Women in the Statehouse
Worth their Weight in Gold

By Amy Ciallaza, Ph.D.

In 1992, “The Year of the Woman,” women won a record number of seats in Congress. Their numbers jumped from two to six in the Senate and from 28 to 48 in the House of Representatives. This increase was widely hailed as a milestone for women’s representation in political office.

Since 1992, however, women’s state and national representation has not increased as quickly. In 2002, women hold 13 Senate seats and 60 seats in the House. They hold just 22.6 percent of state legislative offices. Just five governors are women (although this is up from one!).

The 2002 congressional elections are not likely to bring enormous changes in women’s representation, either. Because of a focus on national security—an area where women are traditionally seen as weak—some political observers think that women’s representation in Congress will actually drop in the fall. And not that many women are running, so not that many will win.

There is hope in at least one set of elections: governors’ races. This year, out of 36 gubernatorial races, at least one woman has officially filed her name as a candidate in 17. As of this writing (July 2002), in six of these states (Alabama, California, Idaho, Illinois, Oregon, and South Carolina) women have already lost in their primaries, but in one (Arkansas) a woman, Jimmie Lou Fisher, won. In 14 others (con't on p. 3)

Millions Lack Paid Sick Leave

By Vicky Lovell, Ph.D.

When flu season comes around again this fall, more than 50 million private-sector employees will not be able to use sick leave to take a paid day off to get better (and to prevent passing illnesses on to co-workers), according to federal statistics, because they don’t have paid sick leave. Full-time employees in private establishments are much more likely than part-time workers to have paid sick leave benefits (63 percent of full-timers do, compared with 19 percent of part-timers), but even among those working full-time, paid sick leave is far from a universal employment benefit.

Workers in construction and retail trades are the least likely to have paid sick leave (only 22 percent and (cont'd on p. 5)
President’s Message

What happened to the opportunities we thought we would have to raise issues of genuine security for average Americans amidst the threat of terrorism and the need for preparedness? As horrible as the terrorist attacks were, some of us hoped they could present an opportunity for all levels of government to improve our overall security and quality of life. I am afraid, however, the opportunity is being missed.

Many low-wage workers were thrown out of work in the wake of the disaster and failed to qualify for unemployment benefits because they hadn’t earned enough. These specific workers—who received little help—had fallen off the screen of the nation’s consciousness. As have parents who might need paid family leave to cope with still serious family needs arising from the disaster—for example, to take care of their children who remain traumatized months after those terrible events. Our safety nets could be strengthened to meet these needs—not only for the specific workers and parents directly affected by the events of September 11th, but also for the millions of American workers who have similar needs every year.

Several weeks ago, the Washington, DC, government held a community meeting on terrorism and preparedness. Tellingly, those who attended said they were more concerned with getting the potholes fixed and having their trash picked up than they were with being prepared in case of attack. Simple and everyday as these issues are, they are also central to our preparedness in transportation infrastructure and public health. Our elected representatives, as well as the media, might do well to pay attention.

Domestic issues that should be at the forefront of public discourse have fallen by the wayside. The rescue of Amtrak could only get on the federal agenda because its new presi-

dent moved up the date by which it would have to stop operating from lack of funds to just before the 4th of July weekend. Even this domestic issue, the need to subsidize passenger train service, which is so closely related to emergency preparedness, did not get the serious attention of policymakers until the July 4th deadline caused substantial media frenzy.

What is needed is sustained attention to important and long-standing policy issues right now. Without such press, it’s easy for the average citizen not to notice that the Administration and the House are trying to push mothers on welfare into 40-hour work weeks—more than the average mother works—while simultaneously cutting funding for their children’s care.

In this climate, it doesn’t appear to be newsworthy that black women’s unemployment rates have been hovering around 10 percent for the last few months. In the stampede to recount stories of finger pointing and blame surrounding the terrorist attacks, we don’t hear too much about the Administration’s efforts to fund marriage-promotion programs, a $300 million endeavor, with money originally intended to provide income support to people trying to better their lives.

