



Caucus Connection
December 2009

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

National Women's Political Caucus CA

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Alberta Ferrer

Amy Nuttall-Zwaan

Barbara MacNab

Betty Yee

Carol Bequette

Connie Baer

Fay Gaul

Fresno Members

Gloria Kapp

Helyne Mesher

A Message from the President

As I complete my 1st year as NWPC CA President, I'd like to thank the hard-working NWPC CA board and our members for their ongoing support of their local caucus, NWPC issues, events and candidates. It's been a challenging year but we've made progress on the 3 goals for the 2009-2010 term: to increase membership, visibility and fundraising.

We successfully implemented a web-based membership program that provides accurate records in real time and reduced administrative costs. The new program will allow us to launch a major membership campaign in the 1st quarter of 2010.

Our National Convention in August increased visibility through media partnerships, PR, and the ability of our members to meet and interact with prominent women electeds, candidates and business leaders.

We're launching the new NWPC CA website this month to further increase visibility and fundraising. It will provide added flexibility, allow us to broadcast our 'news' in real time, include pages for each local caucus, and provide additional social networking features and blogging.

We had profitable fundraising events this year and launched the '250 for \$250' campaign, headed by Mary Stanley. We are continuing the '250' campaign and 'going live' with Dubli this month, our partner for online shopping and auctions. (Look for an email providing instructions on how to use Dubli). Have fun shopping and bidding!

I look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year - sending best wishes for a very happy and safe holiday season.

Teray Stephens

Howard Watkins

President, NWPC CA

Jane Hasler Henick

Janet Cloonan

Joan Buchanan

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Anderson

Did you know??

Calling her "a catalyst to ease suffering in the world,"

President Barack Obama honored Nancy Goodman

Brinker (sister of & founder of the Susan G. Komen

NWPC Joins Coalition to Pass Healthcare Reform & Stop Stupak!

On Wednesday, December 2nd, NWPC members and Executive Director Clare Giesen headed to the Capitol to lobby against the "Stupak Amendment" and fight for women's continued reproductive rights as part of comprehensive health care reform. NWPC members lobbied several members of Congress, including Sen. Mark Warner (VI), Rep. Judy Chu (CA) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (CA). For the complete story & what you can do to help, visit our national website at www.nwpc.org.

NWPC Announces Endorsements

2009 is almost over and the 2010 Mid-Term elections are rapidly approaching. It's time to start thinking about who you support and vote for in the June 2010 Primary election. California will have a wide array of candidates running for office including a US Senate seat and many Congressional District seats. In addition the election will include all the State Constitutional Offices, the entire Assembly and half the CA Senate. NWPC California has already begun the process of sorting out the candidates who best represents our goals and values.

The NWPC National Board met in Washington DC in November and endorsed three California candidates for election; Barbara Boxer (<http://www.barbaraboxer.com>) for re-election to the US Senate; Beth Krom (<http://www.bethkrom.com>) for election to the 48th Congressional District (Orange County) and Francine Busby (<http://www.busbyforcongress.com>) for election to the 50th Congressional District (San Diego). In addition, the NWPC CA Board has been identifying candidates for State Constitutional and Legislative office throughout 2009.

If you know of a candidate who you believe is deserving of NWPC-CA support, contact your local caucus or the State Caucus VP, Political Action, Tammi McIntyre, at: nwpcTammi@pacbell.net.

Message from National Regarding Endorsements

On November 7, 2009 the National Board implemented the resolution passed by state delegates at the National Convention this past August in Newport

for the Cure Foundation) with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor on August 12 2009.

Holiday Charity Giving

Please remember those less fortunate this season & support your favorite charities.

Beach, CA. Delegates voted, almost unanimously, to extend to state and local chapters the endorsement criteria that the National organization has long held regarding candidates running for federal office, that is, the endorsement (and funding of) women candidates only. This vote underscores that helping feminist, pro-choice women get elected and appointed to office is the core mission of the National Women's Political Caucus and that this should be true across the board, at every level and all geographic areas. A letter from National regarding this issue is being sent to each local caucus president. Please check with your local caucus president for more information.

