



# Networking

Winter 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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**Host Convention Director**

**Marie Sedillo**

New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women

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## Be Included in 2008

As 2007 winds down, it's a good time to put the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) on the top of your list of resolutions for the new year. There are many ways in which you can not only support the only professional organization for women's commissions, but for you to support your local commission as either a current or former 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](http://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, next year's convention will be not only an opportunity for conducting association business and attending skill-building workshops that will also enhance your commission's operations and 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. Down another

**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

• You do not have to say "no" to the old ways before you can begin to find the new "yes" you need.

Betty Friedan

• Age is as meaningless as skin color.

Diahann Carroll

• 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

• Age is something that doesn't matter unless you're a cheese.

Billie Burke

road, within a 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.

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## 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 welcomes intern Katherine Potts-Dupre! Katherine has been working in NACW's national office on membership and recruitment – thanks, Katherine, for your invaluable help! Katherine is a Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude graduate of Middlebury College and recipient of the Eaton Prize for the highest academic standing in the classics.

- Congratulations to Sylvia Gale who was recently named executive director of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women. Gale joins the commission after seven years in youth and family work and as a co-founder of New Hampshire's third rape and domestic violence crisis center.

- The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women welcomed Rachel Scott as executive director. Rachel has worked as a public policy consultant with State Public Policy Group since 2004, having promoted advocacy efforts on behalf of groups such as afterschool programs, workforce development centers, and foster and adoptive parents.

- Through the efforts of NACW's accountant, Pat Cornish and the assistance of pro bono attorneys Pepper Law, NACW was granted its 501(c)(3) status by the IRS in late November.

- The Montgomery County Commission for Women hosted a delegation of women from Kenya who were in the United States of learn more about how governments may address women's issues. The ten women, from pastoral, nomadic communities, appreciated the opportunity to learn new ways to approach the challenges they face back home, compounded by poverty, wars, refugees, drought and AIDS.

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## CoffeyTalk

Bonnie Coffey  
President



During this holiday season, I drag out the decorations – which, truth be told, get smaller and smaller every year. I'm downsizing and keeping only those things that are truly memorable to me. One of those is the book, "The Little Book of Christmas Joys." Here are some of my favorite ideas for all faiths to make the holidays merrier..

- Don't count calories from December 15 through January 2.
- Tie jingle bells on your kid's shoelaces – or yours!
- Give your place in the gift-wrapping line to someone who looks as if she has had a hard day.
- Let someone else have the parking place you just found. Think of it as a gift to a stranger.
- Smile at police officers, fire fighters, emergency personnel, security guards and armed services personnel. Thank them for being on the job during the holidays.
- Once or twice, take a different route home from work and enjoy the decorations in another neighborhood.
- Make your family feel just as important as your holiday company.
- Buy gifts from local artisans.
- Let someone with just a few items go ahead of you in line at the grocery store.
- Keep peppermints in your car to hand to parking lot attendants.
- Discover the quiet satisfaction of anonymous giving.
- Answer your phone by saying, "Merry Christmas!" or "Happy Holidays!"
- Ask neighbors if you can watch their house, pick up their newspapers and collect their mail when they are out of town during the holidays.
- Be nice to sales personnel. They're often wearier than you are.
- Remember that peace on earth starts with peace in our homes and in our hearts.

However you choose to celebrate this season, from my house to yours, I wish you good tidings and a warm and wonderful holiday!