

Winter 2011

NACW is committed to equality and justice for women by increasing the effectiveness of member commissions and serving as their national voice.

NACW Officers

Cecilia Zamora - President

California

Lori SchraderBachar - Vice President

Iowa

Bernice Compton Mitchell - Treasurer

Oklahoma

Diane Mills McKay - Secretary

New Jersey

Mary Molina Mescall - Imm Past President

New Mexico (Ex-Officio)

NACW Board of Directors

Olivia Barnes

California/Region 9

Janice Coakley

Florida/Region 4

Romona Fullman

Delaware/Region 3

Kristin Svyantek Garvey

Indiana/Region 5

Phyllis Gordon

California/Region 9

Lesley Guthrie

Texas/Region 3

Alison Hughes

Arizona/Region 9

Roberta Mack

Arizona/Region 9

Tammy Martin

North Carolina/Region 4

Carolyn Nelson-Goedert

Florida/Region 4

Cynthia Smith

Texas/Region 6

Elizabeth Thompson

Michigan/Region 5

Judith Vaughan-Prather

Maryland/Region 3

Mary Wiberg

California/Region 9

NACW National Office

Bonnie Coffey, Executive Director

201 Hunters Crossing Blvd.

Suite 10-172

Bastrop, TX 78602

855.703.NACW (6229)

www.nacw.org

West Virginia Women's Commission to Host 2012 NACW Annual Conference

Check the airmiles for Charleston, West Virginia for July 25-28, 2012 because that's where you'll want to be for the 2012 NACW annual conference! The West Virginia Women's Commission submitted the winning bid with the theme of "Count Us In!" to host next year's event at the Embassy Suites and they're already hard at work to ensure that there will be not only outstanding workshops and networking opportunities, but also a wide variety of activities for family members and attendees alike.



Members of the West Virginia Women's Commission plan the 2012 NACW annual conference. L-R - Judi Nuckolls, Special Project Coordinator; Tara Martinez, Executive Director; Commissioners Stacy North, Susan Perry, Linda Waybright and Kat Williams, PhD, Chair.

Charleston, the capital of West Virginia, boasts a charming town with people known for their southern hospitality in the cultural, recreational and business capital of the Appalachian Mountain region. Staff and commissioners of the West Virginia Women's Commission have already recruited additional members of the host commission committees to brainstorm unique and fun experiences. While you're checking travel arrangements, seriously consider turning your conference experience into a family vacation - there will be lots of things for everyone to enjoy. Already being discussed are zip line excursions, white water rafting, regional crafts, vendors and other opportunities to enjoy this region's unique offerings.

NACW's annual conference allows members to not only conduct the business of the association, but to also elect officers and directors as well as receive important information and make connections that enhance commission operations.

NACW traditionally offers an entire track of workshops specifically targeting professional development of commissions. These can include working with volunteers, increasing visibility of commission activities, establishing a 501(c)(3) organization for additional funding and working with elected officials.

Mark your calendars now and begin budgeting so you can join colleagues who work in and understand the challenges you and your commission face throughout the year. This event provides a singular opportunity to connect professionally, network with others doing similar work and create a supportive colleague resource bank for future support. Those who attend annual conferences return to their commissions energized and with a vision and frame of reference for their work, as well as with additional skills and connections. The professional development received is a solid investment for commissions, commissioners and staff.



WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Celebrating 35 Years of Advocacy • Education • Research

NACW STRATEGY TIP – Take time today to check airfares for Charleston, West Virginia so you can create a savings plan to attend the 2012 NACW conference. Airlines that fly into Yeager Airport (airport code CRW) include Air Tran, American, Continental, Delta, Spirit, United and US Airways. Don't be left out this year!

NACW STRATEGY TIP – Toot your own horn! Submit news of your commission's work (see last page for info). When it's published, forward the newsletter to your elected officials and those in the community who need to know that your commission is national newsworthy. A great, free strategy to elevate the work of your commission!

Florida Commission on Status of Women Celebrates 20 Years



Florida Commission on the Status of Women Commissioners and Staff with Florida Governor Rick Scott, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam and Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater celebrate 20 years of success with a resolution at their November 15, 2011, Cabinet Meeting.

