



# *IoWoman*

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXIV, No. 4, July/August 2004

## Iowa Women Who Were #1

Brenna Vogel is working in the ICSW office as a summer intern developing a list of women who were firsts on the national, state, or their local levels. Examples include the following. May Francis became the first woman to be elected to statewide public office in Iowa when she became superintendent of public instruction. Jean Wanatee was the first woman elected to the Meskwaki Tribal Council. Mildred Wirt Benson was the first writer of the Nancy Drew stories written by several different authors under the name of Carolyn Keene. Phyllis Propp Fowle became the first woman JAG officer in the United States Army. Virginia Bedell was the first female county attorney in the state of Iowa. Roxanne Conlin was the first chair of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus, and Georgine Morris was the first state president of NAACP. If you know of an Iowa woman who was a "first," please send us her name, what she was first in, the date if known to [chr.icsw@iowa.gov](mailto:chr.icsw@iowa.gov).

## 2004 Primary Election

The Secretary of State's list for candidates running in the Iowa June primary included six women running for Iowa Senate seats (3 Democrats and 3 Republicans) and 39 women running for Iowa House seats (13 Republicans and 23 Democrats). Of those six women running for the Senate, five will advance to the November general election (2 Democrats and 3 Republicans); and 33 women will advance for Iowa House seats (12 Republicans and 21 Democrats). Three women continue in the Senate to serve the two years remaining of their four-year terms.

## Plan Now to Attend Hall of Fame

You are cordially invited to attend, free of charge, the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony **at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 21, 2004**, to celebrate the induction of four outstanding women. The ceremony will take place at the Iowa State Historical Building, 600 East Locust, Des Moines.

Induction into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame is one of the highest honors bestowed upon an Iowa woman by the State of Iowa. Joy Cole Corning, Des Moines; Mary Ann Evans, Ames; Ruth Cole Nash (deceased), Dubuque; and Sally J. Pederson, Des Moines will be honored for their significant contributions to society.

Joy Corning is a former Lt. Governor and state Senator. Mary Ann Evans is the founder and former director of the Program for Women in Science and Engineering at Iowa State University. Ruth Cole Nash was an avid supporter of the arts and of civil/human rights. Sally J. Pederson is the current Lt. Governor of Iowa. (More complete biographical sketches and photographs will appear in the September/October issue of the *IoWoman*.)

**The Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice** will also be presented during the Hall of Fame ceremony. This award is given to a distinguished Iowan who has dedicated her/his life to promoting equality and justice. Marie Wilson, president of the White House Project, will receive this honor.

Following the induction ceremony, a reception will be held for attendees and family and friends of the award recipients from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

At 12:30 p.m., the **Friends of the ICSW Fundraising Luncheon** will take place at Younkers Tea Room, 7th and Walnut Street, Des Moines. It will feature Kindred Spirits, a Showcase of Iowa Women, by Maureen J. Korte.

Cost of the Friends' fund-raising luncheon is \$30 per person and \$240 per table of 8. **Send checks for the luncheon by Wednesday, August 11** to Friends of ICSW, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. See page two for a luncheon reservation card.

The event is held in conjunction with Women's Equality Day, August 26, which commemorates the day in 1920 when American women first obtained the right to vote.

### Iowa Women's Hall of Fame 2004 Inductees

Joy Cole Corning  
Mary Ann Evans  
Ruth Cole Nash  
Sally J. Pederson

### Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice Recipient

Marie Wilson

**Please note: our general email address has changed to [chr.icsw@iowa.gov](mailto:chr.icsw@iowa.gov).**

## New Report: Iowa Failing to Provide Adequate Paid Sick Leave to Workers

The most comprehensive report ever to examine laws and regulations governing paid sick leave in the United States gives Iowa a grade of C- on paid sick leave. Not a single state is doing enough to guarantee paid sick leave to employees, the report finds, warning that millions of workers face a terrible dilemma when they themselves or a family member is sick - miss a day of pay or leave a sick child or elderly parent without care.

Developed by the National Partnership for Women & Families, the new study was timed to coincide with the introduction of The Healthy Families Act in Congress that would guarantee seven paid sick days per year for full-time employees, and a pro-rata number for part-time employees. It would cover public and private sector employers with at least 15 employees.

The National Partnership study reports that 59 million workers, including 47 percent of the private sector in the U.S., have no paid sick leave at all. In addition, some 86 million workers do not have even one paid sick day that can be used to care for sick children. A benefits study conducted in 2004 by Iowa Workforce Development in the Greater Dubuque Area found that 38.1 per cent of the businesses offer paid sick leave in their compensation packages; 37.3 percent employed full-time and 13.4 percent employed part-time are offered paid sick leave. Private sector benefits statewide are expected to be comparable.

