



Io Woman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, May/June 2004

ICSW Composition Changes

Angelica Cardenas-Chaisson of Des Moines and Michael Whitlatch of Storm Lake have been appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate for a two-year and four-year term respectively. Kimberly Painter of Iowa City, Holly Mennen-Sagar of Des Moines, and Francis Giunta of Dubuque will begin their second four-year terms.

Judge Brown, Jr. of Fort Dodge and Shawn Mullen of Des Moines have served on the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women for ten and eight years. Their comprehension of women's issues, sense of fairness and justice, along with their wit, interest, and dedication to tasks have been much appreciated, and they will be missed.

One opening remains unfilled for a male who is a Republican or No Party. Those interested may notify the Governor's Office of their interest by sending an appointment resume, which is available by phoning Suzanne Blouin at 515/281-0215 or at <http://www.governor.state.ia.us/boards/gubernatorial.PDF>.

Educational Grants

Friends of ICSW will be accepting applications until July 1, 2004, for assistance grants to low-income women to improve job skills, update professional licensing, enroll in English as a second language class, or attend an occupational seminar leading to increased employment opportunities.

The Friends' Endowment Fund's grants will not exceed a total of \$900, and awards will be announced on August 21st during the fundraising luncheon.

Applicants may obtain a simple application form from the ICSW office at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427 or on the www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw web site.

Bills Reflecting ICSW Legislative Proposals

- Limiting the purchase of over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine to curtail the manufacture of methamphetamine. (HF2259 still alive at press time)
- Elimination of mandatory sentencing and time served laws and restoring more discretion in sentencing for judges. (SF2275 still alive at press time)
- Creating the crime of invasion of privacy and providing a penalty. (HF561 still alive at press time)
- Restoration of funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs as a line item in the state budget. (Priority) (SF2298 - \$5,000)
- Continued funding for follow-up treatment when screening for breast and cervical cancer indicates abnormalities. (HF2577 - \$250,000)
- Amending the landlord/tenant legislation to prohibit eviction of tenants who call law enforcement because of domestic violence. (SF2199 signed by Governor)
- Study a mechanism for storage of rape kits. (HF2522 signed by Governor)

Great Legislative Ideas that Died in the Process

- Legislation clarifying who is a mandatory reporter of dependent adult abuse. (HF2391)
- Legislation so that anyone who abuses, neglects or exploits a dependent adult is charged; addition of a category of emotional/psychological abuse; and enhancing penalties for violation of an individual age 60 or older and/or disabled. (HF2339)

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- Adequate compensation, including benefits, for childcare workers. (SSB1071 and HSB117)
- A professional development system for child care/preschool workers of prerequisite and on-going training, and a process for credentialing workers. (HF227)
- Study of child support issues, including a proposal to move child support enforcement and collections to the Department of Revenue. (HF2020)
- Increase in the minimum wage. (Priority) (HF2163, HF29, SF419)
- Development of a plan to achieve pay equity for employees in private industry furthering the goal of eliminating wage discrimination on the basis of gender. (SF254, SF255, HF451)
- Continued financial assistance to targeted small businesses. (HF2105)
- Legislation to outlaw the unfair employment practice of discrimination based on a person's use of Family Medical Leave. (HF119, SF214)
- The legislative resolution to study the economic, fiscal, and social impact of the establishment of a living wage in Iowa. (SR18)
- Legislation to allow an action to be brought based on fraud relative to a judgment of distribution of marital assets within one to five years after the discovery of the fraud. (HF2504)
- Gender balance on the Iowa State Fair Board. (SF2039)
- Amending the Iowa Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. (SF33, SF105, HF270)
- Focusing on health care reform until health care coverage is accessible to all Iowans. (HF540, HF2445)
- Full funding and implementation of the State Children's Health Care Initiative (*hawk-I*), with consideration of available options including coverage of parents. (HF136, HF325, HF384)
- Coverage for screening tests for women who are at risk for ovarian cancer. (HF104)
- Parity in mental health and substance abuse care coverage. (Priority) (HF627, SF2056, SF2058, SF232, HF63, SF227, SF243, SF58)
- Requirement that the phone number to call and obtain more information about the external review process be printed on insurance cards and be posted in a prominent place in health care facilities, so that a person who has been denied coverage knows how to appeal. (HF2279)
- Restoration of funding for the Legal Services Grants Program as a line item in the state budget. (Priority) (SF2298 lumped this into the Attorney General's budget)
- Automatic restoration of voting rights for felons upon completion of sentence and parole. (Priority) (HF402, HF178, SF311, HF445)
- Monitoring the implementation of the Iowa Supreme Court's Equality in the Courts Task Force's final recommendations. (HF2126)
- Allowing that even "attempted" contact in violation of a protective order can be prosecuted or a contempt action brought. (HF2307)
- Dedication of revenue from real estate transfer tax to fund homeless shelters, low income housing, and rehabilitation. (HSB304)

