

Health Care Reform: Impact on Women

Health care reform has dominated the news for several months, with strong feelings on all the issues. The speakers at CWI's September meeting, both experienced in the health care field, will discuss the pros and cons of the reform plans that have been presented and the ways these proposed reforms can affect women.

The speakers are **Judy Waxman**, Health Policy Coordinator, National Women's Law Center, and **Deanna Okrent**, Senior Health Policy Associate, Alliance for Health Care Reform.

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: American Council on Education,
One Dupont Circle, CONFERENCE ROOM C FLOOR 1B

Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.

Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

Dues are payable in September for the 2009-10 year. If you have not received a renewal letter or you would like to join, please see our website to download a membership form at www.womensclearinghouse.org or call 301-493-0002.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Meet Our Member Organizations

At CWI's June meeting we show-cased our member organizations. They are listed below; the name of the representative who spoke with us is at the end along with ways to contact the organization for more information. It was a wonderful program with the opportunity for serious networking. We urge CWI members to support the good work of these organizations.



Debra Louallen-Cole

American Council on Education (ACE) Office of Women in Higher Education (OWHE) has been committed to the advancement of women leaders in higher education since 1973. For more than 35 years, OWHE has provided information and counsel to constituencies within the higher education community regard-

ing policies, issues, education, and research that influence women's equity, diversity and advancement.

The Office's mission is to advance women's leadership by: Identifying national women leaders in higher education; Developing women's leadership abilities through state and national programming; Encouraging women to use those abilities; Advancing women into senior-level leadership positions by working on placement; Linking women leaders to one another; and Supporting the tenure of mid- and senior-level women administrators and presidents throughout their careers.

Debra Louallen-Cole / debra_louallen-cole@ace.nche.edu



Heather Booth

Americans for Financial Reform is a coalition of nearly 200 national, state and local consumer, employee, investor, community and civil rights organizations that have come together to spearhead a campaign for real reform in our banking and financial systems.

The goal of the coalition is to make sure that the depth and breadth of popular anger and frustration are heard, to hold our elected leaders accountable, and to insist on a strong role for the public in making crucial decisions about our economic future. Accountability, fairness, and security must be linchpins of financial reform; but these principles will win out only if the voices of the public prevail.

Heather Booth / hboothgo@aol.com

The goal of the **Center for Inquiry** is to promote and defend reason, science, and freedom of inquiry in all areas of human endeavor. We are a transnational nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that encourages



Melody Hensley



Toni Van Pelt

evidence-based inquiry into science, pseudo-science, medicine and health, religion, ethics, secularism, and society. We are not affiliated with any

political party or political ideology. Through education, research, publishing and social services, we seek to present affirmative alternatives based on scientific naturalism. We are also interested in providing rational ethical alternatives to the reigning paranormal and religious systems of belief, and in developing communities where like-minded individuals can meet and share experiences.

Toni Van Pelt / tvnpelt@centerforinquiry.net



Carolyn Cook

ERA Campaign Network — a national ERA advocacy, communications, and mentoring network — formed in July 2000 for organizations, groups and individuals supporting or campaigning for the Equal Rights Amendment. The organization has 39 contributing members representing 21 states

and the District of Columbia. Our free e-mail newsletter, *The ERA Campaigner*, reaches ERA activists and supporters around the country or visit our website, www.ERACampaign.net. Donations of any size are always welcome to help ERA Campaign Network volunteers expand our work for the ERA.

Carolyn Cook, DC contact or Jennifer Macleod / eracampaign@aol.com

The **Fairfax County Commission for Women** promotes the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County; advises the Board of Supervisors on the concerns of Fairfax County's women and girls; seeks possible solutions to problems that affect women and girls; effects long-term change through public education, policy reform and building community partnerships.

Ina Fernandez / ina.fernandez@fairfieldcounty.gov

June Program Summary, continued



Bernice Waller

Federally Employed Women (FEW) is a private membership organization working as an advocacy group to improve the status of women employed by the federal and District of Columbia governments. The Federal Women's Program (FWP) was established in 1967 when President Lyndon B. Johnson added

sex as a prohibited form of discrimination. The FWP has a primary responsibility to identify barriers to the hiring and advancement of women and to enhance employment opportunities for women in every area of federal service. FWP is an integral part of the overall Civil Rights/Equal Opportunity Program. Each federal agency has at least one FWP manager. All federal employees are served by the FWP, and there is no formal membership.