“We have a lot of work to do here in Iowa,” said Charlotte Nelson, executive director of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. “A workplace that does not provide paid sick days is a workplace that is failing its employees, its community and itself. Children are not getting the care they need, sick workers are coming to work and infecting others and businesses are suffering because they are not retaining employees who are already trained. Every hard-working Iowan deserves paid sick leave.”

The full study is available at <[www.nationalpartnership.org](http://www.nationalpartnership.org)>.

## 3 Men to Replace 1 Woman

Ellen Gordon, Iowa’s homeland security advisor and administrator of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, announced in May she will leave her post July 2. She has accepted a faculty position with the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security and will also pursue other opportunities utilizing her more than 25 years of experience in emergency management and, more recently, homeland security. Governor Vilsack named Major General Ron Dardis, adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard, to be the state’s homeland security advisor upon Gordon’s departure and asked Department of Public Safety Commissioner Kevin Techau to serve as chair of the Iowa Homeland Security Executive Group. David Miller, chief of staff of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, will serve as interim administrator of the division.

## Five Iowa Counties Named for a Woman

- Bremer – Fredricka Bremer, Swedish author and traveler.
- Ida – Ida Smith, first white child born in what is now Ida Grove (1856).
- Louisa – Louisa Massey, area folk heroine who avenged her brother’s murder by slaying his assassin.
- Monona – An American Indian girl who, believing her white lover was killed by her people, jumped from a high rock into the Mississippi River.
- Pocahontas – An American Indian princess from Virginia.
- Source: <[www.sos.state.ia.us/publications/redbook/history/7-5.pdf](http://www.sos.state.ia.us/publications/redbook/history/7-5.pdf)>.

### Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame Fundraising Luncheon Reservation

\_\_\_ I/We accept your invitation to the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame celebration luncheon

\$30 per adult	# _____	\$ _____
\$20 per person age 21 or younger	# _____	\$ _____
Scholarship for young women (\$100)	# _____	\$ _____
\$240 for a table for eight	# _____	\$ _____
Number of Vegetarian Selections	_____	

Table sign to read: \_\_\_\_\_

Hold tickets in the name of: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I/We regret not being able to attend this special event but have enclosed a donation to show our support for the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women.

\_\_\_ Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to Friends of ICSW and mail by Wednesday, August 11, 2004 to Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines IA 50319*

## ICSW Officers

- In their meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>, the ICSW elected the following officers for two-year terms: Kimberly A. Painter of Iowa City as Chair, Matt Wissing of Davenport as Vice Chair, and Vicki Brown of Oskaloosa as Treasurer.

# Calendar of Events

## July

- 2 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** when President Lyndon Johnson signed this landmark law prohibiting racial discrimination in public accommodations, publicly owned or operated facilities, employment and union membership, and voter registration.
- 2-4 Blues Fest Celebrating the Civil Rights Act.** LeClaire Park, Davenport. Featuring Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson (invited), Representative Leonard Boswell (invited), Rev. C.T. Vivian, Dr. Eddie Moore Jr., SST Communications and adult and children's activities. Michelle Neels, Davenport Civil Rights Commission, 563/326-7888 or [fjf@ci.davenport.ia.us](mailto:fjf@ci.davenport.ia.us).
- 16 Iowa Human Needs Advocates.** 9 a.m., Legislative Dining Room, State Capitol, Des Moines. Sharon Baker, [cross.ministries@juno.com](mailto:cross.ministries@juno.com).
- 20 Connect with Chrysalis.** 5-7 p.m., Noodle Zoo, Des Moines. Free. RSVP at Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853, or <[www.chrysalisfdn.org/events](http://www.chrysalisfdn.org/events)>.
- 20 Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners.** 12 noon. Wesley United Methodist Church, 800 East 12 Street, Des Moines. Bring a brown bag lunch and your concerns about women in the Iowa correctional system. Anyone interested is welcome. 515/283-1911.
- 23-25 Fort Des Moines Dedication Weekend.** Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. For details, contact [caesar@dwx.com](mailto:caesar@dwx.com).
- 23-25 Rally for the Summit:** Recovery conference for individuals with a mental illness, Iowa Valley Community College District, Marshalltown. Fee varies, stipend available. 877/338-2767 or [tcoving@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:tcoving@dhs.state.ia.us).

## August

- 6 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon, location TBA. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or [kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov](mailto:kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov).

