



NWPC - CALIFORNIA

PASSION. POWER. PROGRESS.

Caucus Connection

News from throughout California

May 2007

Congratulations to our endorsed candidates!



Tamar Galatzan (pictured above right) won a seat on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board in a May 15 run-off election. Tamar is a member of the San Fernando Valley NWPC caucus and we wish her much success in her newly elected post!

Pictured above with Tamar is her Campaign Manager and long time SFV NWPC member Samantha Stevens... Kudos to both women on this victory!

Welcome to NWPC-CA *Caucus Connection*, an e-newsletter committed to keeping our California membership connected! In this issue learn about events happening throughout the State, information about upcoming **Regional Board meetings**, **State Board meetings**, a **National NWPC meeting** in August, highlights from **April's Campaign Training** and **legislative updates**. Share this news with your friends and encourage them to be part of the State's only grass-roots organization dedicated to electing pro-choice women into political or appointed office. Your membership counts, be a part of our winning team!

NWPC Loses a Champion for Women in Washington, D.C

It is a testament to her exceptional qualities that three planes were needed to transport the large Congressional delegation that wished to attend her funeral service.



Juanita Millender-McDonald was a seven-term incumbent from Carson, CA and the first black woman to chair the House Administration Committee that oversees federal elections and congressional budgets.

She was a member of the **Congressional Black Caucus**, the **Congressional Women's Caucus** and the **Democratic Leadership Council**. While she was passionate in her support of all of these committees and more, it is perhaps the mission of the DLC which best articulates the vision she held for America:



And NWPC endorsed candidate **Georgia Mercer** continues to battle to retain her seat as President of the Board of Trustees for the Los Angeles Community College Board. The Los Angeles Register's office still has some 10,000 provisional ballots that need to be counted. We are hopeful that these ballots will push Georgia into the winning spot!

Pictured above LA Community College Board Trustee Georgia Mercer

Promoting opportunity for all; demanding responsibility from everyone; and fostering a new sense of community.

The National Women's Political Caucus was a friend and supporter of **Juanita Millender-McDonald** throughout her political career. She will be hard to replace, but happily there are other women stepping forward to carry on her good work. The local caucus in the CA-37th will be interviewing at least two and possibly four women (3 dem. 1 rep.) and will be making a recommendation to our National PAC very shortly.

NWPC's goal of **50/50 by 2020** will be realized only if we succeed in filling the pipeline to ensure that good women are in place to run as seats become vacant, regardless of circumstance.

*Here are just a few of **Juanita Millender-McDonald's** notable accomplishments:*

After **raising five children**, Juanita returned to school to earn her bachelor's degree at age 40***Led a "sit-in"** in former Senator Jesse Helms' office. The protest culminated in the confirmation of former senator **Carol Moseley Braun** as ambassador to New Zealand*After the 2004 election, she investigated allegations of **voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement** in Ohio* Instrumental in bringing the **first Major League Baseball Academy in Compton, CA** which was built to cultivate diversity in all aspects of the game***First African American Woman** to chair a full House committee***First African American Woman** to give the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address.

NWPC will miss this true champion who worked to better the lives of women. We are grateful for her many years of service.

Save the Dates!

Join California NWPC Leadership at the State Board Meeting in Oakland Saturday, July 14

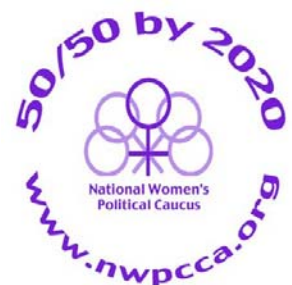
Learn what NWPC-CA has going on that affects your local caucus.

Join National NWPC leaders August 17 & 18 in Las Vegas, Nevada!

This National General Members' Meeting will include the quarterly national board meeting plus special speakers and other additional components.