Bernice Waller / b.f.waller@att.net



Wendy Matheny

Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF). The Choices Campus Leadership Program works with students on college campuses to effect change at the grassroots, national, and global levels. The Campus Program is built upon FMF's philosophy that the most effective activism is informed activism—

through study and action. Our program provides students with opportunities to learn about timely feminist issues, develop their leadership and organizing skills, and connect with the larger pro-choice and feminist movements.

Wendy Matheny / wmatheny@feminist.org www.feministcampus.org



Dara Baldwin



Goody Braun

The League of Women Voters DC, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government,

works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Its goal is to empower citizens and encourage civic participation in order to strengthen the democratic process.

The League of Women Voters DC is a member of the National League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization devoted to good government, which encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV plays two separate and

distinct roles. One is voters service/citizen education, which presents unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process and issues. The second is action/advocacy, which is based on positions reached by consensus after detailed study and discussion at neighborhood meetings.

Dara Baldwin, Goody Braun / www.lwvdc.org or call Goody Braun at 202-723-2477



Linda Mahoney

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a state-wide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. The coalition advocates for progressive legislation and policies that promote and protect the well-being of

Maryland women and their families and provides them opportunities to develop their full potential.

Linda Mahoney / admin@mdlegagenda4women.org www.mdlegagenda4women.org



Reggie Oldak

The Montgomery County Commission for Women is a department of Montgomery County government with two primary mandates: advocacy and service. The 15-member commission was created by county law in 1972 and is charged with the responsibility of advising the public, the county executive, and

agencies of the county, state and federal governments on the issues of concern to women. The organization's Agenda for Action emphasizes mothers in poverty, to draw attention to their plight and work toward policy changes that would benefit them and their children.

Reggie Oldak / 240-777-8330; www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw



Rachel Larris

National Women's Editorial Forum/American Forum (NWEF) empowers women to engage in, transform and democratize the media landscape. The organization is dedicated to increasing the supply of commentary by women and their participation in the media. Our mission is to ensure that women's

voices, their stories and their perspectives, on all key policy issues of the day, get read, get heard and get seen. Using a gender lens, NWEF works with both state and national media outlets to support a full continuum of commentary from newspaper op-eds to radio/TV talk shows to internet blogs.

Rachel Larris / forum@mediaforum.org

June Program Summary, continued



Candace Webb

The **National Women's Law Center (NWLC)** has expanded the possibilities for women and girls in this country since 1972. NWLC uses the law in all its forms: getting new laws on the books and enforced; litigating ground-breaking cases in state and federal courts all the way to the Supreme Court; and educating the public about

ways to make the law and public policies work for women and their families. An experienced staff of more than 50 takes on the issues that cut to the core of women's and girls' lives in education, employment family economic security and health — with special attention given to the needs of low-income women and their families.

Candace Webb / cwebb@nwlc.org



Holly Joseph

NOW, Montgomery County Chapter (MCNOW). The National Organization for Women (NOW) is the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States, with 500,000 contributing members and 550 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. NOW works to eliminate gender discrimination and

sexual harassment in the workplace, schools, the justice system and all other sectors of society; secure reproductive rights for all women, including birth control and abortion; end all forms of violence against women; eradicate racism, sexism and homophobia; and promote equality and justice in our society.

MCNOW is dedicated to education and activism for women's rights with special attention to our community. It offers monthly programs on subjects of interest to women, organizes actions to further feminist causes, and monitors local legislation and legal decisions for their impact on women. This chapter is particularly proud of a new task force to address the sexualization of girls.

Holly Joseph / joseph.holly@gmail.com



Sarah Gotbaum

OWL: Older Women's League, Montgomery County Chapter. OWL, the voice of midlife and older women, founded in 1980, is the only national grassroots organization with chapters across the country dedicated entirely to addressing the concerns of midlife and older women on issues related to aging

including Medicare, Social Security, pension and retirement systems.

Sarah Gotbaum / sargot@earthlink.net



Jaclyn Lichter

Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 500, is dedicated to raising the standard of living for working families in our area. SEIU represents 18,000 women and men working in child care and education and in service to communities and the public interest. Through collective bargaining we win gains that

help SEIU ensure a stable, professional workforce: raises, good health care, pensions and other benefits, safe workplaces, time off when you need it, respect and adequate staff and resources. Our members also engage in meaningful political activity on issues of importance to working families, such as funding and quality improvements for public services, health care reform, and issues of social justice.