Even scandals such as the accounting shenanigans at Enron and WorldCom and the lock-ins and forced unpaid overtime at WalMart do not seem to be generating enough heat to give strong proposals preventing such abuses sufficient traction for passage. The human costs of these scandals for the workers abused on the job or those now without jobs and pensions do not receive sustained attention. The focus shifts to the CEOs and accounting firms, moving away from the overworked, the unemployed, and the newly insecure.

Despite this, IWPR, like many other civic institutions, hasn’t lost its focus—we continue to analyze public policies and make the case for changes that can help the poor, women, and working people everywhere as well as contribute to increased security for all of us. We work increasingly with advocates at the state and national levels to ensure they have the information they need to mobilize support for critical improvements.
Barbara Gault was cited in a Chicago Tribune piece, May 22, on welfare reform and the Administration’s push for marriage promotion programs. On the same topic, MK Tally was interviewed by KPSK Los Angeles, an NPR affiliated radio station, on May 10.

The Associated Press ran a story on female suicide bombers, April 28, which was picked up by several papers across the country citing some of Amy Czajka’s views on gender and terrorism.

On Sunday, June 2, the front-page of the Washington Post business section featured a lead story on women and retirement. Our latest report, The Gender Gap in Pension Coverage, was featured front and center throughout the article. Social Security was the topic of an op-ed written by Heidi Hartmann in response to an assertion that privatization is fundamentally beneficial to women. It ran in the Washington Times on May 8.

The gender gap was the focus of the “Hers” column in the June 24 issue of BusinessWeek and Heidi Hartmann was quoted. Vicky Lovell contributed to a story on the gender wage gap in the April/May issue of Executive Female, the National Association of Female Executives publication.

On June 25 Heidi Hartmann appeared “live” on CNN Headline News to give her viewpoint about the suit brought by Walmart workers in 28 states alleging they were expected to regularly work overtime “off the clock” and without any additional pay.

July started with a “bang” as Heidi Hartmann was quoted in a lead article on the mommy/career track in the New York Times Business Section on July 5. IWPR’s new Research-In-Brief (RIB) on Disabilities Among Children & Mothers in Low-Income Families is in the spotlight and Sunwha Lee was interviewed by several radio stations, including the syndicated “Family News In Focus” picked up by over 1300 AM/FM stations around the country. On July 16 the Washington Post featured the RIB in the Ideas Industry column. And, on July 21, Heidi Hartmann was quoted in the New York Times Week in Review in a story on working mothers and children’s educational preparedness.

Women in the Statehouse
Worth Their Weight in Gold

(contin’ed from p. 1) (Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Nevada, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin), primaries have not yet occurred.

What difference does any of this make? First, it is only fair to have women at the table when policy decisions are made. As citizens, women deserve equal input into policies affecting their lives.

In addition, research on women in office indicates that they often make unique contributions to the policymaking process:

- Women officeholders are more likely to raise “women’s” issues as important areas for policymaking.
- Women are more likely to speak for disadvantaged groups of citizens, including racial minorities and the poor.
- Although there are exceptions, across party lines women are more likely to support positions in favor of reproductive rights and women’s equality.

For these reasons, having more women in office is crucial. IWPR has been working to produce and highlight research that can help increase women’s representation and their overall levels of political participation in the United States and elsewhere.

Using data from our Status of Women in the States reports, we found that in states with higher levels of women’s representation, policies concerning issues such as violence, welfare, employment benefits, and reproductive rights are more women-friendly. Additional analysis found that this relationship holds even when controlling for factors such as women’s voter turnout, the dominant party in a state, and attitudes toward women’s roles.

Joint research by IWPR and Robert Putnam of Harvard University has found that women’s status is closely linked to levels of social capital—that is, their civic involvement—across the states. This suggests that efforts to increase political and civic involvement and efforts to improve women’s status may benefit from one another (see the enclosed Research-in-Brief).

Over the next several years, IWPR plans to pursue research in these and other areas. We hope to examine the following questions:

What kinds of policies—including campaign finance reforms such as public financing—might increase the number of women who run for and win political office?

What are the best strategies for recruiting women to run for office at the local, state, and national levels? What can we learn from successful efforts to do so?

What are the barriers to young and minority women’s political and civic engagement?

