 2008

As 2008 winds up, it's a good time to put the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) on the top of your list of things to do. There are many ways in which you can support the only professional organization for women's commissions and support your local commission as either a current or former commissioner or advocate.

Membership information has been sent to women's commissions across the country for renewal and to those who have not yet joined or who are lapsed. NACW's membership year is January 1 to December 31. For those commissions whose budgets occur in June or July, it's an ideal time to submit paperwork to include NACW in your strategic plan. For those commissions who have no budget, it's easy to collect small amounts from each commissioner to cover the minimal \$50 dues for commissions with no annual budget.

To recognize the ongoing commitment to the work women's commissions do, NACW has also developed an Affiliate Membership that allows individuals who are current or former commissioners or staff to demonstrate their support for the work the national organization pursues. For just \$50 per year, these individuals are allotted benefits that more than justify the dues.

For information and forms on NACW membership and Affiliate Membership, go to www.nacw.org and, on the left hand side, click on "Membership" for downloadable forms.

Get Ready To Be Enchanted!

NACW's 2008 convention planning is well underway with the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women hard at work to provide a quality experience in The Land of Enchantment. Slated for July 16-19, 2008 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this year's convention will be not only an opportunity for conducting association business and attending skill-building workshops that will enhance your commission's operations, but an outstanding chance to bring the family to an amazing American state. In store for you is a convention hotel located next door to an enclave of tiny shops, Historic Old Town, offering Southwestern treasures and amazing restaurants. Down another road, within a

Want to get the attention of your elected officials? Share this newsletter with your appointing authorities and other elected officials and highlight that your commission is a member of the ONLY professional association established to enhance the skills of those working in commissions for women. Be sure to share great news so your commission can be featured – another way to bring positive attention to your commission's work.

NACW Convention Sites

2008 – Albuquerque, New Mexico
2009 - TBA

TIP: Here's a great way to access the great benefits of being an NACW member. If your commission's budget has a \$0 budget, For just \$50, your commission can join the only national professional association for women's commissions. 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

● When will it take place? And will it take place? Will people search for responsibility? I'm talking about the whole female population, that part of the human race referred to as "women." Aren't they going to be paralyzed with fear – which you can be sure will be played upon – that they might lose their femininity? As though femininity is something you can lose the way you lose your pocketbook: Hmmm, where in the world did I put my femininity?

Francoise Giroud

● We don't want to be the same as men, merely equal as human beings.

Margaret Heckler

● Once in cabinet we had to deal with the fact that there had been an outbreak of assaults on women at night. One minister suggested a curfew; women should stay at home after dark. I said, "But it's the men who are attacking the women. If there's to be a curfew, let the men stay at home, not the women."

Golda Meir

● The only question left to be settled now is: are women persons?

Susan B. Anthony

block, are children's museums and other entertainment venues.

The New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women is planning a Native American Women Fashion Show where you will have the pleasure of seeing various Native American regalia. A featured speaker on NACW's signature and members-only project, Healthy BONES will be a 'must,' as will a celebration in distinctive New Mexican style. Optional tours to historic Santa Fe and the Sandia and Isleta Resort Casinos will be available.

Block your calendars now and begin saving to be a part of this exciting annual event. You and your commissioners will gain immensely from being involved with NACW business meetings, attending informative workshops designed to enhance your commission's work and the invaluable opportunity to network with others in your field.

Healthy BONES Goes Bilingual

NACW was proud to participate in October's California Osteoporosis Summit – A Focus on the Latino Community. Thanks to Healthy BONES co-chairs Romona Fullman and Jackie Wilson, along with Mary Wiberg for their hard work on this highly successful project. One of the outcomes of this summit was the addition of a CD to the existing Healthy BONES resource kit providing the materials in Spanish. This was made possible by John Dorsey and Procter & Gamble. The event was covered by Univision with Bette Vasquez, local Latina broadcasting icon serving as mistress of ceremonies.

This summit was a great example of organizations working together synergistically to set the foundation for a strategic California Initiative targeted to the number one minority group in the United States. NACW joined its new partner, Bone and Joint Decade, along with many others to provide a stellar educational opportunity on this disease.

