

US FORUM CONNECTION #71, NOVEMBER 2009

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 105,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu. 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.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM – A FORUM ACCOMPLISHMENT BREAST CANCER AND VITAMIN D TEACHER TAX RELIEF ACT NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM – A FORUM ACCOMPLISHMENT

WE DID IT. Members from California and Alaska came through. Within a week of the message being sent to those two states, both Senator Feinstein and Senator Murkowski signed as cosponsors of the bill to “convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia to provide for the establishment of a National Women's History Museum.” On October 29, 2009 Senator Susan Collins of Maine introduced S2129 which is cosponsored by all women senators. **CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO MEMBERS IN ALASKA AND CALIFORNIA.**

BREAST CANCER AND VITAMIN D

Breast cancer is a disease so directly related to vitamin D deficiency that a woman's risk of contracting the disease can be 'virtually eradicated' by elevating her vitamin D status to what vitamin D scientists consider to be natural blood levels. That's the message vitamin D pioneer Dr. Cedric Garland delivered in Toronto as part of the University of Toronto School of Medicine's "Diagnosis and Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency" conference - the largest gathering of vitamin D researchers in North America this year.

Vitamin D is being credited with a number of desirable effects including relief of joint pain, in combination with calcium reducing osteoporosis, and reducing the risk of falling.

SUGGESTION: Have you vitamin D level checked on your next doctor's visit.

TEACHER TAX RELIEF ACT

The Teacher Tax Relief Act House Resolution 3758 was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee on October 8, 2009. This would amend the Internal Revenue Code provisions relating to the tax deduction for the expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers to: (1) increase the maximum dollar amount of such deduction to \$500; (2) allow the deduction of professional development expenses; and (3) make such deduction permanent.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

The U.S. Forum of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will hold its 7th National Legislative Seminar (NLS) March 14-17, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. You will have an opportunity to visit the national **Monuments by Moonlight**, visit the **White House** and make customary visits with your congress(wo)men. If you choose to tour the White House, you must affix your Social Security number to the registration form or provide it upon arrival. This is a security measure and numbers will be kept private and secure with only the committee and Senator Mark Udall's office having access to the information. Meetings will all be held at the state-of-the-art Tidewater Conference Theater at the **Hyatt Regency, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, 703.418.1234** or visit **crystalcity, [hyatt.com](http://www.hyatt.com)**. This is a chance for members to actively participate in the legislative process and to meet other members who are like minded. To register for NLS and learn more about the Seminar go to <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/documents/files/NLS%20Registration%20Form.doc> A registration form is downloadable from that site.

1. All meetings Sunday, Monday-Wednesday are held at the Hyatt. Tuesday, we depart from the Hyatt for the tours. 9:00 AM.
2. Two group meals are included in our schedule. Sunday eve. \$30.00 and **Wed. morning** Breakfast 8:30 AM \$30.00.

National Legislative Seminar Schedule

Sunday

NLS begins with a 6 PM dinner, 7:15 PM-9:30 PM Welcome activities, US Forum history, general directions for the next two days and getting acquainted with advocacy strategies and with each other. Each Region will report on legislative platform based on survey. (Your registration packet awaits your arrival at the Hyatt. Monday March 15 9:00 Am - 3:30 or 3:45 PM Speakers from Education and Government Relations Offices in Washington, DC.

Meals OYO, MIDnight Tour departure from Hyatt to Union Station by 5:00 PM tour.

Tuesday March 16, depart for Capitol Hill / White House. Members keep appointments with their congress(wo)men, Senators, office staff.

Wednesday March 17 "U.S. Forum Group" breakfast 8:30-11:30 AM, Action Planning, Review of Captiol Hill. Perhaps you will join us for breakfast.

For on-line information on specific bills go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through **Congressional Switchboard 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

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.

INFORMATION ON HOW YOUR CONGRESSMAN VOTED ON KEY BILLS

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/111/bills/>

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

Archival copies of the U.S. Forum Connection can be found at

<http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w305514/HomePage.htm>

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