

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #145, JANUARY 2016

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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CHILD BRIDES

Although 18 is the minimum legal age for girls in the United States to marry, younger girls do get married either with the consent of their parents or the approval of a judge. In the U.S. the problem of girls under the age of 18 being forced into marriage by family members is beginning to get attention by researchers. The non-profit Unchained At Last investigated marriages in New Jersey between 1995 and 2012 and found that 178 marriages of children between 10 and 15 were approved by judges. A 2011 survey by the Tahirih Justice Center identified 3,000 known or suspected cases in the previous two years alone of girls in the US as young as 15 who were forced to marry under threats of death, beatings or ostracism. The problem is not limited to girls. In 2006 a 10 year old boy was married to an 18 year old woman. In 1996 a 12 year old girl married a 25 year old man with judicial permission. Part of the problem is public ignorance of the problem. Also there are currently no federal laws which cover the problem, and state laws dealing with the subject vary widely. In depth studies of the problem have just begun in the last few years..

ROBOCALLS

When Congress passed the budget bill recently, a little known section for the first time allowed robocalls to be made to cell phones. In addition to being undesirable, this is a financial problem for those whose cell phone contracts charge for incoming calls. Following talks with Consumer Reports, Time Warner is now offering through its website the free call-blocking service Nomorobo to its 6 million Internet-based phone customers. This service automatically identifies suspicious robocalls and blocks them after one ring. And it rated high for effectiveness with Consumer Reports' volunteer

testers. The major phone companies – AT&T, Verizon and CenturyLink – had been reluctant to offer this call-blocking tool directly to their customers. During the meeting, they agreed to consider making it easier for customers to access robocall-blocking tools. For those with traditional landline phones little has been done to alleviate the problem of robocalls. Consumer Reports is continuing to investigate what might be done to help these users.

OFFICIAL 2016 FLAG FLYING DAYS (in blue)

January 1 — New Year's Day
January 18 — Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday
February 12 — Abraham Lincoln's birthday
February 22 — George Washington's birthday
March 27 – Easter Sunday
April 19 – Patriot's Day
May 15 – Peace Officer's Day (flag at half staff)
May 21 — Armed Forces Day
May 30 — Memorial Day (flag at half staff)
June 14 — Flag Day
July 4 — Independence Day
July 27 – Korean War Veteran's Day
September 5 — Labor Day
September 11 — Patriot Day (flag at half staff)
September 17 – Constitution Day
October 13 – Navy Birthday
October 14 —Columbus Day
November 8 — Election Day
November 11 — Veterans Day
November 24 — Thanksgiving Day
December 7 — Pearl Harbor Day (flag at half staff)
December 25 — Christmas Day

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR ADDED OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A performance of "Capitol Steps" will be available to those who are arriving on **Saturday, March 12, 2016**, prior to the beginning of National Legislative Seminar. This live performance at the Ronald Reagan Building in D.C., begins at **7:30 p.m. (EST)**. Transportation is "on your own" (taxi cab, etc.). "Capitol Steps" is a musical presentation of skits of political satire/humor. By attending as a group of 10 or more, the individual ticket price decreases from \$40.50 to \$33.00. For more information, contact Wally Turner at 64sedona@gmail.com

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR DEADLINES

The registration deadline for the National Legislative Seminar (NLS) of the U. S. Forum being held March 13-16, 2016 in Washington, DC is February 13, 2016. Deadline for specially arranged room rates is February 12, 2016.

The registration form for the National Legislative Seminar can be found at <http://www.usforumdkg.org/legislative-seminar.html>. When completing the registration

form, you should know that the cost of lunch on Monday is included in the registration fee; however, the cost of Sunday night dinner and Wednesday breakfast is not included in that fee.

All DKG members who reside in the United States are automatically members of the U.S. Forum and are eligible to attend the seminar. The current brochure about the U. S. Forum can be viewed at http://www.usforumdkg.org/uploads/4/4/6/6/44667559/2016_us_forum_brochure.pdf

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.