- 21 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony.** 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., State Historical Building. Induction of four women into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame and presentation of the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice. Free and open to the public. ICSW, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or [dhr.icsw@iowa.gov](mailto:dhr.icsw@iowa.gov).
- 21 Friends of ICSW Fundraising Luncheon.** 12:30-2 p.m., Younkers Tea Room, Des Moines. \$30. Friends of ICSW, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or [dhr.icsw@iowa.gov](mailto:dhr.icsw@iowa.gov).
- 21 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Business Meeting.** 2:30-3:30 p.m., Younkers Tea Room, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or [dhr.icsw@iowa.gov](mailto:dhr.icsw@iowa.gov).
- 29 National 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Society** open house of the 1865 girlhood home of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt in Charles City. Program at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. 641/228-3336 or [catthome@usa.net](mailto:catthome@usa.net).

## September

- 3 Coffee with Chrysalis: Aging With Attitude.** 7:30-8:30 a.m., Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Des Moines. Free. RSVP to Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853, [pdavis@chrysalisfdn.org](mailto:pdavis@chrysalisfdn.org) or <[www.chrysalisfdn.org/events](http://www.chrysalisfdn.org/events)>.
- 3 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or [kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov](mailto:kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov).
- 13-14 Caregivers Top the Charts: Iowa CareGivers Association Annual Conference.** University Park Holiday Inn, West Des Moines. Fee varies. Iowa CareGivers Association, 515/241-8697 or [iowacga@aol.com](mailto:iowacga@aol.com).
- 15-16 2004 Family Planning Update.** University Park Holiday Inn, West Des Moines. Family Planning Council of Iowa, 515/288-9028 or [fpci@fpcouncil.com](mailto:fpci@fpcouncil.com).

### Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) FY 2004-2005 Meeting Dates

August 21, 2004  
**\*October 26, 2004**  
December 7, 2004  
February 8, 2005  
April 12, 2005  
June 14, 2005

\* **October 26 is the ICSW Public Hearing, which will be held at the Urbandale Public Library. People and organizations with an interest in issues of concern to women/girls in Iowa are encouraged to present written or oral testimony for/at the hearing. Testimony will assist the ICSW in developing the 2005 Proposals to the Governor and General Assembly. Contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427 or [dhr.icsw@iowa.gov](mailto:dhr.icsw@iowa.gov) to find out how you can testify.**

# Bits and Pieces

Kimberly Painter and Charlotte Nelson, ICSW chairperson and executive director, are attending the “**Many Voices, Many Choices**,” National Association of Commissions for Women 35<sup>th</sup> annual convention at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena, California on July 14-18. Friends of ICSW is paying registration and travel expenses. For more information about NACW, go to <[www.nacw.org](http://www.nacw.org)>.

Save the Date! On November 15, 2004 join other Iowans at the statewide diversity conference, **Iowa’s Mosaic: Families, Workers, and Neighbors; Discovering Our Hidden Assets**. The day-long conference will be held at the Schemen Center on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. Dr. Julianne Malveaux will be the keynote speaker. Many workshops will be offered. For more information, go to

<[www.iowadiversity.org/conference/index.html](http://www.iowadiversity.org/conference/index.html)> or call 515/225-1051.

The Terrace Hill Foundation is hosting **Victorian Day Camp** at Terrace Hill on Mondays, July 19, August 2 and August 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. June and July camps will focus on everyday life in Victorian times. August camps will focus on Victorian traditions and customs for holidays and special occasions, and campers will enjoy participating in Victorian games, crafts, food, High Tea and other fun activities while dressed in 1800s attire. The camps are for boys and girls who are going into 1st through 5th grades. Cost is \$40 per day, which includes snacks and lunch. Reservations are required and space is limited to 25; some scholarships are available. For more information, contact Alissa McKinney at 515-280-3980 or [TerraceHillFDTN@aol.com](mailto:TerraceHillFDTN@aol.com).

The Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc. is currently accepting applications for its Annual **Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Award**. Awards will be given to individuals or organizations who have made a significant contribution in promoting civil rights in Iowa during the past one to two years in each of the following categories: individual, business, government/non-profit, educational institution, and community organization. The deadline for nominations is August 13, 2004. For more information, or a nomination form, contact Dawn Peterson at 515/281-8086 or [friendsicr@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsicr@hotmail.com).

Interested in interning at the ICSW? We welcome college students and recent graduates any time during the year. Contact us at [dhr.icsw@iowa.gov](mailto:dhr.icsw@iowa.gov), 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427.

Help save printing/postage costs! If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please write or call the ICSW office. You may also send your e-mail address. Thank you!

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Enclosure of items in the newsletter does not necessarily connote endorsement by the Friends of 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 *Iowa Woman* is mailed six times per year to 8,600 persons or organizations.

Suzanne O'Dea Schenken, President  
 Charlotte Nelson, ICSW Executive Director  
 Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor