



# Networking

Summer 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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## The Land of Enchantment Awaits - But Hurry - Deadline is Soon!

The 39<sup>th</sup> annual National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) business meeting and convention is ready for you! The New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women is hosting this important event and has gone out of their way to provide not only an outstanding facility for our meeting, but unique opportunities to savor the City of Albuquerque.

Some of the speakers include:

**Alisa Valdes Rodriguez** - author of Dirty Girls Social Club

**Dr. Martha Burk** - co-founder and President of the Center for the Advancement of Public Policy, former chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations and contributing editor to Ms. Magazine

**Dr. Justina Trott** - founding member of the National Women's Health Network and Chair of the NM Governor's Women's Health Advisory Council

**Jeff Lewis** - President of the Heinz Family Philanthropies

**Betty Sparrow-Doris** - New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

**Emily Allen** - WorkSearch Coordinator with AARP Foundation

**Roberta Biegel** - Senior Director of Public Policy & Government Relations at National Osteoporosis Foundation

For several years, NACW has worked to provide workshops that enhance and build on the skills to enhance commission operations and that are geared for commission staff, commissioners and supporters. No other organization provides attendees with this specialized type of educational for women's commissions. Workshops are available on:

Girls' Educational Programming & Emmy Award-Winning Girls Documentary

Planning Effective Strategies for Commissions for Women

ABCs of Keeping Your Commission Sustainable & How to Navigate Political Land Mines

Getting on the Radar Screen - How to Publicize Your Commission

**TIP - Here's a great way to celebrate news from your commission and get the attention of your appointing authorities and elected officials! Send your latest achievements to NACW Networking quarterly newsletter! When it appears in the newsletter, make sure those elected officials and other supporters are aware of this national exposure. A great way to bring positive attention to your commission's hard work!**

### NACW Convention Sites

2008 – Albuquerque, New Mexico  
2009 – TBA at Convention!

**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 pays for itself through networking, connections, and resources to excellent programming that will make your commission shine!**

### Quotables

- It's not that I'm afraid: Courage is not the absence of fear, it's the control of fear.  
Dickie Chapelle  
World War II Photojournalist
- Go to meet destiny halfway and destiny will come to your assistance.  
Svetlana Alliluyeva  
Author, *Only One Year*
- Following a precedent is an easy substitute for thinking.  
Ruth Smeltzer  
Author
- Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; It's only good for wallowing in.  
Katherine Mansfield  
British short story writer

Facilitated Discussions for Executive Director/Staff and Commissioners

During the Business Meeting sessions, official delegates will vote on important business, including the election of candidates to the Board of Directors and a new Public Policy Platform. You'll hear news of the Board meetings for the past year, as well as the site of the 2009 convention.

One of the most rewarding experiences of attending NACW's annual convention is the networking. The work of women's commissions is like no other, and it's quite frequently difficult to find colleagues who really understand the challenges faced. The opportunity to share experiences, difficulties and successes provide the platform for long-lasting relationships that reap enormous benefits for those who seek them.

A remarkable opportunity to experience Albuquerque and its culture, food and sights await you! Join us as we tend to the business of the association and grow our abilities. Information is available at [www.nacw.org](http://www.nacw.org).

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## NACW Board Votes to Support Good Deed Foundation

The Good Deed Foundation, LLC is headed by philanthropist Andre Martin, seeks to generate sustainable funding for organizations that benefit women and girls in poverty and impact environmental issues.

Good Deed is introducing a brand logo that will be featured on select consumer products available in supermarkets and other retail stores from Spring 2008. Two-thirds of the revenues from goods purchased with the Good Deed co-branded products will be paid to the Women's Funding Network Foundation.