What might break those barriers down?

The goal of this research is to provide the tools for activists and other practitioners to use to increase women’s representation. By identifying such policies and practices, IWPR hopes to contribute to women’s journeys to the statehouse.
By Dinah Zebot

In the fight for constitutionally guaranteed rights for women, ERA proponents are covering all bases by actively pursuing two very different paths toward the same goal. According to the ERA Campaign Network, advocates of both approaches see each other’s efforts as complementary, not conflicting, and agree that if one method should falter they will rally their forces together and vigorously pursue the other.

Advocates of “the 3-state-strategy” maintain that the 55 original ratifications of the 1972 ERA are legally valid despite the amendment’s expired time limit for ratification. Currently, the best chances for ratification in 2003 appear to be in Illinois, where activists are extremely optimistic, and Missouri, where the prospect of upcoming legislative elections has intensified efforts and raised hopes. Other states that have seen significant ERA campaign activity and progress are Oklahoma, Arizona, Florida, and Virginia.

Equal rights advocates within Congress, led by Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York and Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, have elected to take a different route by sponsoring “start over” ERA resolutions (H.J.RES 40 and S.J. RES 10). Currently, Maloney’s resolution has collected 210 co-sponsors in the House while Kennedy’s has accumulated 22 on the Senate side. If passed by two-thirds in both houses of Congress, the ERA would go to the states for fresh ratification, this time unencumbered by a time limit.

Garnering the two-thirds vote in Congress may prove to be a challenge, though. A state-by-state report released by Maloney in June revealed an alarming number of members who have yet to co-sponsor thestart-over resolutions although they represent states that have either ratified the original ERA or have equal rights guarantees in their state constitutions.

Thus, nearly 80 years into the ERA struggle, there have been some recent signs of progress, but clearly the battle is far from over. One thing is certain, however, whatever approach they may choose, equal rights advocates inside and outside Congress are determined to keep the pressure on until women’s rights are constitutionally guaranteed.

RESOURCES:
ERA Campaign Network
www.ERACampaign.net
ERA Campaign Speakers for Women Studies Programs contact co-founder Doris Rothman, Ed.D. at 609/882-6815; for other events contact Dr. Jennifer Macleod, National Coordinator, at 609/799-0378
Representative Maloney’s Report
www.house.gov/maloney/proerastates.htm

REPORTING BACK:
Impacts of the Status of Women in the States Reports

State-based Advisory Committees remain the heart of IWPR’s Status of Women in the States project. The dynamic and committed group of women who serve on these committees continue to use the States reports to promote policy changes in their states. Past and current committees report back to us as they continue to forge ahead:

A number of The Status of Women in Indiana (2000) Committee members are involved in major changes in health care and transitional programs for the female prison population and other initiatives revolving around health and education issues. The Chair of the Indiana Advisory Committee, Charlotte Zietlow, hopes to launch initiatives on economic issues as a result of their collaborations with IWPR.

This November, the new Women’s Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation will host a public event to inform the community of their activities and progress and to announce the release of The Status of Women in Rhode Island report. The Women’s Fund was created last year and one of its first grants was made to IWPR in support of this project. Simone Joyaux, ACFRE, founder of the Women’s Fund, states, “Our very first effort is collaborating with the Institute for Women’s Policy Research. In addition, we will be convening gatherings where issues of particular interest to women are discussed and solutions are sought. We will be advocates for change.”

We want to hear what is happening with the report in your state!

Please share your news with us and contact Jean Sinzdak (202/785-5100; E-mail: sinzdak@iwpr.org).
Let’s Get Real: Proposed Welfare Legislation Leaves Reality in the Dust

By Avis Jones-DeWeever

In many respects, the Senate Finance Committee’s welfare reauthorization plan is a move in the right direction. It rewards states not for simply decreasing their welfare rolls, but instead for moving welfare leavers to “good” jobs; it extends health care access to individuals making the transition from welfare to work; and it provides mothers with disabled children much of the support they need to be able to stay home and care for their children. While these and other aspects of the bill are encouraging, even this bill falls woefully short of meeting many of the real needs of welfare recipients.