In other Healthy BONES news, the Maryland Commission for Women presented guest speaker Kris House, Community Outreach and Special Events Manager of The National Osteoporosis Foundation at their commission meeting in November.

Bone and Joint Decade provided a terrific resource to Lesley Guthrie, executive director of the Texas Governor's Commission for Women in hosting a booth at the Texas Conference for Women on October 4. With over 8,000 women in attendance, the Commission hosted health screenings, including osteoporosis. Plans are on the drawing board for an osteoporosis screening in the spring with a "Fit to a T" speaker.

Noteworthy

- NACW's intern, **Katharine Potts-Dupre**, has left us but found a new home at the National Women's Law Center, where she quickly made a connection. NLWC is in the process of polling women's commissions across the country for their Women & Health Reform project. Monthly conference calls are available to interested commissions on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Calls are free; to register, go to <http://action.nwlc.org/healthcarereform>. The calls are intended to provide a collaborative forum for women's advocates to focus on health reform at the state and local level, learn from one another and share experiences and questions that have come up in addressing various health reform proposals.

- NACW is benefiting from some tremendous talent in its home office. **Carolyn Cook** is applying her formidable managerial skills in our national headquarters. Carolyn's passion for women's equality and her extensive experience in developing programs and training are NACW's gain – welcome, **Carolyn!**

- Along with **Mary Wiberg**, Executive Director of the California Commission on the Status of Women and our friend **John Dorsey** of Procter & Gamble, NACW was recognized in the Dec/Jan newsletter from the Bone and Joint Decade for their work in producing Spanish products for the education of osteoporosis. NACW's **Healthy BONES** project has garnered national attention and now provides Spanish information in the toolkit.

- The NACW Board regretfully accepted resignations of two board members, Sharon Langlotz of the Indiana Commission for Women and Dawn Seidel with the Luzerne County Commission for Women in Pennsylvania. Sharon has taken a position with another state agency and Dawn has fulfilled her dream of working with those impacted by disaster as a member of FEMA. We will miss their voices and their expertise and thank them for their donations of time and talent to NACW.

- The Salem County Commission on Women in Salem, NJ hosted a unique "Road Rally for Women's History" in March. This self-guided tour of Salem County locations portraying the important contributions of women to the formation of the United States included the opportunity to "meet" famous women from history including Betsy Ross and Cornelia Hancock. Registration included a commemorative guidebook and a box lunch. For information, contact them at P.O. Box 744, Salem, NJ 08079 – March 2009 will be here sooner than you think!

NACW Networking newsletter produced by **Bonnie Coffey**. Articles & news welcome. Send to bcoffey123@aol.com

CoffeyTalk

Bonnie Coffey
President



Life gets pretty interesting sometimes. When my local commission was defunded last fall and I lost my position as Director after 12 years, I found myself wondering what the heck I was going to do with my life. I'd already been doing what I loved – so what would possibly compare? People told me that when one door closes, another opens; I was wishing the darned door would open already!

Many of us working in women's commissions are in pretty political environments; I was surprised at just how stressed I was from being in a constant stew of political issues and jockeying for 12 years. I wondered (no, I really *fretted*; I do have bills to pay!) what my next great adventure was going to be. Then, a good friend commented, "You know, at our age, we should be doing something we like." So, just what did I like?

I promised myself three months to decompress and spent much time pondering about what to do with this new-found opportunity to retool. So much for promises – in short order, I received offers to work in the issues that impact women on a national level and discovered a whole new way to live. With my own consulting firm, I have newfound freedom and can continue working in what really impassions me. I can see new avenues to address important issues through new partners and organizations and have been able to become much more actively involved in politics from a different angle.

Here's what I also found out...that when our commission was closed, it took a very short time for people to forget what the group had done for the past 36 years – it was almost as if we'd never existed. And that's when I knew the importance of having women's commissions not only survive, but *thrive*. Those of you work in women's commissions as commissioners or as staff do important work and I know you never hear, "Thank you!"

What you do is important and needed and I am proud to know you are out there working hard. Thank you!

As members of NACW, our job is to ensure that women's commissions survive and thrive.

Because if we don't, who will?