

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #115, JULY 2013

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 90,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

SEXISM IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE LEGISLATION

SEXISM IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

Siobhan (Sam) Bennett, President and CEO of She Should Run was the speaker at our recent Southeast Regional Conference. Ms. Bennett informed us about how the issue of sexual discrimination in today's political scene undermines the political campaign of women candidates. To determine whether a comment or question is sexist, ask the question "Would a man be asked that question?" or "Would that comment about a man's appearance be made?" A particularly egregious example of this is the commentator who suggested that Michelle Bachman might do better in her campaign if she wore clothing with lower necklines. Would that person suggest that a man lower the waist on his trousers? The really appalling fact about all of this is that women commentators and/or interviewers are as likely to make this type of sexist remark as are men. Ms. Bennett told us that the way to combat this is to confront the person making the remark, whether male or female and note its sexist connotation.

It has been found that any discussion of a woman's appearance, whether positive or negative adversely affects the woman's electability. The question has been posed as to whether the appearance of a male politician is mentioned. Do pundits mention the clothing of a male politician? Is the makeup or the hair style of male politicians ever an issue? Until a woman nominee was questioned about whether her household help was in the U.S. illegally, men were never asked that question. What really matters in considering whether or not to vote for a candidate is the candidate's view on specific issues and his/her effectiveness in putting those ideas into concrete action.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE LEGISLATION

The extremely important student loan bill (HR1911) passed the House and an amended version was passed in the Senate. The amended bill was sent back to the House which passed it late on July 31 and sent it to the President for his signature on August 1. For information on how your representative voted, look up bill number HR1911 at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>. On the screen that appears click on "All Congressional Actions With Amendments." On the screen which now appears you can click on links to see how your representative voted. The bill which finally passed provides that Stafford loans for students will be tied to the 10 year Treasury note. For the current year the interest rate for undergraduate loans will be 3.86%; the interest rate on loans to graduate students will be slightly higher. Once school sessions start and loans are negotiated, the loan rate is fixed until the loan is paid off. Note that the interest rate will change annually.

To learn the specific interest on Stafford loans to graduate students, I suggest you call you're the Congressional Switchboard toll free at [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670). Ask to be connected to the office of your Senator or Representative and tell the person who answers what information you want. REMEMBER

THE RATES ARE FOR THIS YEAR ONLY AND ARE EXPECTED TO CHANGE ANNUALLY AS THE RATE ON THE 10 YEAR TREASURY NOTE CHANGES.

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.deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/>

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.

<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)

STATE GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through

<http://www.emailyourgovernor.com/> Information available at this site allows contact with governors, members of the state legislature, state supreme court, congressional delegation and state agencies such as the Education Department, Attorney General, Motor Vehicles Department and Voter Registration. PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THIS INFORMATION MAY BE OUT OF DATE

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