All parents who work outside of the home need quality childcare. In the fervor to increase the work efforts of welfare recipients, this basic fact has been virtually ignored. Under current funding levels, federal childcare subsidies reach only one out of every seven eligible children. This leaves more than 7 million needy kids languishing on waitlists. It is simply unimaginable that the needs of these children have yet to be adequately addressed through proposed TANF reauthorization legislation. Yet, the unimaginable is true.

While improving upon the $3.7 billion allocation passed by the House, the Senate plan still proposes a childcare grant of only $5.5 billion over the next five years. To even begin to adequately meet the childcare needs of struggling working families, funding must be increased to at least $20 billion. While not totally closing the gap, this level of funding would double the number of eligible children receiving childcare services. Surely, if we expect more mothers to work, then it only makes sense that we make sure they have the childcare they need in order to do so.

Working, however, is only half the picture. Welfare reform was, in many respects, successful in moving people into work—that is, if the goal was merely based on employment levels rather than measures of job quality. The ultimate goal should be to move people out of poverty and into secure, well-paying jobs that provide benefits most working Americans take for granted. Education provides the best avenue toward achieving this goal.

Although the Senate has addressed educational issues in the proposed legislation, the bill still falls short. The proposed bill doubles the amount of time TANF recipients can receive vocational education or attend community college (from 12 to 24 months), but retains the 30 percent cap on the proportion of recipients who can take advantage of this opportunity. The bill also opens the doors of higher education to TANF recipients who seek to obtain a bachelor’s degree, but allows only 10 percent of recipients to attend college. The research on this issue could not be clearer—higher education results in higher earning power—period.

Increased earning power, however, is only half the story. Higher education gives women receiving welfare a sense of empowerment, pride, and improved self-esteem. Their children’s educational aspirations blossom once college becomes a reality in their lives and not just some vague notion. Make no mistake, for many families this is the long-awaited cure to the cycle of poverty. To exclude 90 percent of welfare recipients from this avenue towards economic security, personal satisfaction, and probable intergenerational success is downright shameful; as is shutting out 70 percent from any hopes of attaining education beyond a high school diploma or GED. Limiting aspirations in this way in the “land of opportunity” flies in the face of everything that this country claims to be.

The time is now, to “get real” when it comes to addressing the needs of welfare recipients. Real avenues toward poverty reduction include a pit stop for higher education. Real support for working mothers includes access to quality childcare. It’s not rocket science. It’s simple common sense, coupled with patience, commitment, and the resources it takes to see it through.

Millions Lack Paid Sick Leave

(cont’d from p. 1) 34 percent do, respectively). In general, larger firms have better paid sick leave policies, but even in establishments with 2,500 or more workers, only 73 percent have paid sick leave. Dr. Judy Heymann’s work shows that paid sick leave coverage is also correlated with income: employees with family income in the top quartile are nearly twice as likely to consistently have paid sick leave as those with income in the bottom quartile. These low-income workers may not be able to afford to take unpaid leave, regardless of how sick they are, or their employers may have a practice of firing workers who miss work for any reason.

Policymakers can remedy this problem by regulating leave provisions, just as Congress and state legislatures now regulate minimum wages and working conditions. Senator Kennedy is working to draft a bill that would mandate a minimum number of paid sick leave days for all employees (prorated for part-timers). Sick leave programs that can be used to care for sick children or other family members also are an important way of supporting work/family accommodation; one in four full-time workers can do this under existing leave policies. The business community could also exercise more corporate responsibility by voluntarily expanding paid sick leave policies, especially for low-wage workers.
Amy Caiazza, IWPR Study Director, speaks to Congressional staff at the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) briefing on pay equity in April.

IWPR Study Director Vicky Lovell prepares for her presentation on job quality at a meeting of funders in Chicago in June.

Avis Jones-DeWeever, Ph.D., Study Director
At IWPR, Dr. Jones-DeWeever directs projects monitoring the effects of welfare reform and other poverty reduction programs on the well-being of women and their families. Dr. Jones-DeWeever holds a Ph.D. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she worked under the direction of IWPR Program Advisory Committee member, Linda Williams. She has worked with and for Macro International, the Maryland House of Delegates, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Prior to joining IWPR, Dr.

