

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #153, SEPTEMBER 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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SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

A newly introduced bill on Social Security (H.R.1391) would gradually increase Social Security benefits about 2% which would increase retirement income about \$300 per retiree, it would raise the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) using actual cost-of-living expenses (this year there was no COLA even though the cost of living increased slightly), and cut taxes for working seniors (those whose retirement income is inadequate to meet actual expenses). [Note: Some school systems, retirement funds and pensions were adversely affected and changed as a result of the recession. This resulted in some retirees not getting the retirement income they were expecting and they were forced to seek some employment after retirement to cover their expenses.] The changes to Social Security would be paid for by removing the cap on Social Security taxes which would increase income for the Social Security Trust Fund due to larger amounts paid in by the extremely wealthy.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE

The upcoming election will greatly affect our nation. Many states have put in laws in the last few years which have changed what is required to vote. Some states and or areas have purged the voting roles or now require valid identification to cast a vote. If you are not sure about whether or not you are a registered voter, you should check with the local person in charge of registering voters.

THE DEBATES

The first debate of three official debates was held on Monday, September 26 at Hofstra University. The only candidates who will be allowed to participate are those who poll

15% or more. For the first debate only Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were allowed to participate. The two vice presidential candidates will debate on October 4. The second and third presidential debates are scheduled for October 9 and October 19, respectively. At this point it seems unlikely that any of the third party candidates will reach the 15% polling which would allow them to participate in the nationally televised debates.

THE FUTURE

Because it is nearing the end of the two year term of this Congress, it is unlikely that much more legislation will be passed. It is possible to see what may be coming in the next session of Congress.

First, something will be done about Social Security either there will be cuts in benefits to current retirees or the amount of money in the trust will be increased by removing the cap on earnings taxes which would affect only the wealthiest citizens.

Second something will have to be done about pharmaceutical prices in particular the cost of epi pens and the cost of insulin supplies for diabetics. The cost of these two drugs has recently increased to the point that it is endangering the lives of a substantial number of people. Congress has already instituted hearings on the prices of these two drugs. Given the glacial speed of Congress, I doubt that anything will be done this year, but there is a very good chance that we will see some sort of solution proposed shortly after the first of next year.

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.