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FCSW Connections

Newsletter of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women

Fall 2006 - Vol 1, Issue 2

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Dear Kelly,


Welcome to the Fall edition of **FCSW Connections**, the e-newsletter of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. We sincerely hope that you will find this publication a useful and informative resource.



We encourage all women's commissions in Florida to submit articles to **FCSW Connections**, as we want this newsletter to be a resource for women throughout Florida. Please share with us your thoughts and suggestions by e-mailing us at info@fcsw.net.

Sincerely,
Commissioner Marie Flore Lindor-Latortue,
Public Outreach Task Force Chair
FCSW

Greetings from the Commission Chair

 Financial planning is an important life skill to master, especially for women. With half of all women age 65 years and older having less than \$12,000 in personal income, older women are more than twice as likely to be poor than men. Care giving responsibilities cause women to spend approximately nine years out of the job market, meaning that they are less likely to be eligible for employee pension benefits and, combined with lower pay, means smaller Social Security benefits and fewer savings. Statistics show that ninety percent of women will have sole charge of their assets at some time in their lives, while at the same time most women are uninformed about ways to secure their financial futures.

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is addressing this important issue by educating women through, "**Women and Money 2006**," a free

conference series focusing on money management, budgets and credit, retirement, investment strategies and insurance planning and is designed for women of all ages, backgrounds and levels of financial knowledge.

[Read on...](#)

Florida Women's Hall of Fame

by Commissioner Carrie Estevez Lee

As the Florida Commission on the Status of Women continues its service to the women of the State of Florida, we are honored to have completed our nomination process in selecting the 2006 nominees for the Florida Women's Hall of Fame: three of which will be inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame at our Hall of Fame ceremony March 13, 2007 in Tallahassee.

Since 1982 distinguished women of our state have been nominated by the citizens of Florida and selected by the governor for this prestigious designation. As officially mandated by the Florida Legislature in 1992, the Florida Women's Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those women who, through their work and dedication have made significant improvements to the lives of women and to all the citizens of Florida.

[Read on...](#)

Commission Recognizes Women

The Commission honored six outstanding women for their work in improving the lives of women and families in their West-Central Florida communities during a reception hosted by University of South Florida President Dr. Judy Genshaft on September 7, 2006. Dr. Kim Costello, Amy C. Wick Mavis, Kathryn Owen, Margarita Romo, Carolyn House Stewart and Benaja Samedí were awarded the FCSW Florida Achievement Award from the Commission and received a congratulatory letter for their dedication to Florida's women and families from Governor Jeb Bush.

In addition to honoring these outstanding women, the Commission officially released its Fourteenth Annual Report, ***Florida Women Mean Business! A Guide to Successful Business Ownership for Florida Women***. This report was created to both highlight the importance of women-owned businesses to Florida's economy and to offer women resources and information on how to grow their own businesses. The report highlights stories of women entrepreneurs from communities across Florida who are successfully operating businesses. Many of these women entrepreneurs were recognized for their contributions to the Annual Report during the reception.

The reception was hosted at the Lifsey House, campus residence of USF President Dr. Judy Genshaft. Dr. Genshaft, along with USF Alumni and 50th Anniversary Celebration Advisory Committee Co-Chair, Dr. Anila Jain, provided an exquisite and generous welcome for all attendees to the beautiful campus of the University of South Florida. Tampa Mayor, Pam Iorio, issued a proclamation to welcome the Florida Commission on the Status of Women and to congratulate the FCSW Florida Achievement Award recipients by declaring September 7, 2006 as "Florida Commission on the Status of Women Day" in Tampa, Florida.

Miami-Dade County Commission for Women

by Laura Morilla, Executive Director, Miami-Dade County Commission for Women

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women will be hosting its 35th Anniversary Reception on Thursday, November 16, 2006 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Grand Bay Miami Hotel. The guest speaker is Marie Wilson, the president of The White House Project, the past president of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and a noted author on the subject of women and leadership. Admission is \$35 and interested persons should contact the Commission for Women at (305) 375-5011 or at Morilla@miamidade.gov. The RSVP deadline is November 10th. The Commission for Women will also be distributing the 2006-2007 Connections Directory of Miami-Dade's women's organizations at the reception.

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women was founded in 1971 by feminist leader Roxcy Bolton. The Commission for Women is charged with advising the Board of County Commissioners, the County administration and the community at large on matters relating to the status of women. The members of the Commission are volunteers and the Commission is staffed and supported by Miami-Dade County. In recent years, the Commission has focused on matters such as ratification of the ERA by the Florida Legislature, the political empowerment of women, the treatment of immigrant women detainees,

contraceptive equity in the health insurance plans of County employees, full funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services, the promotion of women at the highest levels of County employment, and a campaign to recognize Miami founder Julia Tuttle with a statue. For more information on the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women, visit www.miamidade.gov/cfw.

Women's Equality Day Celebration



by Michele Manning and Angella Jones, Commission Staff

In celebration of Women's Equality Day, the Manatee In celebration of Women's Equality Day, the Manatee Commission on the Status of Women and the League of Women Voters of Manatee County brought together women and men from the community to mark the 86th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote.

FCSW staff members Michele Manning and Angella Jones attended the 2006 Women's Equity Celebration, held at the Bradenton Municipal Auditorium in Bradenton, Florida on Saturday, August 19, 2006. FCSW Commissioner Dr. Mona

Jain, also in attendance, serves as Honorary Chair Emerita of the Manatee Commission on the Status of Women. With the community gathered together, Bradenton had a tremendous display of resources for women and their families.

Read on...

For the latest on other Commission activities, including:

[The Basics of Osteoporosis](#)

[Commission Hold 3rd Quarterly Meeting](#)

visit the [FCSW website](#).

Sincerely,

Florida Commission on the Status of Women

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