Tidbits About West Virginia

- West Virginia is the only state in the Union to have

Noteworthy

- NACW is sad to report the death of Gus Nelson, husband of longtime NACW member, former Board Member and former director of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. Our thoughts are with Charlotte and her family. Notes can be sent to 1141 Cummins Circle, Des Moines, IA 50311.

- The 2012 NACW Annual Conference is just 7 months away...have you made plans and budgeted to attend this important professional development event?

- 2012 NACW dues are due – check your commission's email for notices. Please consider becoming an Associate Member to add your personal support to the ONLY national organization that supports the work you do on behalf of women in your community! Associate Member membership forms are on NACW's website (www.nacw.org).

acquired its sovereignty by proclamation of the President of the United States.

- West Virginia is considered the southern most northern state and the northern most southern state.
- Mother's Day was first observed at Andrews Church in Grafton on May 10, 1908.
- Jackson's Mill is the site of the first 4-H Camp in the United States.
- The first federal prison exclusively for women in the United States was opened in 1926 in West Virginia.
- One of the nation's oldest and largest Indian burial grounds is located in Moundsville. Its 69 feet high, 900 feet in circumference, and 50 feet high. An inscribed stone was removed from the vault and is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.
- West Virginia's nickname is the Mountain State and its motto is "Mountaineers Are Always Free."
- Nearly 75% of West Virginia is covered by forests.
- 15% of the nation's total coal production comes from West Virginia.
- West Virginia's Memorial Tunnel was the first in the nation to be monitored by television. It opened November 8, 1954.
- The first rural free mail delivery was started in Charles Town on October 6, 1896, and then spread throughout the United States.
- The first steamboat was launched by James Rumsey in the Potomac River at New Mecklenburg (Shepherdstown) on December 3, 1787.
- A naval battle was fought in West Virginia waters during the Civil War. United States Navy armored steamers were actively engaged in the Battle of Buffington Island near Ravenswood on July 19, 1863.
- On February 14, 1824, at Harpers Ferry, John S. Gallaher published the "Ladies Garland," one of the first papers in the nation devoted mainly to the interests of women.
- Moundsville is the site of the continent's largest cone-shaped prehistoric burial mound. It is 69 feet high and 900 feet in circumference at the base and was opened on March 19, 1838.
- The first electric railroad in the world, built as a commercial enterprise, was constructed between Huntington and Guyandotte.
- Coal House, the only residence in the world built entirely of coal, is located in White Sulphur Springs. The house was occupied on June 1, 1961.
- The world's largest shipment of matches (20 carloads or 210,000,000 matches) was shipped from Wheeling to Memphis, Tennessee, on August 26, 1933.
- The first glass plant in West Virginia was at Wellsburg in 1815. The first pottery plant was in Morgantown in 1785.
- Stone that was quarried near Hinton was contributed by West Virginia for the Washington Monument and arrived in Washington in February 1885.
- The first spa open to the public was at Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, in 1756 (then, Bath, Virginia).
- Mrs. Minnie Buckingham Harper, a member of the House of Delegates by appointment in 1928, was the first African

Quotables

- You don't get ulcers from what you eat. You get them from what's eating you.
Vicki Baum
- For fast acting relief, try slowing down.
Lily Tomlin
- when words & manners leave you no space for yrself/make a poem/very personal/very clear/& yr obstructions will join you or disappear/
Ntozake Shange
- There is little space in the political scheme of things for an independent, creative personality, for a fighter. Anyone who takes that role must pay a price.
Shirley Chisholm
Unbought and Unbossed, 1920

American woman to become a member of a legislative body in the United States.

- The first brick street in the world was laid in Charleston, West Virginia, on October 23, 1870, on Summers Street, between Kanawha and Virginia Streets.
- Chester Merriman of Romney was the youngest soldier of World War I, having enlisted at the age of 14.

Women Veterans Prompt Action

The number of women serving in U.S. Armed Forces is steadily rising. With more than 1.8 million women veterans, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that 107,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, and approximately 7,000 are women. One of the U.S. Department of Labor **Women's Bureau's** four strategic priorities is helping homeless women veterans find a path to good jobs and financial security.