To support products carrying the Good Deed logo, the Foundation has partnered with non-profit organizations representing more than 80 million Americans. Through this constituent marketing campaign, these organizations are pro-actively engaging their members to purchase products bearing the GDF products and help spread the word about GDF products through their personal networks, offering consumer products companies a completely unique and unprecedented grass-roots opportunity to promote their products that goes far beyond traditional cause-making. NACW Associate Director Susan Garrison, Esq., researched the Good Deed Foundation and reported to the Board during a recent meeting. As a result, NACW's Board of Directors granted the Foundation's request for a letter of support, and looks forward to watching this innovative program grow to the benefit of women.

## Noteworthy

• NACW notes with sadness the passing of a former Board member and Vice President.

**Agnes Roseboro** headed up the Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women in North Carolina and was a dedicated and ardent supporter of NACW. A floral arrangement on behalf of NACW and its members was sent along with our sincere sympathies to the family. She will be greatly missed.

• An Associate Director on the NACW Board, **Pat Cornish**, has been appointed to the Maryland Commission for Women. Pat has been a longtime commissioner on the Montgomery County (MD) Commission on Women. Congratulations, Pat!

• **Eva Mika, PhD**, Research Associate for the Cook County (IL) Commission on Women's Issues shared the news of that commission's issue report, *The Realities of Human Trafficking in Cook County: Strategies for Ending the Exploitation of Women and Girls*. The report is based on testimony obtained at the Commission's 2005 public hearing and includes recommendations for the Cook County Board of Commissioners. For more information, contact Eva at 312.603.1104. Eva is a former member of NACW's Board of Directors.

• The NACW Board of Directors is pleased to welcome a former board member back to the fold! **Judith Karandjeff**, Executive Director of the Michigan Women's Commission, was approved to fill an unexpired term on the Board. Welcome back, Judy!

• **Sharon Ferguson-Quick**, Executive Director of the Hawaii Commission for Women, shared the news that they recently held a workshop encouraging women to run for elected office. Ready to Run™ is a program of the Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. This innovative program provides crucial information on fundraising, media training, navigating the party system, putting together a campaign and positioning oneself for elective office. Almost 80 women attended and Sharon reports that they're already asking for more information!

Information on holding a Ready to Run™ in your community, contact **Jean Sinzdak**, Program Manager, Program for Women Public Officials at CAWP at 732.932.9384.

**NACW Networking newsletter produced by Bonnie Coffey. Articles & news welcome. Send to [bcoffey123@aol.com](mailto:bcoffey123@aol.com)**

## CoffeyTalk

Bonnie Coffey  
President

Regardless of who you supported in the presidential races, it's clear that being a woman is an issue. Like me, you may have received countless emails about the sexist manner in which Hillary Clinton – our nation's first viable woman candidate for President of the United States – was being treated in the media. One of the emails I received actually had links to the Sunday press programs, the interviews and other sources of the way in which Ms. Clinton was being treated...and it was, decidedly different. It was disappointing and it made me angry.

Now that it's clear that this isn't the year that we'll make history with a first woman president, but that we could make history by electing the first African American as president, the media attention is turning now towards the spouses of the two apparent candidates. This media focus is only slightly less sexist, focusing on how Cindy McCain and Michelle Obama dress or how their hair looks on a particular day. I'm waiting for the first chocolate cookie recipe and bake-off to make headlines.

Since Hillary's departure from the field, campaigns are falling all over themselves to attract the women left candidate-less. While it's impressive to be wooed, women now have the unique opportunity to ensure that the issues that are important to us get addressed. This is our opportunity to ask hard questions and demand forthright answers. This is our opportunity to have the ears of the leaders of our country for the next four years. This is our opportunity and we can't afford to let it pass.

In historic words, "Now is the time for all good women to come to the aid of the party." Write letters to the editor of your local newspapers. Post questions on candidate blogs. Attend political forums and raise your hand when questions are invited from the floor. Pick an issue that is important to you as a woman and make it your hallmark, wear it as your banner through this political season. Be bold and speak the unspoken issues that others will not. Submit questions to debates when asked. Put a bumper sticker on your car.

Because if we don't, who will?

