

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #116, AUGUST 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 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.

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Legislation entitled the National Women's History Museum Commission Act of 2013 is currently under consideration in both the House and the Senate (H.R.863, S.398). This act would establish a commission to determine and report on possible locations (which would include whether it should be part of the Smithsonian) and develop a fund raising plan for the museum. Efforts to get either a site for a building or title to an existing building to house the museum have been pursued for over a decade. It is about time for a resolution to be made concerning this problem. Getting action on legislation can be painfully slow. For example, one of our members (Judy Jackson) worked 11 years before getting a bill concerning the age for admission to kindergarten changed via Tennessee legislation. In Mississippi a woman worked for 17 years lobbying the state legislature to establish an institution of higher education for women before she was successful.

Although the Museum does not yet have a physical edifice, it continues to provide information and educational resources for and about women. We were fortunate to have the current CEO of the National Women's History Museum speak to us at the National Legislative Seminar held in Washington, D.C. in 2012. Many of our members have contributed to the museum financially over the years. The museum has numerous resources for teaching at its web site. To learn what is available go to <http://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/>. The site includes lesson plans on women's suffrage and historical information about women in American history.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Steve Gilmore, Deputy Director of the Wyoming Division of Victim Services spoke at the NW Regional Conference on violence against women and noted that every state has laws on the subject. He introduced attendees to the "Power And Control Wheel" which defines the cycle of physical and mental abuse which is describes the cyclical nature of abuse. Congress recently passed national legislation on this subject which extended past legislation and also expanded those who are protected. The recently passed law still does not cover all places where violence may take place.

GOVERNMENT TEACHER RESOURCE

The best single resource for information about national legislation is <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php> which is maintained by the Library of Congress (Named after Thomas Jefferson). In the blue box in the upper left-hand corner of the screen is a list of teacher resources. (This reference is located next to the bottom of the list.) Clicking on this link will give the viewer a list of teacher resources including lesson plans and classroom activities. The site in general offers a place for students to develop their information gathering skills. The teacher could assign a topic on the web site for students to explore. (A hint: If you have difficulty in finding information, use

the toll free number ([866-327-8670](tel:866-327-8670)) to contact the office of a senator or representative from your state and ask someone in the office for help.)

SCAMS ABOUND

A recent scam which I encountered involved a telephone call informing me that an alert system notifying authorities if I had an emergency was fully paid for and wanting to arrange a time to install the system. I knew I had not paid for such a system and no one else was likely to have done so. The scam is that once the system is in place there is a monthly charge of about \$20. You might want to pass this information along to others who might be taken in by this scam.

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.