



# *IoWoman*

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXVII, No. 3, May/June 2007

## **Nelson Retires**

Charlotte Nelson, executive director of the Iowa Commission from February 1985 until April 6, 2007, retired after 22 years of exemplary service to the women of Iowa to promote the full participation by women in the economic, political and social life of the state. She was appointed by Governor Branstad and Governor Vilsack with confirmation by the Iowa Senate five different terms.

Nelson submitted 21 annual reports to three Governors and arranged the induction of 84 members of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. She convened 21 public hearings to produce annual proposals to the Governor and the Iowa General Assembly, proofread 132 *IoWoman* newsletters and supervised the publication of numerous pamphlets.

Over the years, she worked with six different Commission chairs and a total of 61 citizen commissioners and 19 legislative commissioners. She brought out the best of 33 different staff members and allowed 32 student interns a work experience.

Friends of the ICSW and the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence were started under her guidance. Her tenacity and persistence as the ICSW's lobbyist has gained numerous new pieces of legislation that will continue to benefit Iowa women. Highlights of her work include gender balance on state boards and commissions as well as the equal rights amendment added to the Iowa Constitution.

Governor Culver has appointed Lori SchraderBachar to serve as interim executive director.

## **Legislation Affecting Iowa Women**

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) has six legislative priorities and tracks many bills based on its proposals. During the first session of the 82nd General Assembly, there was much action. A full report is available on our Website and further information on a specific bill can be found at [www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us) or you may call the Legislative Information Office at 515/281-5129. The General Assembly is pushing to wrap up the session by April's end.

### **Legislation that has been passed and/or signed by the Governor:**

HR22 and SR18 designate March 2007 as **Iowa Women's History Month**.

HR40 to recognize and honor **Charlotte Nelson** upon her retirement.

HF5 **prohibits a lender from contracting for or receiving a finance charge which exceeds 21 percent per year** on the unpaid balance of a loan for money which is secured by a certificate of title to a motor vehicle.

SF137 requires **registration of associate real estate appraisers** and notes appraisal violation penalties.

SF61 relates to **harassment and bullying of elementary and secondary school students** and establishes a state policy that school employees, volunteers, and students in Iowa schools shall not engage in harassing or bullying behavior.

SF128 increases the **tax on a package of cigarettes** from 36 cents to \$1.36.

HF611 relating to **human growth and development and health education** under the education standards, authorizing school districts and nonpublic schools to provide comprehensive sexual health education, and establishing related duties for the director of the department of education.

### **2007 Appropriation Bills:**

#### **HF874 Administration and Regulation Appropriation Bill**

includes Status of Women Division including the Iowans in transition grants, and the domestic violence and sexual assault-related grants: \$343,555.

Expanding Iowa Court Appointed Special Advocate Program statewide: \$2,629,308.

#### **SF575 Justice Appropriation Bill**

Civil Rights Commission \$1,412,647.

Legal Services Grants Program \$1.6 million.

Victim Assistance Grants \$150,000.

Operation of ICIW in Mitchellville: \$15,294,520.

Educational programs for inmates at state penal institutions: \$2,070,358.

#### **SF588 Education Appropriation Bill**

Appropriates \$15 million to eligible school districts for the four-year-old preschool program.

Appropriates \$400,000 for before and after school programs.

#### **HF907 Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust Fund**

\$2,153,250 for school ready children grants account.

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Medical assistance including coverage to women who require treatment for breast or cervical cancer: \$35,327,368.

Competitive grants of before and after school programs \$305,000.

#### **HF909 Healthy and Human Services Appropriation Bill**

Department of Elder Affairs \$4,723,306 including \$130,000 to be used to fund two additional long-term care resident's advocate positions and \$250,000 for implementation of the Substitute Decision Maker Act.

State child care assistance appropriation made in this section to be used for funding of community-based early childhood programs targeted to children from birth through five years of age, developed by community empowerment areas: \$7,350,000.

\$1,930,067 for pregnancy prevention grants on the condition that family planning services are funded.

Appropriated family investment program \$36,890,944, family investment job opportunities and basic skills (JOBS) program \$14,993,040, and family investment program (FIP) \$42,608,263 including the JOBS program at \$8,975,588.