May Calendar

May – Older Americans Month

1st – Run Like a Mother: 4-Mile Run & Walk, 9 am, Island Park in Cedar Falls. Fundraiser sponsored by the Cedar Valley Area Advisory Committee of the Iowa Women's Foundation. Suzanne.Freedman@uni.edu

1st – deadline for nominations for the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. See www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw for forms.

4th – Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, Café Conference Room, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427 or 515/281-4461 or dhr.icsw@Iowa.gov

7th – Coffee with Chrysalis: "Aging with Attitude. 7:30 to 8:30 am. Waveland Room, Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines. Free but must register in advance. 515/255-1853 or pdavis@chrysalisfdn.org

7th – Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force, 10 am to 12 noon, Urbandale Public Library. Kathy Nesteby at 515/281-6915 or Kathy.Nesteby@Iowa.gov

10th – Edna M. Griffin Bridge Dedication, 1:30 pm, at the bridge on I-235, Des Moines; informal reception following at the State Historical Building

13th – Iowa Women’s Foundation Grantee Spotlight: Pathways to Progress, Mitchellville. 7:30 to 8:30 am, breakfast at U.S. Bank Atrium, 204 East Washington Street, Iowa City. 319/337-4222

13th – “Body, Mind & Spirit” *Go Red for Women* Luncheon, Polk County Convention Complex, Des Moines. “The Power of a Happy Heart – The Courage to Laugh,” by Diana Jordan, comedian. 10 am displays, 12 noon luncheon, \$25 per individual, \$300 honor tables. Sponsored by AstraZeneca. 515/244-3278 or www.americanheart.org

14th – 16th “Trends in the Marketplace,” 2004 Professional Development Conference by the American Business Women’s Association, Collins Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, 1200 Collins Road Northeast, Cedar Rapids. \$275. Elizabeth Kennedy at 816/361-6621x225, ekennedy@abwa.org, or 800/228-0007, www.abwa.org

15th - Dedication of Gladys Black Memorial Garden in Pleasantville at 11 am. Garden includes Chimney Swift tower and shelter. FREE full morning of activities. Breakfast and lunch available for a fee on site. Sally Vander Linden at 515/848-3435 or franlinden@aol.com

17th – 1954 - *Anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education*

17th & 18th – 2004 Governor’s Conference on Aging, University Park Holiday Inn, West Des Moines. Fee varies from \$10 for 25th anniversary dinner to \$130 full conference. Alice Vinsand - 515/225-1051, 800/264-1084 or www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs

19th – “Talking About Sex: Issues for Youth-Serving Professionals” by Rhonda Chittenden. 8:30 am to 12 noon, Waveland Room 1, Plymouth Congregational Church, 4126 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines. Free. (same presentation in Spanish by Nichole Bustillo Michels from 1:30 to 4 pm) Pre-registration required – contact Rebecca at Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa, 515/883-1863.

21st – An Evening of Art and Auction, at 5 pm, Galleries Downtown, Iowa City. Emma Goldman Clinic fundraising event. Contact Harriet at 319/337-2112 or www.emmagoldman.com

22nd – Asian Heritage Festival at the Des Moines Water Works Park. 10 am to 7 pm. Iowa Asian Alliance at 515/309-6047 or www.celebrAsian.org

24th – “To Hit Your Potential: You’ve Got to Cover the Bases” Iowa CareGivers Month statewide celebration. 9:30 am to 2 pm, Kelley Conference Center, Iowa Methodist Medical Center, 1415 Woodland, Des Moines. RSVP 515/241-8697 or lowacga@aol.com by May 12th. 1.75 CEUs

28th – deadline of 4 pm for proposals for Iowans in Transitions grant funds in the ICSW office. RFP guidelines available www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw or Ellen Failor at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427

June Calendar

June - Iowa Caregivers Month

4th – Iowa Women’s Foundation 2005 grant application deadline at 5 pm. www.iawf.org