NWPC Fosters New Leaders: Reaching 50/50 by 2020

Training future leaders is one of the core mission's of NWPC. Our organization is committed to recruiting, training and supporting pro-choice women to seek elected or appointed office. This is how we will reach our goal of **50 percent representation by the year 2020.**



In April **NWPC-LA Westside** collaborated with 9 other caucuses to produce a stellar campaign training for candidates in low budget campaigns and a **Train the Trainer** program, which fosters certified trainers to lead the NWPC training programs throughout the State.

If You Haven't Heard
the *Big News* Yet....

**NWPC Endorses Hillary
Clinton for President!**



Be sure to visit
www.NWPCCA.org
and click on the link titled
Hillary 2008 to learn how
you can support Sen. Hillary
Clinton's campaign for
president.

www.Hillary2008.com

**Southern California
Caucuse members, make
sure you have reserved
Saturday, June 23
for the Southern California
Regional Board meeting
hosted by South Bay
Caucus. Contact your
local caucus president or
So. CA Regional Director
Catherine Smith at
catzies@dock.net**

The campaign training concentrated on the special needs of races for local office with low budgets. While "**filling the political pipeline**" has long been a caucus goal, we now have a new manual that addresses the challenges and opportunities in these often low-visibility, "down-ballot" races, making the maximum use of public information for the research and planning stages, strategically selected professional services and committed volunteers to boost name identification, absentee ballot use and voter turnout.

The California Caucus' Women's Leadership Fund also sponsored a five-hour training, based on the above, NWPC's 2005 updated **Women Winning Campaigns**, and the 2006 **Training the Trainers**, with its PowerPoint slides and interactive exercises. **Cathy Allen**, in addition to leading the campaign training program, also conducted this training for eight women - half of whom had themselves run for office.

This inaugurated a state caucus program to develop a cadre of certified trainers willing and able to provide training for caucus programs, using state-caucus produced manuals. To maintain quality control, course evaluations will be submitted to NWPC-CA and certificates for all such training will have evaluation forms.

*A special thank you and kudos goes out to **Marguerite Cooper**, NWPC-National VP of Education & Training, for producing these campaign trainings! It was a successful weekend on all accounts.*

NWPC-CA Legislative Update: AB 1511

No more Props 73 or 85?

AB 1511 (Leno) This bill, sponsored by **NARAL Pro-Choice California**, creates a statewide continuing publication campaign administered by DPH to increase the amount of material and messaging available to parents to discuss sexual health and teen pregnancy with their children. Such campaigns have been shown to be effective in reducing pregnancy and educating youth about STDs. For example, a parental education program in San Mateo County designed to facilitate family discussions about sexual behavior was shown to reduce the teen birth rate significantly over a four year period, from 2000 to 2004.

NWPC-CA Membership Challenge!

Contest Ends June 30th!

NWPC-CA is in the middle of a state-wide membership contest and you can participate & WIN! The caucus which recruits the **most new members** will win a monetary prize. The individual member who signs-up the most new members will win a **special lunch** with a highly ranked NWPC-CA endorsed elected official. Don't miss out on this exciting contest. To view contest rules visit www.nwpcca.org or check in with your local caucus for updates & details!

LA Westside Hosts June Margarita & Martini Membership Mingle! Save **Wednesday, June 20** to join your LA Westside caucus sisters for our **Board Elections** and an opportunity to network with prominent LA women! Contact Robyn Ritter Simon at 310.836.8550 to RSVP or for more event information.

LA Metro Hosts a June 25 Membership Meeting in Chinatown! If you know women working or living in downtown LA, please encourage them to join this event and learn what's going on in the LA Metro caucus. Contact Maria Cobian at mariacobian72@yahoo.com for event details.

Ventura Caucus: Politics, Tea & Thee

Each year on the Saturday preceding Mother's Day, the **Ventura Caucus** holds their annual **Politics, Tea & Thee** in a garden setting at the home of one of our members. The program always highlights a chosen level of



government with NWPC endorsed elected women giving a "State of" update. This year's program focused on ***The State of Our Schools*** with school board members **Dr. Deborah DeVries**, Oxnard Elementary School District; **Patty Lerner**, Pleasant Valley School District; and **Debbie Golden**, Ventura Unified School District (pictured L-R) providing insights into the triumphs and challenges of their district. **Meredith McKenzie**, NWPC-Ventura County President is pictured standing addressing the group.

Alameda North Bestows the Susan B. Anthony Award to an NWPC Star

The **Alameda North Chapter** of the National Women's Political Caucus honored **Secretary of State Debra Bowen** as **Woman of the Year** at the Caucus' annual **Susan B. Anthony Celebration** on April 15, 2007.



The "Susan B," held every spring, is the kickoff event of the local political season and is the place to meet, mingle and bid against the Bay Area's most outstanding elected leaders.

"Susan B. Anthony embodied passion, power and progress as the pivotal catalyst in securing the right of women to vote. Debra Bowen is truly today's incarnation of Susan B. Anthony; she is leading California in making accessible and accurate elections a reality," said **NWPC-Alameda North Chair Karen Freidman**. "Debra Bowen couples the power of modern technology along with the highest professional integrity, and California's election process will be a model for the country."

*Pictured above left to right is Secretary of State **Debra Bowen**, local caucus President **Karen Friedman**, and Assemblywoman **Loni Hancock** (D-14).*

2007 NWPC-CA Board of Directors

Celeste Weingardt, President;
Lori Durbin, VP Membership &
First VP; Meredith McKenzie,
VP Education & Training;
Robyn Ritter Simon, VP
Communications; Karla
Henderlong, VP Political Action;
Debilyn Molineaux,
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Issues Chair; Mary Stanley,
Central National Director;
Catherine Smith, Southern
Regional Director & WLF
Treasurer; Sarah Burns, Southern
National Representative; Elaine
Norinsky, Democratic Task
Force; and Jean Stallings,
Parliamentarian.

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the **Caucus Connection** and feel more connected with your State NWPC. Please take advantage of attending one of the many events featured in this edition. Our members are committed to encouraging women to seek office and fill NWPCs mission of more pro-choice in the pipeline!

National Women's Political
Caucus of California
3053 Cafeto Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

www.nwpc.ca.org
800-235-0009
canwpc@aol.com

April State Board Meeting Highlights

State Leadership gathered in April for the Quarterly Board meeting. We were hosted by the **San Fernando Valley Hirshberg**, president SFV, and her team for their hospitality.



Highlights of the weekend meeting include:

An Announcement that **NWPC-National** had endorsed Hillary Clinton for President of the United States.

Resignation of **Marcy Curran**, membership administrator, effective June 30, 2007. We thank Marcy for her service and wish her the best with her new endeavors.

We are falling short on the **fundraising goals** and are reaching out to our membership for fundraising strategies to keep resources healthy.

Board adopted NWPC-National revised candidate endorsement questionnaire. This new questionnaire must be used for all candidates seeking state or federal NWPC endorsement. Recommended that locals use it for all levels.

Board approved NWPC-CA establishing federal PAC provided legal opinion supports.

Board approved early endorsement process for five Senate races: **Carol Migden SD-3, Lois Wolk SD-5, Hanna Beth Jackson SD-19, Fran Pavley SD-23, Carol Liu SD-** Motion for authorization for PAC to act for the full board and make an endorsement, following appropriate local caucus action.

New Caucuses are being explored in Turlock, Merced and Bakersfield. Contact **Mary Stanley** if you can help!

An Ad hoc committee formed consisting of members who serve on both the CA and National board in addition to volunteers to develop options for national reorganization to be submitted to national prior to its next board meeting June 9-10.

The actions of the State Board affect your local caucus, get involved. Attend the July 14 State Board meeting in Oakland or one of the Regional meetings being offered throughout the State.