

## US FORUM CONNECTION #73, JANUARY 2010

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](mailto: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 LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR WOMEN IN SPORTS – EXTENDING EQUITY TO HIGH SCHOOLS BEWARE REQUEST FOR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**

#### **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR**

The U.S. Forum of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **WOMEN IN SPORTS – EXTENDING EQUITY TO HIGH SCHOOLS**

During the current financial crisis, schools are dropping some of their sports teams as a cost cutting measure. Sports in which girls participate in high school are much more likely to be discontinued. There is currently legislation pending which could help remedy this situation.

The High School Athletics Accountability Act (H.R. 2882) would require schools which get federal funding to report information on equality in their school athletic programs to the Commissioner for Educational Statistics.

The High School Sports Information Collection Act (S. 471) requires the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics to collect the following information annually from each coeducational secondary school that receives federal funding and that has an athletic program: (1) the number, gender, race, and ethnicity of students that attended the school; and (2) for each team that competed in athletic competition, the number, gender, race, and ethnicity of participants, the total expenditures, the number, gender, employment status, and qualifications of trainers, medical personnel, and coaches, and the number of competitions and practices scheduled.

This type of information has been available for post secondary schools for some time. Sports equity in colleges is enforceable for those schools which receive federal funding. Information obtained as a result of this bill would make participation rates and expenditures for high school athletes at high schools available to the public through the Department of Education web site.

#### **BEWARE REQUEST FOR CREDIT CARD INFO**

If you have contact either on-line or by telephone with an entity which asks for your credit card number, BEWARE. The most recent example of this is [freecreditreport.com](http://freecreditreport.com). You are asked for your credit card information before you get your “free credit report.” Supplying this information automatically signs you up for a monthly charge and credit report charged to your credit card if you don't cancel within nine days. (The annual charge is \$179.) You can go to **AnnualCreditReport.com**, which is run by the Federal Trade

Commission, and get a truly free report once a year from each of the credit agencies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

Many on-line companies offer a discount on your next order and as part of this “free” discount they request credit card information and sign you up for a “service” which has a monthly fee. The monthly fees typically range from \$9.95 to \$15.99.

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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