With more than 152,500 female veterans, Texas is home to the second largest number of women who served in the American armed forces. Add this number to the thousands currently serving and their families, and it's easy to see that many female heroes call Texas home. The **Texas Governor's Commission for Women** is looking at ways they can help military families - active duty and veterans - receive help meeting physical, emotional or financial needs. The commission is coordinating with private organizations as well as federal program offices to ensure women who serve receive needed assistance in a timely, and if necessary, confidential manner.

The Michigan Women's Commission's January meeting, focusing on women veterans, will feature Lt. Col (Ret) Janis Nark, a Michigan native and Army veteran who has served in Europe and Vietnam. After the war, she transferred from active duty to the Army Reserves where she served for 26 years, including active duty during Desert Storm. Lt. Col. Nark is recognized by the Army as being an expert in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare and has graduated from the Armed Forces Command and General Staff College. She serves as a director on the board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

Happy New Year Message from the President

Cecilia Zamora, President



A new year is always an opportunity to create a new reality with resolutions that will be meaningful and beneficial. This new year also provides us all with a great opportunity for renewal, change and action. At NACW, we are continuing to find better ways to connect and renew our relationship with our member commissions, as well as developing long-term strategies to partner with other

- Charles Dickens' nickname for his wife was "Dearest darling pig." She later divorced him; big surprise.
- Adrienne Rich, an American poet, wrote a history of childbirth called *Of Woman Born.* Appropriate title.
- Actor Kirk Douglas said the most important thing a father can do for his kids is love their mother. Hear, hear!
- Susan B. Anthony wrote, "Men are what they do, women are what they are." We are, indeed.

NACW Networking newsletter welcomes and wants your commission news! Send to bcoffey123@gmail.com. Deadline schedule:

Spring Issue (Mar/Apr/May) – March 31
Summer Issue (Jun/Jul/Aug) – June 30
Conference Issue – July 31
Fall Issue (Sep/Oct/Nov) – September 30
Winter Issue (Dec/Jan/Feb) – December 31

organizations that support women and girls. In terms of change, NACW changed the way we do business when we hired Bonnie Coffey (former NACW President and E.D. of the Lincoln-Lancaster CSW of NE) last year. In 2012, NACW's Executive Team is working with Bonnie on rebuilding our infrastructure in Texas, while keeping our influence in Washington DC, and with electeds across the country. But what is our Call to Action for 2012? Since the beginning of the economic downturn a couple of years ago, we have seen many women's commissions across the country being threatened, downsized and/or defunded. We have seen the demise of some of the strongest commissions in the country. So I promise you that our "action" for 2012 will be to continue to create strategies that will strengthen all commissions, create more commission resources, and better utilize social media and the internet to positively influence policies that affect women and girls.

With the advent of 2012, we all have an opportunity to maximize our relationship and involvement with the organizations and associations that we have chosen to support. This year, you can rededicate yourself to the goals and work of NACW and leverage your membership to not only the benefit of your commission, but also to you personally. Many of us forget to utilize the incredible array of resources available as a benefit of NACW membership. Your NACW colleagues have suggestions and strategies that will help make your volunteers and commissioners shine and succeed!

Through other commissions, we have access to those who are working with the same "speed bumps" we are – reduced or no budgets, increased scrutiny and expectations, staffing challenges, volunteer burn-out. Having a challenge finding a great project that will highlight your commission despite a tight budget? Success stories abound amongst other commissions who have achieved such feats and they're happy to share! Struggling with how to work with volunteers to create a dynamic team? By using NACW as a professional and personal resource, you will find eager and sharing colleagues who are willing ears and excellent repositories of terrific information to make your job as a staff member or a commissioner easier, more fun and productive.

You can also resolve to attend the NACW Annual Conference! At this year's conference, you will have access to many resources and tools, as well as an opportunity to meet and network with dynamic commission staff and commissioner volunteers just like YOU – working for the betterment of women and girls in their communities. Start planning now and we'll see you in July!

Make your 2012 resolution to get the most out of NACW!