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FCSW Connections

Newsletter of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women

Spring 2008

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Florida Women's Hall of Fame Nominations



Nominations for the 2008-2009 Florida Women's Hall of Fame are now being accepted through Tuesday, July 16, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. Since its inception in 1982, the Hall of Fame has recognized and honored Florida women who, through their lives and works, have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of the state.

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Thanks to our 2007 - 2008 Sponsors

The Florida Women's Hall of Fame recognizes [UBS](#), [Florida Research Park](#), [KPMG](#), [Currie Sowards Aguila Architects](#), [Florida](#)

Dear Kelly,

Welcome to the Spring 2008 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. Please share with us your thoughts and suggestions by e-mailing us at info@fcsw.net.

2008 - 2009 FCSW Chair Claudia Kirk Barto



I am thrilled to serve as the 2008 - 2009 Chair of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy year.

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women held a successful and productive 1st Quarterly meeting on March 12, 2008, at the TCC Capitol Center in Tallahassee, FL.

The meeting began with a Capitol Press Conference with Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum, announcing the release of the Commission's 2007 Annual Report. Attorney General Bill McCollum today announced the release of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women's Sixteenth Annual Report titled "Smart Surfing: A Resource Guide for Internet Safety." The report was created to raise awareness about the need for women to have the knowledge and skills to protect themselves and their families from many types of computer crimes. It features information from the Attorney General's CyberCrime Unit and CyberSafety presentations and will serve as a resource on internet safety for Florida's women.

[Find Out More](#)

Greetings by Commissioner Latortue

[Trend, Astro Travel & Tours, Inc.](#), and [Coca Cola Enterprises](#) for their sponsorship of the 2007/2008 Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Without your support, the Florida Women's Hall of Fame would not be possible.

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I want to begin by acknowledging former Commissioner Norma White, who recently retired from the Commission after eight years of service. I admire her for her professionalism, contribution, and wisdom. Commissioner White supported diversity, empowerment and all initiatives that value women's accomplishments in our State. Her leadership as the 2007 - 2008 Chair of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women will help guide us to fulfill our Mission.

 [Commissioner Latortue](#)

While we wish her well, I am also pleased to welcome our new Chair Claudia Kirk Barto. Commissioner Barto is positively embarking in leading the Commission this year. Our Public Outreach Committee continues to welcome your feedback, contributions and input. We believe that outreach is a great tool to network and exchange. Please feel free to contact us at 850-414-3300.

Florida Women Mean Business! in Ft. Myers, Florida

Southwest women had the unique opportunity to learn how to successfully start and manage their own business at *Florida Women Mean Business!*, a FREE conference presented by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women that provided skills and training specifically geared toward the special needs of female entrepreneurs as they plan and start businesses.



On Saturday, May 17, 2008 more than 25 area women learned about building a business plan, legal issues involved with starting a business, managing risk, finding financial resources, and balancing family and business at the seminar held at Hodges University in Ft. Myers.

The half-day seminar is part of a series of seminars offered by the Commission throughout the state. For more information visit www.fcsw.net/financial.

Commissioner Spotlight: FCSW Welcomes Six New Commissioners

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is pleased to welcome six newly appointed members to the Commission. Attorney General Bill McCollum has appointed [Nancy Peek McGowan](#) and [Lourdes Castillo de la Peña](#). McGowan, of Jacksonville, has a passion for public policy and has been instrumental in developing the legislation which resulted in the mandatory physical fitness standards for children in Florida public schools. Castillo de la Peña, of Miami, has been active in civic efforts in the Miami-Dade community for the past several decades, holding leadership positions with numerous non-profit Boards, committees and organizations.

Speaker of the House Marco Rubio has appointed [Bertica Cabrera-Morris](#). Cabrera-Morris is president of BCM Consulting, and owns two local restaurants. She is also a member of the Valencia

Community College Board of Trustees, having been appointed by Governor Bush.

Commissioner [Amy Kryak](#) is a recent appointment through the Office of Senate President, Ken Pruitt. She is president and creative director of Lost Art Advertising in Port St. Lucie, Florida. An entrepreneur and business owner since 1986, Kryak has won more than 200 awards for creative excellence in advertising, along with the prestigious ANGEL award for public service.

Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink has appointed [Monica Russo](#) and [Shellie Sachs Levin](#), both of Miami. Commissioner Monica Russo is president of SEIU Healthcare Florida, the largest union of health care workers in the state of Florida. Commissioner Shellie Sachs Levin is a licensed Florida attorney who practiced law in Miami-Dade County for 25 years and currently directs the EMILY's List Majority Council programs in the Southeastern United States and portions of the Midwest.

For the latest on other Commission activities, including:
[2007 - 2008 Florida Women' Hall of Fame](#)
[2008 Florida Legislative Session](#)
visit the [FCSW website](#).

Sincerely,

Kelly Sciba
Florida Commission on the Status of Women

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