**SUMMERTIME at IWPR**

Summertime in Washington, DC, brings not only heat and humidity, but also a fresh group of interns. This year at IWPR is no exception; the Institute is hosting six interns in its research, development, and communications departments. From colleges and universities across the nation, IWPR's summer interns may have varied backgrounds and future goals, but all share a strong interest in women's issues and policy, and the desire to gain experience working for a women-oriented non-profit organization.

In addition to lending their talents and efforts in substantive ways to a variety of current IWPR projects, the interns are supplementing their DC experience in other ways: by planning the annual IWPR mid-summer party for feminist interns all over DC, attending congressional briefings and relevant panel presentations, and—in the case of three of the interns, Amanda Innes, Dinah Zebot, and Sachin Shivaram—by participating in the New Faces, More Voices feminist leadership training program put on by the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO). Culminating in a Congressional action lobby day, the New Faces program consists of weekly workshops designed not only to raise awareness of current women's issues, but also to teach useful and widely applicable skills such as coalition building, public-speaking, and lobbying.

From all accounts, it seems that the summer is a great success. Here is a quick glance behind IWPR's 2002 Summer Interns:

Dana McGrath, Research Intern
**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Rice University (Houston, TX) Class of 1999; The George Washington University (DC) Masters Program in Public Policy with a concentration in Women’s Studies Class of 2003.

Why IWPR: “I hope to have a career in the public or non-profit sector working on women’s policy issues.”

Work at IWPR: Assisting researchers on projects dealing with older women's economic issues.
After Affirmative Action: A Look at the Struggles and Strategies of Three Post-Affirmative Action Institutions.

Sunhwa Lee, Ph.D., Study Director

Dr. Lee earned her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago, where she focused on gender inequalities in East Asian labor markets (e.g., Japan and South Korea). Before joining IWPR full time, she worked on an IWPR project analyzing job training program participation among low-income people. She recently completed an IWPR project on demographic and economic profiles of older women and men in the United States. Along with a project on older women's economic security, she currently works with SIPP data focusing on economic and social conditions of low-income families with disabled children.

Jones De-Weever served on the faculty of the University of Richmond where her teaching and research interests focused on issues of race and gender inequality in the United States. Recently, she completed

(From left to right) Sachin Shivaram, Dana McGrath, Manita Rao, Dinah Zebot, Amanda Innes, and Jane Yi

Manita Rao, Research Intern
Hometown: Jamshedpur, India

Why IWPR: “I want to be a policy analyst and work on policy issues related to women and children. IWPR seems to be the ideal place for that.”

Work at IWPR: Assisting researchers with the welfare and child care projects by focusing on issues related to TANF reauthorization and childcare.

Amanda Innes, Research Intern
Hometown: Cheverly, Maryland

Why IWPR: “I according to a writer in Public Policy with a focus on women’s policy issues. I saw the research internship at IWPR as an excellent opportunity to gain experience and contribute to meaningful work.”

Work at IWPR: Assisting researchers with the Status of Women in the States project.

Sachin Shivaram, Research Intern
Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Harvard University (Cambridge, MA) Class of 2003.

Why IWPR: “I’m interested in public policy that addresses the political inequality between men and women; career plans might include seeking elected office and/or academics.”

Work at IWPR: Assisting researcher Vicky Lovell, by looking at what factors women (especially low-income women) look for in a “good job.”

Jane Yi, Development Intern
Hometown: Reinholds, Pennsylvania
Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA) Class of 2002

Why IWPR: “I majored in sociology with a focus on gender. I am interested in women’s issues, gender violence, and gender and health. IWPR seemed like the place for me to apply the things I learned and to build on them.”

Work at IWPR: Assisting the Development staff by researching foundations and organizations as possible sources of funding for IWPR projects.

Dinah Zebot, Communications Intern
Hometown: Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan
Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA) Class of 2003

Why IWPR: “Through my work as a history major, I have studied much about women’s issues in the past, but I see my internship at IWPR as a wonderful opportunity to enhance my knowledge of current women’s policy issues and dilemmas and to gain experience working for a progressive-minded non-profit organization.”