Upcoming Events & Trainings

Dec. 10: LA Westside will have their annual holiday party w/ special guest Fran Drescher! Contact Betsy at bjohnson.films@yahoo.com for details.

Dec. 12: In Los Angeles, there will be a round-table discussion: *Stop the Anti-Abortion Stupak-Pitts Amendment! Abortion on Demand and Without Apology!* 3pm at Revolution Books/Libros Revolucion 312 W. 8th St., Los Angeles, 90014. Call (213) 488-1303 or e-mail librosrevo@yahoo.com for more information.

Dec. 13: Mendocino will hold their holiday party at Mary Ann Villwock's, 1580 James St. in Ukiah. Potluck. (707) 462-3059.

Dec. 14: Marin will hold their annual holiday party and have elections of new officers. Contact Barbara Matas at bmatas8139@aol.com for info. A special recognition to several of their members who either won elections for the first time or were re-elected to their offices this year: Barbara Heller was re-elected to the San Rafael City Council, Shelly Scott was elected to the Novato School Board, Diana Conti was elected to the College of Marin Board, Wanden Treanor was re-elected to the College of Marin Board, Denise Athas was elected to the Novato City Council, Joan Lundstrom was re-elected to the Larkspur City Council, Megan Clark was re-elected to the Las Gallinas Sanitary District, to name a few. Congratulations!

Jan. 4: Alameda North will host *Lesser Known Legislation that Impacts Our Lives*, with presenter State Assemblyperson Nancy Skinner. 6-7:30 PM, Buttercup Grill, 229 Broadway at 3rd St., Oakland.

Jan. 9: Mendocino. *Candidate Training: Learn more about how campaigns are run.* If you are a candidate bring your supporters and get an overview of how to run a campaign and develop a network. Fundraising, endorsements, grassroots development, online campaigning, and lots more. Trainers: Val Muchowski, Estelle Clifton, Susanne LaFaver. E-mail valmuchowski@yahoo.com for more information.

Jan. 29-31: State board meeting hosted by **LA Westside**. More info coming next month.

Feb. 8: Alameda North will host *The State Budget: Where Does the Money Come From and Where Does it Go?* Presenter will be Lenny Goldberg, Executive Director, California Tax Reform Assn. 6-7:30 PM, Buttercup Grill, 229 Broadway at 3rd St., Oakland.

March 2: Alameda North will host *Proposition 13: Continuing Effects, Unintended Consequences, Inequities, and Progress Toward Repeal.* 6-7:30 PM, Buttercup Grill, 229 Broadway at 3rd St., Oakland

Mar. 14 - 27: Mendocino's annual Women's History Celebration, "*Write Women Back into History*" featuring Local Heroes who have made a difference in their communities and Political Luminaries who will enlighten us about the political landscape.

Past Events Worth Noting



Greater Pasadena hosted a panel on Sept. 16th at the Pasadena Main Library on *How to Become a Judge*. Members were invited to spend an evening with distinguished judges to discuss their paths to attaining this position. Moderated by LA Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Lance A. Ito (*pictured right above*), the panel included (*pictured left to right*) LA Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Judith Levey Meyer, LA Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Hilleri Grossman Merritt, US District Judge for the Central District of California, the Honorable Dale S. Fischer, and Wanda R. Dorgan, Esq.(of Counsel - Sinnott, Dito, Moura & Puebla). Their insight into the judicial process was very interesting and informative. The goal

of the event was to educate our members and the public about the judicial appointment and election process and to inspire aspiring law students, lawyers and judges in our audience, especially those who have been underserved, to further their legal careers to becoming a judge.

NWPCA Mission Statement

The National Women's Political Caucus is a multi-partisan organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in the political process and creating a women's political power base to achieve equality for all women. NWPCA recruits, trains and supports pro-choice candidates for elected and appointed offices at all levels of government.