

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #139, JULY 2015

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 80,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

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STUDENT TESTING

The Council of State School Officers (CSSO) which along with the National Governors' Conference was responsible for the Common Core Standards now says that 39 states are considering ways to reduce overtesting or cut redundant tests. How this is to be done varies from state to state and in some instances from school district to school district within a state. Many methods of doing this are being considered. Some locales favor state legislation, while others are considering establishing commissions to study the problem. Uncertainty about what will ultimately be in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA/NCLB) now in Congress add to the confusion. There seems to be some consensus that there is too much testing. Other issues such as

how much testing, on what subjects and when in the course of a student's career the tests are to be given are still up in the air. If the tests are to have validity in comparing student knowledge across state and district boundaries, it would seem that identical tests should be administered at identical points of time as students progress through the grades.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM -- RESOURCES

The National Women's History Museum is in the process of producing 40 "Women's History Minutes." These cover such women as Deborah Sampson who fought in the Revolutionary War under the name Robert Shurtlieff, Sybil Ludington who at sixteen rode to warn colonists a la a Paul Revere and Betty Zane who darted outside to obtain needed gunpowder in frontier Virginia. Additionally the museum has produced an online exhibit titled "Breaking In: Women in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics." That exhibit can be accessed at <https://www.nwhm.org/online-exhibits/>. Other exhibits at that site include "Women Wielding Power: Pioneer Female State Legislators," "Clandestine Women: Spies in American History," and "Young and Brave: Girls Changing History."

NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MUSEUM – BUILDING COMMISSION

As many of you know DKG’s U.S. Forum has substantially helped the National Women’s History Museum in its effort to have a physical building on or near the National Mall in Washington, DC. In December 2014 as one of the last acts of the 113th Congress a bill was passed which allowed appointment of a “Congressional Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women’s History Museum.” This eight member commission would have two members appointed by each of the following – the House Majority Leader, the Senate Majority Leader, the House Minority Leader and the Senate Minority leader. It is hoped that the lead architect in this endeavor will be a woman. If that happens this will be the first time a woman has designed a museum on or close to the National Mall.

CREDIT CARD PROTECTION

In the May issue of the U.S. Forum Connection the possibility of the Forum undertake selling credit card sleeves to protect credit cards with magnetic strips from being stolen by use of a Radio Frequency Detector was mentioned. The conversion of credit cards with magnetic strips to cards with an embedded chip is currently underway. Due to the limited response from subscribers to having the Forum offer the card protectors, the U.S. Forum has decided not to make them available to members. Instead you can get a new card with a chip simply by calling the toll free customer number on the back of your card and requesting a new card with a chip. You should receive the new card in about one week. Discover Card has estimated that it may take one or two years to replace all Discover cards currently in use, but a local business was told that they should have a card reader which can process credit cards with the microchip by the end of September 2015.

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

Email access and addresses

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate

White House [1-202-456-1111](tel:1-202-456-1111)

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.