4th – Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force, 10 am to 12 noon, Urbandale Public Library. Kathy Nesteby at 515/281-6915 or Kathy.Nesteby@Iowa.gov

11th – 19th – Juneteenth Celebration in Des Moines. 515/281-3274, 800/351-4659 or www.state.ia.us/dhr/saa

12th – Latino Heritage Festival (soccer workshops, cultural exhibits, piñatas/paper flower making, student talent show, and contest for best tasting tamales and homemade salsa) 10 am to 12 midnight, Court and Walnut Avenue Bridges, downtown Des Moines. Joann Mackey 515/255-7228 or www.latinoheritagefestival.org

17th – “Insights from the Women of Des Moines: Martha Willits” 11:45 am, Hoyt Sherman Place, Des Moines. Chrysalis Foundation \$17 in advance, \$25 at the door.

23rd – *1972 - Title IX banning sex discrimination in education was enacted.*

July 13-18th – “Many Voices, Many Choices,” National Association of Commissions for Women 35th annual convention, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Pasadena, California. www.nacw.org

August 21st – Induction of four women into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame and presentation of the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, State Historical Building, Des Moines. 10:30 am ceremony. Free and open to the public. Site handicapped accessible.

Better Jobs Better Care Project

The Iowa CareGivers Association has a new project called Better Jobs Better Care (BJBC). BJBC is a 3-year, \$1.4 million grant sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies. Sixteen Iowa nursing homes and home care agencies have been selected as BJBC demonstration sites to improve patient care and at the same time, create opportunities for direct care workers to develop and use new skills. A mentor training program and training in person-centered care are featured. It is expected that the turnover rate of direct care workers will lower at these sites.

The ICSW is working with the BJBC Coalition to conduct a direct care worker Wage and Benefit Survey that updates the 2001 survey. Unlike the prior survey, this survey will include pool workers and home health workers. The Coalition will also be conducting a survey of nursing home administrators to find out what contributes or detracts from their job satisfaction. The results will be compared to earlier studies of CNA and supervisor job satisfaction to identify interventions that will improve the job satisfaction of all three groups.

An average caregiver is age 46, female, married and working outside the home...

“One national study on women and caregiving highlighted the conflicting demands of work and eldercare. The study found that: 33% of working women decreased work hours, 29% passed up a job promotion, training or assignment, 22% took a leave of absence, 20% switched from full-time to part-time employment, 16% quit their jobs, and 13% retired early.” Women and Caregiving: Facts and Figures by Family Caregiver Alliance (6/03)

Iowans in Transition Grants

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women has issued a request for proposals (RFP) for grant awards to fund programs during state fiscal year 2005 providing services to displaced homemakers, single parents or female offenders. Awards are contingent upon receipt of funding by the 2004 General Assembly and signed by the Governor. The deadline for proposals is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2004 in the office of the Division on the Status of Women in the Iowa Department of Human Rights. For details, see the RFP under publications on the www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw web site or phone Ellen Failor at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427.

Gender-Specific Grant Awards

The Gender-Specific Services Task Force awarded Alternative Services in Cedar Rapids \$30,000 during calendar year 2004 to provide services to meet the needs of young women involved in the child welfare/juvenile justice system and for those at risk for involvement in the system. These services are specifically defined as a community-wide planning project to intentionally meet the needs of those young women, as outlined in the request for application.

Three proposals were approved for grant funds with the responsibility to provide services to young women from different walks of life. These services are specifically defined as organizing local young women's empowerment event(s) that provide safe space for the young women to express themselves, learn leadership skills and make allies as outlined in the request for applications. Awards included the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors in Decorah \$2,650, City of Mason City Youth Task Force \$4,743, and YWCA of Black Hawk County in Waterloo \$6,700.

Whispers and Screams

Comments from the *2004 Whispers and Screams are hard to hear: Chapter 8 – Passages* conference in March reviewed Thursday speaker Ruth Herman Wells with, “really got me thinking...set the tone for what we're here to do,” and Friday speaker Dr. Howard Snyder presented data “in fairly easy terms that were understandable” and “new avenues to think about.” Conference coordinator Kathy Nesteby reported 197 attended the conference, and evaluations showed that 49 percent found the overall content and level of information offered as excellent, 50 percent as good, and no one rated it as fair or poor. Another comment received was, “every year I get excited and recharged after the conference.”

