

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #121, JANUARY 2014

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

**NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR DEADLINES APPROACH
PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT
LAWS ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS
STEM EDUCATION LEGISLATION
OFFICIAL 2013 FLAG FLYING DAYS**

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR DEADLINES APPROACH

The National Legislative Seminar (NLS) organized by DKG's U.S. Forum Committee occurs biennially. The next NLS will be held March 16th-19th, 2014 at the Holiday Inn, National Airport, 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. The NLS registration form and hotel contact information are available at <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/File%20Sharing/files/2014%20NLS%20Reg%20Form.pdf>. After February 16, 2014 the registration fee will increase from \$160 to \$185. After February 14, 2014 the room rates will also increase. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel. (tel n nophone: [703.684.7200](tel:703.684.7200))

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

In essence the Paycheck Fairness Act mandates that employees with equal qualifications and experience should be paid the same whether male or female. Similar pieces of legislation have been introduced in Congress for over a decade. In this session the bill numbers are H.R. 377 and S. 84. An indication of the group pushing this legislation is that the House bill was introduced by Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and the Senate bill was introduced by Senator Barbara Mikulshi (D-MD). The House bill has 207 cosponsors all Democrats; while the Senate bill has 50 cosponsors. With the exception of Bernie Sanders who is an independent, all Senate cosponsors are Democrats also. This should not be a party issue. To see whether your Representative is a cosponsor on this bill go to <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/377> click on the 207 in blue cosponsors.

To see whether your Senator is a cosponsor of the Senate bill go to

<http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/84> and click on the 50 in bluecosponsors
Both bills are currently in committee or subcommittee.

LAWS ENACTED BY THIS CONGRESS

This session of Congress which convened in January 2013 has passed 78 pieces of legislation which have been signed into law. In addition to bills which deal with the budget and the debt ceiling most are mundane without much impact on the average citizen. An example of this is changing the name of the Dryden Flight Research Center to the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and renaming the Western Aeronautical Test Range the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range. One very important piece of legislation which was passed after a good deal of controversy was the Violence Against Women Act.

A listing of all these new laws can be found at <http://beta.congress.gov/search?q=%7B%22congress%22%3A%22113%22%2C%22source%22%3A%22legislation%22%2C%22bill-status%22%3A%22Became+Law%22%7D&page=1>

STEM EDUCATION LEGISLATION

STEM (**S**cience **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **M**athematics) education seems to be a popular subject in this session of Congress. Currently there are 2,029 bills which address STEM education in some way. As a result of the transition from The Library of Congress site (<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>) to the Congress.gov site (<http://beta.congress.gov/>), which is now occurring, abstracts of these bills are not available.

OFFICIAL 2014 FLAG FLYING DAYS

January 1 — [New Year's Day](#)

January 20 — [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#)

February 12 — Abraham Lincoln's birthday

February 17 — [President's Day](#) (3rd Monday in February)

February 22 – George Washington's birthday

May 8 — VE Day

May 11 — Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May)

May 15 – Peace Officers Memorial Day (half staff)

May 17 — [Armed Forces Day](#) (3rd Saturday in May)

May 26 — [Memorial Day](#) (last Monday in May)(half staff until noon)

June 14 — Flag Day

June 15 — Father's Day (3rd Sunday in June)

July 4 — Independence Day

July 27 – National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (half staff)

September 1 — [Labor Day](#) (1st Monday in September)

September 11 — Patriot Day & National Day of Remembrance (half staff)

September 17 -- POW/MIA Recognition Day

October 13 — Christopher [Columbus Day](#) (2nd Monday in October)

October 27 – Navy Day

November 11 — [Veterans Day](#)
November 27 — Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November)
December 7 — Pearl Harbor Day (half staff)
December 25 — Christmas Day

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://bit.ly/DKGUSF>

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)

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