

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #123, MARCH 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 80,000 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 LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

DKG's National Legislative Seminar (NLS) was held March 16-19 at Arlington, VA in the Washington, DC area with 76 attendees. Topics covered included human trafficking, The Paycheck Fairness Act, STEM, GPO/WEP (Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision), teacher licensure, National Women's History Museum, violence against women, hunger in America and healthcare for women and children.

If you live in or are contemplating retiring in any of the states listed at the end of this paragraph, it is in your long term best interest to find out how GPO/WEP will affect you upon retirement -- Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Texas. Occupations most likely to be impacted are teachers, military retirees, firefighters and police as well as the spouses of those in any of these occupations who are or have ever been employed. There are 12 other states in which retirees are also impacted but not to the extent of the 15 listed above. For some specific information on GPO/WEP go to <http://www.massretirees.com/wepgpo-explained>

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Joan Bradley Wages, President and CEO of the National Women's History Museum, spoke to those attending the NLS about the struggle to get Congress to enact legislation which would allow the National Women's History Museum to build the museum on the National Mall. There is only one spot remaining on the mall. Mrs. Wages described the decade long attempt to get either a building or a building site to house the museum. Presently the emphasis is on getting three women U.S. senators to cosponsor the Senate bill (S.398), so that the women in the Senate can present a united front in support of the effort to move forward to plan and build the museum. The women senators who have not currently signed on as cosponsors are Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Senator Deb Fischer of Nebraska and Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota. Our New York members were instrumental in getting Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to sign

on as a cosponsor in January 2014. Although Mrs. Wages brought a number of her organization's membership forms to the meeting, some attendees were unable to get a form. If you want to join this effort to get a museum, use the membership form given below.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

The Paycheck Fairness Act has been introduced and considered in Congress for over a decade. It is designed to make it easier to find out what salaries are comparable in order to determine salary discrimination. This bill passed the House in 2009 and was combined with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (see below) before being sent to the Senate for consideration. The Senate separated the two bills, passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, but did not pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

In the current session of Congress (2013-14) the bill was sponsored by Representative Rosa DeLauro as H.R.207. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections on April 23, 2013 and currently has 207 cosponsors. It was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Barbara Mikulski as S.84 who introduced it January 23, 2013, and it was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. The Senate bill currently has 52 cosponsors. Although this is a majority of senators, without 60 senators voting to close debate and have a vote on the bill, it cannot be brought to the floor for a vote.

Without the Paycheck Fairness Act it is difficult or impossible to determine whether a person is being unfairly paid for work done when compared to the pay of a worker in a comparable position with comparable responsibilities. Workers most impacted by the act would be women and minorities.

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 [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

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

National Women's History Museum Charter Membership Form

fill out the form below and mail it with your check (payable to NWHM) or credit card information to:

National Women's History Museum
205 S. Whiting Street, Suite 254
Alexandria, VA 22304

___ My check for \$___ is enclosed.

___ Please bill my American Express / MasterCard / Visa / Discover credit card:

Account # _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

My information:

Mrs. / Ms. / Miss / Mr. / Dr.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

___ ***This is a gift for:***

Mrs. / Ms. / Miss / Mr. / Dr.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____