



Governor's Commission for Women

Spring 2011

The Governor's Commission for Women Honors Female Legislators

On April 26, 2011 the Governor's Commission for Women honored 38 women members of the 82nd Legislature at a luncheon for 450 guests at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol.

Renowned actress and philanthropist Janine Turner served as mistress of ceremonies. Janine, a three time Golden Globe nominee best known for her role as Maggie O'Connell in Northern Exposure, joined Gov. Rick Perry, Texas First Lady Anita Perry and Speaker Joe Straus for this special occasion.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, the commission raised money for initiatives including helping women 50 and beyond find employment, empowering girls to pursue high demand careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and assisting Texas military families.

One of Gov. Perry's initiatives is to prepare Texas' future workforce with advanced skills required for high-demand careers such as STEM. In light of this fact, the Governor's

Commission for Women presented a contribution to the Girl Scouts of Central Texas for their STEM workshops and events for young girls.

"As we work to prepare Texas children to compete with an increasingly technical global workforce, education in science, technology, engineering and math is essential to their success," Gov. Perry said.

Many of you attended the event and we truly appreciate your support. We look forward to seeing you again at the luncheon in the spring of 2013.



Inside this issue:

NEXT-Beyond 50...Ready, Set, Go!

The Governor's Commission for Women Honors Female Legislators

2-1-1 Campaign Launched to Assist Military Families

White House Council on Women and Girls

Confused About Healthcare Reforms?

Do You Know a Woman Who Could Benefit from WIC?

Senior Fiesta

Upcoming Events



NEXT-Beyond 50...Ready, Set, Go!

Wondering what the world of work looks like for women after age 50? Looking to redesign your life and career, or start a small business of your own? The Governor's Commission for Women and Texas Women in Business are hosting the "NEXT: Beyond 50 - Ready, Set, Go!" one-day conference on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at Austin Community College Eastview Campus. The conference will include four tracks for the participants to choose from, which include:

Track 1: Job Readiness

Resume, interview skills, job search options, dress for success

Track 2: Your Own Business?

Business Plans 101, funding, marketing

Track 3: Knowledge Builder

Funding your own education, Green Jobs, Health Care, financial literacy

Track 4: Creative Pursuits

Panel discussion, overcoming resistance, finding your muse, mentors

Texas First Lady Anita Perry is the luncheon keynote speaker. Speed coaching sessions will be available to the participants throughout the day. The **NEXT** program provides resources and educational opportunities that will enable women to advance their knowledge, skills, and abilities, empowering them to successfully navigate their career and life transitions. Registration is \$25, but scholarships are available to those with limited resources. To register, please visit: <http://twib.ticketbud.com/beyond50>.

White House Council on Women and Girls

In March of 2009, President Obama signed an executive order creating the White House Council on Women and Girls. The council's mission is to ensure that all federal agencies take into account the needs of women and girls in their policies, programs and legislation. To learn more about the council please visit www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cwg.

2-1-1 Campaign Launched to Assist Military Families

The Governor's Commission for Women partnered with Texas First Lady Anita Perry to produce a public service announcement (PSA) for use by television stations throughout the state. The PSA is for military families in Texas and promotes confidential 2-1-1 services.

We are pleased to report that the 2-1-1 Area Information Centers Report saw a spike in military-related calls. Of the 665,573 total calls handled by 2-1-1 Texas Information & Referral Network, 21,941 involved persons who are or have been military members, or persons who have military members represented in their families. Within a short three-month span, the number of military-related calls fielded by 2-1-1 increased by nearly 3,000.

The 2-1-1 PSA campaign is one of the first projects produced by the Commission in our effort to provide assistance to the men and women of Texas who selflessly protect our country - and the families that support them.

Senior Fiesta

On April 13, the Governor's Commission for Women hosted a booth at the Senior Fiesta in San Antonio for individuals 50 years and older. The event featured food, entertainment and information from various vendors. The Governor's Commission for Women partnered with AARP and the Texas Workforce Commission to distribute materials on employment services for older workers. The event drew more than 5,000 seniors.



Do You Know a Woman Who Could Benefit from WIC?

Texas Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federally-funded nutrition program that aims to give mothers and young children the best possible start by providing optimal nutrition during the critical stages of development. WIC works with families to ensure that:

- Pregnant women have healthy pregnancies
- Mothers have information to can make the best choices when feeding their infants
- Young children eat right and grow strong for a bright future
- Families have nutritious foods that are high in vitamins and minerals.

For eligibility information and to find a WIC clinic in your area, please visit: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/wichd/gi/eligible.shtm> or call 1-800-942-3678



Confused About Healthcare Reforms?

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has launched the federally-funded Texas Consumer Health Assistance Program (CHAP) to provide information and assistance to Texas consumers.

Texas CHAP will help you:

- Learn about your rights under federal health care reform and state law
- Enroll in a health plan, including the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan
- Appeal a health plan's denial of a treatment of service
- Resolve a complaint against your health plan or insurer
- Obtain the health care premium tax credit (for small businesses)

If you have questions about how the federal health care reform will affect you, call the Texas CHAP Help Line toll-free at 1-855-TEX-CHAP (1-855-839-2427). Help Line assistance is available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. CT. You can also learn more about Texas CHAP by visiting TDI's Texas Health Options website at www.texashealthoptions.com.



Governor's Commission for Women

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Phone: 512-475-2615
Fax: 512-463-1832
E-mail: women@governor.state.tx.us

www.governor.state.tx.us/women

www.facebook.com/texaswomen

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.



If you 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 at: www.governor.state.tx.us/women/news

Upcoming Events

Sept. 9, 2011: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Press Event and Discussion at the Capitol, beginning at 9 a.m. For more information visit: www.topdd.state.tx.us or call (512) 206-4544

Sept. 30, 2011: austinwoman Magazine Anniversary Event 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Westin at the Domain. For more information visit: www.austinwomanmagazine.com

Nov. 2, 2011: The Austin Women's Conference and Show at the Austin Convention Center. For more information visit: <http://austinwomensconference.com/>

Nov. 17, 2011: Texas Conference for Women in Houston. For more information visit: <http://www.txconferenceforwomen.org/>

Texas Governor's Commission for Women 2009-2011

Carol Peterson

Chair, Alpine

Stephanie Cavender

San Antonio

Becky McKinley

Amarillo

Carmen Pagan

Vice Chair, McAllen

Cris Graham

Fredericksburg

Tresa Rockwell

Austin

Claudia Abney

Marshall

Cynthia Jenkins

Irving

Connie Weeks

Austin

Gina Bridwell

Abilene

Lisa Lucero

Austin

Daisy White

Houston