



Networking

Spring 2007

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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Is This Your Last Newsletter??

The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) celebrated 2006 with a near record number of member commissions, and the Board wants to keep the trend alive. NACW's fiscal year is January-December, which means that memberships are now up for renewal (or joining, if you're a new member!). Membership information can be found on NACW's website (www.nacw.org); invoices can be arranged by contacting Judith Vaughan-Prather at Judith.Vaughan-Prather@montgomerycountymd.gov. Keep your benefits and network growing!

Major Issues. Special Exhibits. Exceptional Women.

That's the theme for NACW's 38th annual business meeting and convention slated for July 11-14, 2007 in charming Louisville, Kentucky. You won't want to miss this extraordinary event that promises to be beneficial and fun.

The convention hotel is The Brown Hotel, built in 1923 and lovingly restored (www.brownhotel.com). Room rates are \$80 per night and is applicable July 9-15 for those wishing to turn the time into a vacation. The convention hosts, Kentucky Commission for Women and the Kentucky Commission for Women Foundation, have created outstanding opportunities for attendees to not only attend to association business, but to learn and network. NACW members will have the opportunity to attend the 2007 Governor's Conference on Kentucky's Women at no extra charge.

By popular request, the traditional Executive Directors and Commissioners Exchange has been expanded to two hours. Registered delegates will vote on four officer and seven director openings. One of the business meetings is scheduled during lunch at Churchill Downs and free time is available for exploring downtown Louisville and 4th Street Live. On Friday evening, The President's Night Out features a cruise on the Belle of Louisville and a post-convention tour provides a tour of one of Kentucky's oldest towns. NACW Achievement Awards will feature some of the best and brightest projects from NACW member commissions. And, back by popular demand, are Resolutions on contemporary

TIP: Highlight your commission's membership in NACW by displaying the NACW logo in your newsletter. Contact the NACW office (info@nacw.org) to have a logo emailed to you.

NACW Convention Sites

2007 – Louisville, Kentucky
2008 – Albuquerque, New Mexico
2009 - ???

TIP: NACW now has a special way for current and past commissioners, as well as those who support the work NACW does, to become an Affiliate Member. For just \$50, you can help add your voice to those who are working in the issues that impact women across the country.

An Affiliate Member form is available on NACW's website, www.nacw.org, through the lefthand side key, "Membership."

Quotables

●At my age and in my condition, I'm going to do what I want – I haven't got time for anything else.

Florynce Kennedy

●Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; it's only good for wallowing in.

Katherine Mansfield

●You have to say "no" to the old ways before you can begin to find the new "yes" you need.

Betty Friedan

●You can't change the music of your soul.

Katharine Hepburn

●Old age is something to be worn with dignity, knowing that you've lived and seen and experienced so many things that can be useful to the young.

Josephine Baker

Issues, submitted by NACW member commissions.

Registration is \$325 for members and includes all business meetings, presentations, discussions, concurrent sessions, Wednesday program and dinner, lunches and all breakfasts. Outstanding opportunities to learn how to be a better commission and valuable networking await NACW members.

NACW is the only professional organization for women's commissions and provides unparalleled benefits. Mark your calendars and watch for registration materials on in your email box and on the website soon.

Healthy BONES Continues to Grow

Procter & Gamble is NACW's premier partner for one of NACW's newest and most exciting benefits – Healthy BONES. This community education program on the issues around osteoporosis provides NACW members a turnkey project. John Dorsey, Procter & Gamble's Federal Government Manager and NACW Director Lynn Adler, JD and her Healthy BONES committee, Romona Fullman and Jackie Wilson, have crafted a singularly unique opportunity for commissions to provide a value to their communities. Regardless of budget resources, Healthy BONES offers opportunities to present important information on a critical health issue for women.

If your commission has not taken advantage of this benefit – *free of charge* to NACW members – contact Lynn Adler (adler100s@aol.com) or NACW's office (info@nacw.org)

Information on Healthy BONES can be found on NACW's website, www.nacw.org.