To the Department of Human Rights (instead of Human Services) for staffing, administration, and implementation of the family development self-sufficiency grant program (FaDSS): \$5,583,042.

\$3,031,439 is allocated for the preparation for adult living program (PALS)

For medical assistance (including abortions which are medically necessary): \$618,696,202.

#### **Bills Awaiting Action:**

HF877 creates a **preschool for four-year-old children** program.

SF427 defines "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" and **prohibits discriminatory employment, public accommodation, housing, education, and credit practices based upon a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.** However, the bill does allow for the imposition of qualifications by bona fide religious institutions based upon sexual orientation or gender identity if related to a bona fide religious purpose.

SF573 creates an interim commission on **affordable health care plans** for small businesses and families to review and analyze possible health insurance reforms to make health care coverage more affordable for small businesses and families in this state.

SF236 to allow **local regulation of smoking** passed the Senate, but died along with HF35, HF187 and HF778.

SF254 increases the amount of the **FIP work-and-earn incentive** applied under Code section 239B.7 as part of FIP eligibility determination from 50 to 58 percent. Under the incentive, the indicated percentage of earned income remaining after other deductions have been applied is disregarded.

#### **Bills that ICSW opposed that do not appear to be passing:**

HJR1 and SJR1 propose an amendment adding a new Article XIII to the Constitution of the State of Iowa, **giving the people of Iowa the right to vote on certain adopted increases of taxes and fees**, so that the increases will not take effect unless approved by majority vote at a state general election. SF194 allows the **death penalty** for certain crimes.

SF507 creates a **rebuttable presumption that a request for joint physical care** by either parent is in the best interest of the child, places the burden of proof to rebut the presumption on the party denying that joint physical care is in the best interest of the child, and requires such party to demonstrate that joint physical care is not in the best interest of the child by clear and convincing evidence. The bill also requires that if the court denies joint physical care, the court must base the findings on clear and convincing evidence.

## **Endowment Grants Available**

Friends of ICSW will be accepting applications until July 1, 2007 for assistance grants to low-income women to improve job skills, update professional licensing, enroll in English as a second language class, or attend occupational seminars leading to increased employment opportunities. Other educational programs for adult women will also be considered.

The Endowment Fund's grants are intended to be used to fund a portion of an educational program. A total of \$1,200 in grants will be awarded on August 25. Applicants must demonstrate financial need and that other funding sources are not available to them or are insufficient to meet a critical educational need.

All decisions by the board of directors on who to award are final, and there is no appeal process.

A three-page application form is available from the ICSW office at [dhr.icsw@iowa.gov](mailto:dhr.icsw@iowa.gov), [www.friendsoficsw.org](http://www.friendsoficsw.org), or [www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw](http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw). For a printed copy, telephone 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427. Written references are required.

## **Whispers & Screams**

*Whispers & Screams are hard to hear: Creating an Audience for Girls' Voices.* Chapter 11: Stand Up & Be Counted will be held May 24 - 25 at the Hotel at Gateway Center in Ames.

Keynote speakers are Dr. Charlotte Kasl and Joe Kelly. The Iowa Juvenile Home Choir will perform, Courageous Advocacy Awards will be given and workshops will be presented.

Registration and conference information is available on-line at [www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/girls.html](http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/girls.html) or by contacting Kathy Nesteby at 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or [kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov](mailto:kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov).

# Calendar of Events

## May

- 5 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.** 8 a.m., Water Works Park, Des Moines. Fee varies. American Cancer Society, 515/253-0247, or desmoines.makingstrides@cancer.org.
- 11 Strengthening Community Partnerships with Volunteers.** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City. Fee varies. For more information, call 319/335-7589.
- 13-19 National Women's Health Week.**
- 15 History Like No Other.** 6:30 p.m., Fort Des Moines Museum and Educational Center, Des Moines. Speaker: Janet L. Sims-Wood, Ph.D. \$10. For additional information, contact the Fort Des Moines Museum at 515/282-8060 or 888/828-3678.
- 16 Chrysalis Conversations: Creating.** 7:30 - 8:30 a.m., Plymouth Church, Des Moines. Free. www.chrysalisfdn.org.