Jaclyn Lichter / lichterj@SEIU500.org



Alyssa Best

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) works nationally and in Washington to build pathways to economic independence for America's families, women, and girls. For more than 40 years, WOW has helped women learn to earn, with programs emphasizing literacy, technical and nontraditional skills, the

welfare-to-work transition, career development, and retirement security. Since 1964, WOW has trained more than 10,000 women for well-paid work in the DC area. WOW leads the National Women's Workforce Network, which is comprised of organizations committed to increasing women and girls' access to well-paid work: the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project (FESS), and the Elderly Economic Security Initiative (EES).

Alyssa Best / abest@wowonline.org



Elizabeth Anderson

The **National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO)** is the leading coalition that makes fighting for women's rights more effective by working together. NCWO highlights and promotes the diverse work of our more than 200 member organizations representing eleven million women through our list serve, briefings, conferences and policy work.

NCWO conducts two major programs each year: The Women's Equality Summit and the New Faces, More Voices Leadership Institute.

Elizabeth Anderson / eanderson@ncwo-online.org

OWL / Age Discrimination

“For years, insurers have charged older customers far more than younger ones, in part because of older residents’ higher use of medical services. Now, as Congress wrestles with a health care overhaul aimed at covering the majority of the 46 million uninsured, that discrepancy is one area targeted for change,” according to a recent USA Today article on age discrimination in health care. “...Insurers want Congress to let them charge older Americans five times more than young ones....We’re all going to get older, so charging someone an increased premium for something they can’t do anything about is simply ridiculous,” says Natale Zimmer, health policy director for OWL: The Voice of Midlife and Older Women. OWL and 27 other groups, including the National Senior Citizens Law Center and the Service Employees International Union, have asked Congress to require insurers to treat everyone equally when setting premiums. The outcome could affect tens of millions of people — young and old — who don’t get insurance through their jobs and buy it on their own.”

Biden to be Honored by Sheila Wellstone Institute

This year the Sheila Wellstone Institute will celebrate 15 years of the Violence Against Women Act. Vice President Joe Biden and Lupe Serrano will receive 2009 Sheila Wellstone awards. The event will take place Thursday, October 1, from 6-8 pm, in the Russell Senate Office Building, room 325. The Sheila Wellstone Award recognizes individual activists, advocates and elected officials who share Sheila Wellstone’s dedication to safe and healthy homes and communities. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar will host the occasion. Further information: www.Wellstone.org/Sheila.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Sunday & Monday, October 4-5. Feminist Majority: Women, Money, Power Summit, at the Washington Court Hotel, followed by **Congressional Visit Day, Tuesday, Oct. 6**. Speakers include Gloria Steinem and Dolores Huerta. For more information, visit www.feministmajority.com.

Sunday, January 31, 2010. The annual **Women’s Legislative Briefing** will be held at the University of Maryland, Shady Grove Campus, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville MD. Keynote speaker will be pay equity heroine Lilly Ledbetter. For more information about co-sponsorship, volunteering, and general questions, call 240-777-8331 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw.

Interesting Notes

The White House Council on Women and Girls has a new web site, announced on August 26, Women’s Equality Day, which Bella Abzug established in 1971. www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cwg.

Diane Sawyer has been chosen to anchor ABC’s World News Tonight in January 2010 when Charles Gibson retires. That makes two women (the other is Katie Couric, CBS) out of three network evening news anchors.

At a recent reception, hosted by women leaders, the new president of NOW, Terry O’Neill, and other officers received a warm welcome.

President’s Message

CWI begins its 36th year informing and educating women, and men, on subjects impacting the lives of women and their families, beginning our programs with health care reform. We cannot mention health care without thanking Senator Edward M. Kennedy who spent his career in the Senate championing causes for women and their families. He was a major supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment; a strong advocate for Title IX; and a leader in passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act just to name a few. Health care for *all* was his passion. Unfortunately for us he is no longer a senator with a vote, but his voice resounds. Our September meeting is your opportunity to hear health care professionals who will explain what is important to health care reform and where we can compromise. Bring your questions and your friends.

—Barbara J. Ratner

**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917
Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 24, 25** **Annual Conference on Women in the Military** sponsored by WREI and Alliance for National Defense. Cartoonist Gary Trudeau will be a special guest. For further information, www.wrei.org or www.4militarywomen.org.
- Sept. 26** **Walk to Stop Child Trafficking**, Meridian Hill Park, 15th & W Streets, NW. 9 am registration, 10:30 walk. This is part of a national effort coordinated by Stop Child Trafficking Now. You can walk as an individual or sign up with team walker Mary Bailey bravenewworld@starpower.net.

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