NACW Heads to United Nations

With the capable leadership of NACW Director Theresa deLangis, PhD, NACW is headed to the United Nations 51st Commission on the Status of Women in New York March 8. Terri has organized a panel presentation that will demonstrate the role of women's commissions as bridges between women and government.

Panel participants provide diversity in commissions (state, county and city) as well as geographical regions. Moderated by NACW President Bonnie Coffey, the panel includes:

- Patrice Bourdeau, a commissioner with the Broward County Commission on the Status of Women
- Theresa deLangis, PhD, executive director of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women
- Judith Vaughan-Prather, executive director of the Montgomery County Commission for Women
- Cecilia Zamora, a commissioner with the Marin County Women's Commission (San Rafael, California).

Noteworthy

●Christine Lidbury, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Women's Council, has put NACW's Issue Alerts to good use. Christine placed the alerts on the Council's webpage (www.womenscouncil.wi.gov). NACW recognizes that commissions have different roles in advocacy; the Wisconsin Council website adds the disclaimer, "Issue Alerts are provided for information only. The Women's Council is an NACW member. However, the Council does not enforce legislation and has not taken independent action to review these proposals or their impact in Wisconsin."

●The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women held a Greater Boston Public Hearing in late February to gather personal input, experiences and testimony from women in the Greater Boston region. The commission issued a report, "State of Women: A County by County Report on the Status of Massachusetts Women & Girls," revealing that women earn less than men in every county of Massachusetts. For more information, email mcsw@state.ma.us.

●NACW Associate Director Pat Cornish represents NACW at meetings of the National Committee on Pay Equity. NACW was elected to the Board for an additional two-year term. For information, go to www.pay-equity.org.

●New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women Executive Director, Mary Molina Mescall has invited NACW President Bonnie Coffey to speak at the 22nd Annual Governor's Awards for Outstanding New Mexico Women in Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 4. Over 100 nominations have been submitted for recognition of remarkable New Mexico women.

●Need advice or information on an issue? Go to NACW's website (www.nacw.org) and post your question/issue on the "Members Only" section.

●NACW's Board of Directors will meet for a spring meeting in Rockville, Maryland April 26 & 27. NACW's office is housed within the Montgomery County Commission for Women, 401 N. Washington Street, Suite 100.

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

Barbara Albu Lehman with the Somerset County Commission for Women will serve as an alternate panelist. Other representatives of NACW will be in attendance for the question and answer period following the panel discussion and include Lynn Adler, JD, a member of the NACW Board of Directors and a commissioner with the Phoenix Women's Commission; Anne Dunn and Leslie Ann Orticke (Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women); Mary Margaret Fleming (Monterey County [CA] Commission on the Status of Women); Betty Hoover and Joselyn Wolfe (Howard County [MD] Commission for Women; and Mariana Vergara (Morris County [NJ] Advisory Commission of Women).

CoffeyTalk

Bonnie Coffey, President



One of the best things about being president of NACW is the wide range of networks that I have developed with colleagues across the country. We commiserate, we celebrate and we dream – oh, how we dream! In my conversations with these remarkable women, I learn that far too many commissions are being challenged. Whether it's about the money or it's a philosophical difference, the bottom line is that commissions are being downsized, downbudgeted and downright eliminated. This is not only sad, I find it frightfully shortsighted on the part of elected officials who believe that things are just peachy keen, hunky dory for women in their communities and states.

So what is it that keeps those of us 'in the biz' keep on keepin' on? The answer to this question is one of the reasons I find great value in NACW membership. No one else understands the political and governmental atmosphere in which we work and volunteer than those who also are in this environment. Make no mistake – this is not easy work, whether you're a staff member or a commissioner. We must have opportunities to meet one another and to establish relationships that enable us to not only survive, but to thrive – not only as commissions, but as individuals who have chosen to take on this work.

I encourage you to join NACW as a member commission or an Associate Member. Add your voice to the growing chorus of advocates of women's commissions. It will take us all to ensure our futures together.

Thank you – for your constant and steadfast work to affect the issues that impact women. If not us, then who? When you strengthen women, you strengthen families.