Friends of the

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women

Friends is the not-for-profit organization formed in 1987 to support and assist in the charitable and educational activities of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. Due to the generosity of those who have made tax-deductible donations to the Friends and because of the fundraising events sponsored by the Friends each year, Friends has been able to support many worthwhile projects including:

- Payment for all costs associated with printing and mailing of the *IoWoman* newsletter and other ICSW materials, such as the Spanish translation of *Iowa Women and the Law* publication;
- Sponsorship of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame reception following the induction ceremony;
- Act as the fiscal agent for the Whispers and Screams conferences for the Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force or for special events, such as the 75th anniversary of woman suffrage;
- Assist with costs associated with staff and/or commissioners to attend the National Association of Commissions for Women annual conventions or other important meetings, such as the 4th World Conference for Women in Beijing, China; and
- Administer the Endowment Fund assisting women with educational opportunities.

Friends raises funds by hosting a fundraising luncheon following the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony in August, where family and friends can extend the day's festivities. Friends also sponsors the annual *Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet* networking party in the Des Moines area. Friends does not charge dues – we simply rely on the general support of those who attend these wonderful events and those who provide donations. They make it possible to continue the important work we do. We would love to count you among our Friends. A donation of any size will help. Don't wait – please consider sending a gift today. Your contribution will make the difference.

YES! I want to help and be a FRIEND with my donation of: \$_____ designated for:

___ FRIENDS enhancing the lives of women in Iowa by expanding the work already in progress by the ICSW and supporting new efforts to improve the status of women.

___ FRIENDS Endowment Fund established for the purpose of providing financial assistance to women to enable them to pursue educational opportunities with the flexibility and adaptability not considered in other scholarship grant criteria.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mail to the Friends of ICSW, Lucas Building, Des Moines IA 50319

Friends of ICSW Fundraising Luncheon

Kindred Spirits, involving the impersonation of Iowa women, will be coordinated by Maureen Korte during the fundraising luncheon on Saturday, August 21st at Younkers Tea Room in downtown Des Moines. Tickets will be \$30 per individual. Advertising in the luncheon program is also available for varying fees.

Donations of \$100 are also being accepted to allow one chaperone and three minors involved in juvenile justice programs to attend as your guests. This allows four people to attend who would not have been able to otherwise, and provides strong, positive female role models for girls. Please contact the office if you are interested and want further information for tickets, advertising or sponsoring girls.

Bits and Pieces

Experts in a broad range of disciplines are encouraged to submit workshop proposals for the November 15th **Diversity Conference 2004** at the ISU Scheman Center in Ames. The topic of each workshop should be consistent with one of the theme elements: business, community, family, or youth. For more information, call 515/225-1051 or download the form at <http://www.iowadiversity.org/conference/index.html>.

As of 2002, there were 61,811 majority-owned, privately-held **women owned businesses** in Iowa, about 29 percent of all such businesses in the state, according to www.womensbusinessresearch.org.

Now through September 30th **THE NAZI OLYMPICS Berlin 1936** at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. This exhibit provides a different look at Nazi Germany and the Holocaust through the lens of sport. The competition, human achievement, drama, politics, and spectacle that are associated with the Olympics were some of the most controversial in Olympic history.

The Program for Women in Science and Engineering and the College of Agriculture are partnering to offer a **summer science experience** for current high school females (participants must have completed 9th grade) from July 11-16 on the Iowa State campus. Explore all aspects of biodiversity from micro-organism in a petri dish, to butterflies, plants and North American bison. Brochure and application information for the first Biodiversity Institute is at <http://www.pwse.iastate.edu/outreach/agsummercamp.html>.

A new website has been developed that highlights majors/careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at Iowa State University. You'll find video clips of interviews with nine different ISU women. Plus, there are links to information about every single science, technology, engineering and math-related major at ISU! Check it out, <http://www.pwse.iastate.edu/outreach/exploringcareers.html>.



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Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, May/June 2004

Suzanne O'Dea Schenken, President • Charlotte Nelson, ICSW Executive Director • Ellen Failor, Editor Pro

Tempore

Enclosure of items in the newsletter does not necessarily connote endorsement by the Friends of the ICSW or by the ICSW. All information must be mailed or faxed to the ICSW no later than the 15th day of all even numbered months. The use of any submitted material is at the discretion of the editor. The *IoWoman* is mailed six times per year to 8,600 persons or organizations.

Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women

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