

From: Indiana Commission for Women [icw@subscriptions.in.gov]

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To: Stauch, Chelsea

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Indiana Commission for Women



Moving Indiana Women Forward - August 2010

Women's Right to Vote Celebrates Ninety Years

August 26, 2010, marks the 90th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, which established that the right to vote could not be denied to anyone on the basis of sex. First introduced to Congress in 1878, the Nineteenth Amendment was not ratified until August 18, 1920, when Tennessee became the 36th state to say "yes", which created an accord among three quarters of the states. While Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho had already allowed women to vote prior to the introduction of the Nineteenth Amendment, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan were the first states to sign it. Indiana became the 26th state of the 36 states required when it ratified the amendment on January 16, 1920.

Beginning as early as 1848, women suffragists such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul proposed and advocated for women's right to vote. Despite severe resistance from opponents including jailing and even physical abuse, these determined women continued using a variety of tactics including marching, lecturing, lobbying, and civil disobedience. Here in Indiana, women like May Wright Sewall and Helen Gougar worked tirelessly on behalf of women's rights. For more than seventy years, these and other women as well as many men worked towards the advancement and eventual success of their goal.

In honor of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, August 26th is now celebrated as Women's Equality Day. There are several events scheduled around Indiana in commemoration of this milestone in women's history, which include:

- Tuesday, August 24, 11:30am-1:00pm at the Terre Haute Service Center
Women's Equality Day Luncheon - The League of Women Voters of Vigo County "Making Democracy Work" Award will be presented
Sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana
For tickets contact Becky Buse, bbuse@girlscoutsindiana.org
- Thursday, August 26, 7:00-9:00 AM at The Centre Ballroom A, Downtown Evansville
"Susan B. Anthony Meets Robert Dale Owen and Sojourner Truth"
A one-act play starring Sue Schriber, Steve Small, and Emily Baxter
Collaboratively Researched and Written by Patricia Weinzapfel and others
For more information, contact: mmurphy@ivytech.edu.
- Thursday, August 26, 7:00-9:00 PM at the Indianapolis Propylaeum, 1410 North Delaware Street
90th Anniversary Women's Suffrage Celebration
Sponsored by the Indiana Women's History Association
FREE but seating is limited. RSVP is requested to IWHA treasurer, Jill Chambers at jillloughchambers@gmail.com or (317) 514-9218.

Additional resources to learn more about women's suffrage:

- Indiana and the Nineteenth Amendment:

- History: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/citc/museum/voting/index.html>
- May Wright Sewall: <http://www.in.gov/gov/2562.htm>
- Helen Gougar: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/citc/cle/gougar/>
- League of Women Voters, <http://www.lwv.org>
- National American Woman Suffrage Association Collection: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/naw/nawshome.html>
- Teaching about Women's Suffrage: <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/woman-suffrage/script.html>.

ICW Creates Next Steps for *Working Women in Transition*

Through a generous grant provided by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) will provide women with crucial tools to help them succeed in today's workforce by conducting ***Working Women in Transition: Building Essential Skills for Success***. This year's program will offer participants with a day-long opportunity to learn tips for effective networking and practice wage negotiation through a unique \$tart \$mart workshop that will be presented by the **WAGE Project** (Women Are Getting Even).

ICW's *Working Women in Transition* will be held in three locations across the state (Evansville, Northwest Indiana and Indianapolis) in September and October. In addition, the WAGE Project is offering a \$tart \$mart facilitator training session to interested people on Friday, September 17, immediately following the program in Evansville. Trained individuals can then present future \$tart \$mart workshops to their local universities or community organizations.

Registration will begin at 8:30AM with the program starting at 9:00AM and ending at 3:30PM. For the day-long seminar, there is a charge of \$20 per registrant, which includes lunch, a workbook and other materials. For those interested in being trained as facilitators, the cost is an additional \$50.

To learn more about the workshop and to register, go to www.in.gov/icw/2372.htm.

Indiana Represented at National Convention of Associations of Commissions for Women

Indiana was represented at the 40th Annual Convention of the *National Association of Commissions for Women* (NACW) held in Rockville, Maryland, on July 22-25, 2010. The annual NACW convention was an ideal opportunity to gather with colleagues and peers across the country who are working on the issues that impact women. It allowed the Indiana Commission to establish and strengthen partnerships with other states, expand knowledge on commission operations, network with other professionals who accomplish the same work we do, and share programs and ideas to better enable us to address effectively and efficiently the issues that impact women today. ICW's participation demonstrates that Indiana recognizes the important challenges that face women today and that we are strongly committed to addressing those changes.

This year's convention featured a trip to the Old Executive Office Building for a briefing from the White House Council of Women and Girls with Executive Director Tina Tchen. The group attended a briefing at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center coordinated by the Honorable Donna Edwards, U.S. House of Representatives, Maryland. Attendees were addressed by Representative Edwards and the Honorable Martin Heinrich, U.S. House of Representatives, New Mexico, as well as various House of Representative staff members.

Keynote speakers for the Women's Leadership Conference portion included Heather Boushey, Senior Economics for the Center for American Progress and co-editor of *A Woman's Nation* and the Honorable Sara Manzano-Diaz, newly appointed Director of the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor. The closing session featured Mary McDonough, actress and activist, most popularly known for her role of Erin on the hit TV series *The Waltons*, who spoke on media's impact on women and girls' body image.

Senator Connie Lawson named *Legislator of the Year* by the Mental Health America of Indiana

In July, State Sen. Connie Lawson (R-Danville) was named *Legislator of the Year* recently for her efforts in improving awareness for the quality of care on behalf of Hoosiers affected by mental health disorders in Indiana. Lawson received the award at the organization's recent 13th annual Mental Health Symposium held in Indianapolis. Mental Health America of Indiana is a statewide organization, with over sixty local chapters and branch offices, making it the largest mental health association in the country.

"I am humbled to receive this award," Lawson said. "I have tried to use my position as a state senator to be an advocate for all Hoosiers and will continue to work toward improving access to mental health services in Indiana."

During the 2010 legislative session, Lawson authored Senate Enrolled Act 79, which protects access to medication for individuals with mental health disorders. She also worked with Mental Health America of Indiana to convene a group of consumers, providers, family members and administration officials to study mental health funding issues in the state.

Mental Health America of Indiana is a broad-based group of citizens, consumers, individuals in recovery, families, and professionals created to work for the mental health of all citizens and victory over mental illness.

Lawson represents Senate District 24, which includes portions of Hendricks and Putnam counties.

About the Indiana Commission for Women

The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) exists to voice the needs, concerns, and viewpoints of women to ensure that women play a critical role in resolving the challenges they face. Our mission is to understand the needs of Indiana women and their families, and to work strategically both within government and in our communities to help bring about positive solutions. It is our hope that we can keep ***moving Indiana women forward*** by encouraging them to become better educated, better connected to their communities, more aware of available opportunities and resources, and more engaged as leaders in resolving the challenges facing them.

ICW is committed to the full participation of women in all aspects of society in order to make Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family. We work to remove the barriers that hinder women's participation by:

- Increasing awareness of the status of women and their families and the issues they face
- Recognizing and promoting the contributions that Hoosier women make to their community, state and nation
- Providing balanced analysis of public policy issues that impact women in Indiana.

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