Work at IWPR: Assisting the Communications staff on a variety of projects including: researching for and updating RNR Online, contributing to the quarterly newsletter, and helping evaluate and improve current online marketing strategies.
Keeping an Eye on Social Security

By Lois Shaw, Ph.D.

President George Bush continues to claim that the Social Security system is in crisis and to advocate partial privatization. The President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security laid out three plans, all of which would divert part of payroll taxes to private accounts. Although Social Security benefits would not be reduced for current or near retirees, benefits would be gradually reduced for future retirees with the hope that private accounts would make up the difference. The problem of paying for disability benefits and for dependent benefits when earners die at young ages is not addressed at all. Even with reductions in retirement benefits in the future, large infusions of public funds from other (unspecified) sources would be required to pay for benefits for current retirees while diverting funds to start private accounts.

Ironesically, while President Bush continues to talk about insolvency, the recently issued Social Security Trustees report projects that the system is now able to pay full benefits through 2041 (and 75 percent thereafter) without any changes in either payroll taxes or benefits.

IWPR continues to participate in the privatization debate. In April, President Heidi Hartmann represented the anti-privatization side at a conference on “Social Security: a Women's Issue” sponsored by the Cato Institute and Women Impacting Social Policy. Dr. Hartmann also continues her work as chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations' (NCWO) Task Force on Social Security and spoke at their Women's Equality Summit.

A falling stock market and news of fraudulent claims of profits by some large companies may have dampened the enthusiasm of some in Congress to vote for cutting Social Security benefits and forcing future retirees to rely heavily on private accounts. The consensus seems to be that Congress will take no action on Social Security this year. This does not mean that the issue is dead, but only that there is some time for preparing for future assaults on the Social Security system. The composition of the next Congress may be crucial for the outcome.

Speak at IWPR!

Going to be in DC for a meeting or lecture? IWPR hosts monthly “Brain Bag” sessions, where guests speak on various topics to IWPR staff. Present research-in-progress or finished work, share your expertise with IWPR, and get quality feedback from our staff. Staff and speakers share brown bag lunches and discuss everything from research methodology to the latest unemployment statistics. To schedule a session, contact Vanessa Melamede, call 202/785-5100 or e-mail vanessa@iwpr.org.
About the 2002 States Advisory Committees

The work of the Advisory Committees for the 2002 round of The Status of Women in the States reports has exemplified their commitment to the women in their states. The Committees hail from Alabama, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Rhode Island, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Each of the state Committees is led by a chair or co-chairs, who have tirelessly devoted themselves to managing all the committee activities and coordinating various individuals from all different parts of the state.

For the last year, the Advisory Committees have lent their knowledge and expertise to the reports in a variety of ways, including reviewing the draft reports for accuracy, making suggestions to ensure that the data contained in the report would be useful to people in their state, and organizing the dissemination of and publicity surrounding the release of the report. The Advisory Committees also contributed sections of text to the reports to highlight issues of particular importance to women in their state. These “focus boxes” cover a range of issues, including education and job training, economic self-sufficiency, childcare, political participation, lesbian issues, rural women’s issues, and violence against women.

The success of these reports in improving public policy for women is based on the vision and hard work of the Advisory Committee members. Their commitment is exemplified in their enthusiasm for the project from its inception and their hard work during each phase of this project. For more details on who the members of these Committees are, see the State Advisory Committees webpage at www.iwpr.org/states/SAC/sac.html.

Save these Dates!

IWPR's Seventh International Women's Policy Research Conference:
WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
June 22-24, 2003
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC

NEW RELEASES

Research-in-Brief

Life After Welfare Reform: Low-Income Single Parent Families, Pre- and Post-TANF, by Janice Peterson, Ph.D., Xue Song, Ph.D., and Avis Jones-DeWeever, Ph.D. This RIB examines the fate of single parent families before and after welfare reform, while recommending policy changes aimed at long-term poverty reduction.

Report

Why Privatizing Government Services Would Hurt Women Workers, by Annette Bernhardt, Ph.D., and Laura Dresser, Ph.D. Through examining public and private sector employment data for women, this report reveals the damage privatizing government services would have on women workers. Now on sale for $10.00. Order form on back cover.

Report

The Gender Gap in Pension Coverage: What Does the Future Hold?, by Lois Shaw, Ph.D., and Catherine Hill, Ph.D. This report examines the difference between men’s and women’s pension coverage, and explores the economic issues facing older women today and tomorrow. Now on sale for $10.00. Order form on back cover.

Report


Marriage Promotion & Low-Income Communities: An Examination of Real Needs & Real Solutions, by Avis Jones-DeWeever, Ph.D. This Briefing Paper discusses the need to invest in proven poverty-reduction strategies rather than intrusive marriage promotion strategies.

Disabilities among Children and Mothers in Low-Income Families, by Sunhwa Lee, Ph.D., Melissa Sills, and Gi-Taik Oh. This RIB discusses the surprising number of low-income families whose members suffer from disabilities.

Does Women’s Representation in Elected Office Lead to Women-Friendly Policy?, by Amy Catiaza, Ph.D. This RIB shows the positive correlation between having women representatives in office and getting women-friendly policies put into law across the United States.

Marriage and Poverty: An Annotated Bibliography, by Hedieh Rahmanou and Amy Lemar. This online publication serves as an excellent resource for exploring poverty reduction strategies, marriage incentives, and the links between them.

See www.iwpr.org/pdf.html for all IWPR New Releases
“Women in that movement were not valued,” Jewel explains. “So much of the abolitionist movement was conducted through churches, and yet few churches even allowed women to speak in public. At a conference in England women were relegated to the balcony of the meeting hall.” Jewel herself experienced discrimination, observing significant pay inequities in the world of academia.

Jewel completed her master’s thesis in 1948. That year the modern state of Israel was created, and Jewel is active in supporting the country’s women. “I sensed I could make a great contribution there. I could see and feel the impact of my work.”

“I have used Heidi’s work at IWPR as a model in Israel,” Jewel explains. Since 1992, Jewel has chaired US/Israel Women to Women (www.usisraelwomen.org), an organization dedicated to providing seed money to make a difference in the lives of Jewish and Arab women in Israel. One of US/Israel Women to Women’s longest funding relationships is with a center devoted to policy advocacy. Like IWPR, the center’s work focuses on numerous issues, including health care and economic development. Jewel might have been reading from IWPR’s recent report, Working First But Working Poor, when she stated, “with low-income women, you have to help them develop skills or they will always be low-income women.”

At present, Jewel and her colleagues are focusing on preventing the privatization of Israel’s health care system—a challenge familiar to U.S. advocates who have been working to stop the privatization of Social Security and other government services. An effective national health care system, in fact, is at the top of Jewel’s wish list for U.S. women.

Jewel has served as director of the Women’s Center for Community Leadership at Hunter College, as staff director for various local, state, and national commissions, and has published numerous books and articles on New York City government, politics, and union affairs. With her husband, she co-authored a landmark, historical study on AFSCME District Council 37 in New York, NY.

Jewel doesn’t lose sight of the biggest challenge facing women in the twenty-first century: “We need to communicate constantly with the next generation. They have to be involved both in keeping what has been won and in moving forward. Feminism is multi-faceted: we must address family, economic independence, political representation, and so much more.”

IWPR is honored to have the longtime support of Jewel Bellush.

Development News

Mariam K. Chamberlain Fundraiser Draws a Crowd

On May 16, 2002, more than 100 people gathered at the Harvard Club in New York City to honor Dr. Mariam K. Chamberlain and celebrate the establishment of the Mariam K. Chamberlain Fellowship in Women and Public Policy. Several of Mariam’s friends and colleagues, including Susan Berrisford, President of the Ford Foundation, spoke warmly of Mariam’s lasting impact in establishing women’s research centers across the United States. Friends came with checkbooks in hand and heartfelt praise for Mariam and her tireless work on behalf of women.

The contributions received will ensure that young scholars are given an opportunity to continue Mariam’s legacy at IWPR. If you would like to make a gift to the Fellowship, please contact us at 202/785-5100 or use the enclosed reply envelope to send in your contribution.

Membership Rates Set to Increase

Beginning very soon, many of you will notice a modest increase in your IWPR membership rate. IWPR has not raised membership rates since 1992. As the Institute has expanded its research capabilities, our costs have increased. After much deliberation, we made the difficult decision to increase membership rates. Your membership support is critical to IWPR, allowing us to produce the research needed to better the lives of women and their families. We hope you will understand our need to increase rates, and that you will continue to support our important work.
2002 National Calendar

August

18 Rediscovering the Other America: A National Forum on Poverty and Inequality, West Chicago City Center, Chicago, IL. Sponsored by the Poverty, Class and Inequality Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, the Journal of Poverty: Innovations on Social, Political & Economic Inequalities, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, College of Arts and Sciences – Georgia State University, Sociologists for Women in Society, and the Center for Urban Research and Learning, this program includes paper presentations, interactive workshops, and a panel discussion of national policies and practices about poverty and inequality. For more details, contact Keith M. Kilby (Kilby.1@osu.edu, 614-292-7181), or Alfred Joseph (Josephal@muohio.edu, 513-529-4902), or visit http://www.researchforum.org/.

18-23 28th Annual NOVA Conference, Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, TN. Organized by the National Organization for Victim Assistance, this year’s conference is titled, Celebrating Country: Victims and Advocates United. Victim assistance professionals, survivors, and allies alike, are welcome to attend this conference that will consist of a wide array of workshops and speakers, including a special session featuring members of the NOVA-trained post-September 11th Crisis Response Team. For more details, and registration, visit http://www.try-nova.org/nova_28th_annualconference.html.

24-27 Eighth Annual “Welfare to Work” Conference, Marriott Harbor Beach Resort and Spa, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Organized by the Network Consortium, this conference will serve as a forum to explore and showcase model welfare to work programs, discuss issues and pitfalls, and identify solutions that move individuals from welfare to work to self-sufficiency. Focus areas include: finding funding, success stories, special populations, research, and TANF reauthorization and other policy issues. For more details and registration, visit http://www.network-consortium.org/Conferences/wt/wt.html.

September

19-20 JCP Research Institute, Gleacher Center, Chicago, IL. Organized by Northwestern University/University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research (JCP), this year’s institute, Family Investments in Children’s Potential: Resources and Behaviors that Promote Children’s Success, will bring together developmental psychologists, evolutionary biologists, economists, sociologists, and others, to foster cross-disciplinary communication and to generate new ideas for a research agenda focused on family investments in children. For more details, contact Patricia Lasley (povcen@northwestern.edu, 847-491-4145), Matthew Mohlenkamp (jcp@uchicago.edu, 773-702-0472), or visit http://www.jcp.org/conferences/event_description.cfm?conid=72.

28 Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) Ready to Run Conference, New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick, NJ. This conference presents the opportunity for potential women candidates and appointees to hear directly from prominent elected and appointed leaders, campaign consultants, and party officials about running successful campaigns. All women considering seeking public office or running for higher office are eligible to attend. For more details, contact Amy Bair (abairn@rci.rutgers.edu, 732 932-9384, ext. 260), or visit http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cawp/NJ/RtoR2002.html.

October

24 Seventh Annual Corporate Conference on Domestic Violence, Grand Hyatt, New York, NY. The focus of this year’s conference, sponsored by the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, has been enlarged to a national scale for the first time ever. For more information, as it becomes available, e-mail caev@caev.org and include “National Corporate Conference Mailing List” on the subject line.

November

15-17 The American Association of University Women’s Second International Symposium, Wyndham Hotel, Washington, DC. Organized by the AAUW’s Educational Foundation, this year’s conference is titled, International Perspectives: Global Voices for Gender Equity. The symposium will provide policymakers, scholars, and practitioners an opportunity to explore how women around the world have addressed four key global issues: literacy improvement, peace education and conflict resolution, governance, and education for people with disabilities. For more details, contact the symposium coordinator (Intsymp@aauw.org), or visit http://www.aauw.org/7000/ef/symposium.html

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