



The Governor's Commission for Women Fall 2009 Newsletter



Breast Cancer Awareness Event October 6, 2009 Austin



October is *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. On Tuesday, October 6, 2009, the Governor's Commission for Women invites you to attend the 13th annual breast cancer awareness press conference on the south steps of the Texas State Capitol. The goal of this annual awareness event is to encourage women to schedule annual mammograms, promote early detection, honor survivors, and remember those who have lost their battle with the disease.

Each year, Gov. Rick Perry signs a proclamation naming October 'Breast Cancer Awareness Month' in Texas. Texas First Lady Anita Perry will speak at the event, followed by a reception for breast cancer survivors in the Lieutenant Governor's Reception Room in the Capitol. A mobile mammography van will be onsite and balloons will be released at the conclusion of the event to represent the lives lost to breast cancer this year.

We look forward to seeing you on October 6!

Please wear pink.

2007 – 2009 Biennial Report

The Governor's Commission for Women publishes a report at the end of each term detailing the accomplishments and initiatives of the current Commission.

The **2007 – 2009 Biennial Report** will be available for viewing on our website after November 19, 2009. To view the past reports, please visit: <http://governor.state.tx.us/women/about/>.

News from the 81st Texas Legislature

The 81st Texas Legislature was in session from January 11, 2009 to June 1, 2009.

Governor Perry signed 1,656 bills into law this session. For a complete listing of all legislation from this session, including those bills signed into law and their effective dates, visit: www.legis.state.tx.us.

If you are interested in legislation affecting women from the 81st Legislature, the [2007-2009 Biennial Report](#), available on the Commission website, provides an overview of many bills that may affect you.



Texas Conference for Women



The 10th Annual Texas Conference for Women will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston on November 12, 2009.

The conference is a nonprofit, non-partisan, one-day event for Texas women to connect, learn practical and professional strategies from nationally recognized experts, and network with peers. The Governor's Commission for Women has sponsored the conference since its inception. More than 40,000 women have attended the Conference over the past 10 years.

Featured events include dozens of expert speakers leading workshops and seminars on a broad scope of issues important to women, including international and national politics, health, media, business, finance and personal development.

This year, the commission is partnering with the State Agency Council to provide affordable round trip shuttle bus transportation from Austin to the conference in Houston. The commission has negotiated a reduced registration fee, and transportation for only \$30. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email carneciap@gmail.com. Hurry, space is limited!

For more information, visit: www.txconferenceforwomen.org

Domestic Violence Prevention

October is also *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*.

Grande Communications provided free airtime to the Governor's Commission for Women to help promote healthy dating relationships and prevent domestic violence. The 30-second spots ran from August 8 – September 30, 2009 in the eight markets served by Grande Communications: Austin, Corpus Christi, suburban north Dallas, Midland, Odessa, San Antonio, San Marcos and Waco.

The three 30-second PSA's, titled "Friends," "Amigos," a Spanish-language version of "Friends," and "Just Talk," can be viewed on the Commission website's main page: www.governor.state.tx.us.women.

During the month of August, these public service announcements aired 4750 times. The Commission is grateful to Grande Communications for their generosity.





Mean Girls and Body Image

If you know what it means to be a “queen bee,” have read Mary Pipher’s insightful depiction of girl-life, “Reviving Ophelia,” or have followed the endlessly chronicled eating disorders of stars in the media, then you are aware of the growing consciousness about girls’ body image and bullying, or relational aggression, and the impact on girls’ self-esteem, health, wellness and personal success. Ten years after the discovery of the “mean girls” phenomena and even longer since Pipher’s revelations on girls’ images of their bodies, how are we as a society dealing with these issues and how are our girls doing? Unfortunately experts agree, not as well as we could be.

As a positive counter to the challenges girls face, GENaustin presents the Second Annual Girls Now! Conference, on **Saturday, November 14, 2009** at The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. In the wake of last year’s successful turnout of more than 400 middle school aged girls and 200 adults, this year’s one-day event will again focus on “Body Image, Bullying and Being a Girl,” and welcomes the support of Honorary Chairwoman First Lady Anita Perry. With Mrs. Perry’s support, new programming, and a goal of reaching a statewide audience of 1,200 participants, GENaustin’s Girls Now! Conference is on track to mirror the success and reach of the Texas Conference for Women.

“As First Lady of Texas, one of my priorities has always been the empowerment of women,” says Mrs. Perry. “But the process of empowering the women of tomorrow begins by giving the girls of today the tools and resources they need to achieve self-confidence and success. Programs such as GENaustin’s Girls Now! Conference gives girls those essential tools.”

Founded in 2008, the Girl’s Now! Conference was collaboration between GENaustin, The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, Latinitas Magazine and The Ladies Room with Lolis radio program, and welcomed partnering organizations such as Con Mi Madre, Girlstart, SafePlace, and Theater Action Project. Over 30 organizations are participating in this year’s Conference, which features a range of workshops for girls (grades 5 -12), parents, educators and social workers.

Alexis Jones, “Survivor” reality star, will open the Conference with a keynote speech on developing a strong inner voice. Topics for the dynamic, interactive workshops will include Internet safety, teen dating violence, diversity, self image, media literacy, parent/daughter relationships, physical health and wellness.



November 14, 2009

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**The Ann Richards School
2206 Prather Lane
Austin, Texas
78704**

- Created just for girls (grades 5-12), with programming for parents, educators and social workers.
- A one-day event devoted to connecting girls and adults who have questions with resources and experts who have answers.
- Dynamic, interactive workshops focused on issues such as cyber bullying, self-image, dating, diversity, media literacy, parent-daughter relationships and physical health and wellness.

For more information, visit:
www.girlsnowconference.org

News from Washington, DC

Lynn Rosenthal, an expert in domestic violence policy, was appointed to the newly created position of *White House Advisor on Violence Against Women*.

In March, President Obama signed an executive order establishing the *White House Council on Women and Girls*.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/women/>



Governor's Commission for Women

Important Dates to Remember:

- ❖ **October:** *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*
- ❖ **October:** *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*
- ❖ **October 6, 2009:** Breast Cancer Awareness Event, Austin
- ❖ **November:** *Lung Cancer Awareness Month*
- ❖ **November 12, 2009:** Texas Conference for Women, Houston
- ❖ **November 14, 2009:** Girls Now! Conference, Austin

Governor's Commission for Women

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Find us online!
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The Governor's Commission for women is a division of the Texas Governor's Office, designed to promote opportunities for Texas women through outreach, education, research and referral services.

Women's Commission Internship: If you would like to serve as an intern for the Governor's Commission for Women, email women@governor.state.tx.us for more information.

If you have received this newsletter from a friend or colleague and would like to receive future issues of the Governor's Commission for Women e-newsletter, email: women@governor.state.tx.us.

To be removed from the e-newsletter distribution list, email women@governor.state.tx.us and write "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Past newsletters are available on our website: www.governor.state.tx.us/women/news

Texas Governor's Commission for Women

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