- 21-22 Aging: The Journey of a Lifetime -- 2007 Governor's Conference on Aging.** Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines. Fee varies. For more information, visit [www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs](http://www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs).
- 24-25 Whispers & Screams.** See page 2 for details.

## June

- 1 Ready to Run.** 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Scheman Building, Iowa State University, Ames. Fee varies. Julie Snyder-Yuly, Catt Center for Women and Politics, 515/294-3181, [cattctr@iastate.edu](mailto:cattctr@iastate.edu) or [www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter/readytorun.shtml](http://www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter/readytorun.shtml).
- 5 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. via teleconference call. Public access in Room 208 of the Lucas State Office Building, 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).

## Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet

For the past eight years, an eclectic group of fascinating women have gathered to enjoy a glass of wine and to delight in the pleasure of each other's company. Community activists, business professionals, political veterans, and a political novice or two have found their ways to Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet and had the pure pleasure of great conversation.

The next Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet will be on Thursday, May 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Des Moines.

This annual gathering is a fundraising event for the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, helping support the commission's bimonthly publication *IoWoman*, and other projects. Friends, through events like this, helps support ICSW's noble and honorable mandates.

Cosponsors of the event (at the time of publication) include: Andi McGuire, Helen Adams, Barbara Boatwright, Dody Boswell, Roxanne Barton Conlin, Alicia Claypool, Joy Corning, Ellen de Lathouder, Michelle Durand-Adams, Fran Fleck, Mary A. Grefe, Betty Grundberg, Joni Klaassen, Dianne Liepa, Deborah Lynch-Babb, Holly Mennen Sagar, Charlotte Nelson, Doris Jean Newlin, Sally Pederson, Mary Riche, Margaret Swanson, Margi Weiss, and Connie Wimer.

Cost for the event is a tax-deductible charitable contribution of \$35. To register, go to [www.friendsoficsw.org](http://www.friendsoficsw.org) or mail the form below with your check by May 4 to Friends of ICSW, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines 50319. Checks should be made payable to Friends of ICSW.



\_\_\_\_\_ I can hardly wait for May 10! Spending an evening with a group of wonderful women sounds grand to me. Cost of the event is \$35. Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ This sounds like so much fun, I want to bring guests! Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name of guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would love to attend, but am unable. Have fun! Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bits and Pieces

Save the date! The **Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony** will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 25 at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. The Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Fundraising Luncheon will be held following the ceremony at the Hotel Fort Des Moines.



National Small Business Week was celebrated during the week of April 23 and honored the estimated 25 million small businesses in America. As part of the week, the U.S. Small Business Administration has announced the following winners of its 2007 Iowa Small Business Awards: **Becki Drahota**, President of Mills Financial Marketing, Iowa Small Business Person of the Year; **Mary Connell**, President of Air Control, Inc., Family-Owned Small Business Champion of the Year; **Patti Lind**, Executive Director of The

Abilities Fund, Iowa Veterans Small Business Champion of the Year; and **Christina Erb**, Staff Reporter of Corridor Business Journal, Iowa Small Business Journalist of the Year. Congratulations to Iowa's small business winners!



**Parenthood** helps people perform more effectively at work, according to researchers at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, which was reported in Workforce Weekly. The finding contradicts that parents are easily distracted by their children and other home responsibilities and are more likely to be ineffective at work. The study found that people who balance the demands of children and running a household seem better able to handle stress, and are more likely to use their

child-rearing experiences to develop new skills at work, such as teamwork, understanding others' points of view, and time management.



**More women than men will use the Internet this year**, Reuters reported in April. About 97 million women will log on, edging out the 91 million male users.



**Mother's Day** is May 13. The U.S. Census Bureau reports there are an estimated 80.5 million mothers in the United States and that women can expect to have an average of 2.1 children in their lifetime. Fifty-five percent of 15- to 44-year-olds are mothers. Eighty-one percent of women 40 to 44 are mothers; in 1976, 90 percent of women in that age group were mothers. Happy Mother's Day to all *IoWoman* readers!



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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Julie Graden, President • Lori M. SchraderBachar, ICSW Interim Executive Director • Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor

