

# NEWS & NOTES

ABOUT WOMEN PUBLIC OFFICIALS

OCTOBER 1987

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## CONTENTS

### Organizations of Women Officeholders

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| National . . . . .  | 1 |
| Statewide . . . . . | 3 |

### Organizations of Administrative Women in Government . . . . .

6

### About Women Legislators

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| National Networks. . . . . | 8 |
| State Caucuses . . . . .   | 8 |

### Women's PACs: A Current List . . . .10 A Network for Women's Elections. .11

### Feature Article

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| What If Women Ran the World? . . .12 |
|--------------------------------------|

## In this issue . . .

. . .we focus on the past and the future of women in politics. Our update on organizations of elected and administrative women in government provides a ten year review of their accomplishments and setbacks and a ten year preview of where they hope to be in 1997.

Our feature article highlights efforts related to women's leadership around the world and asks "What if Women Ran the World?" We have also enclosed a speech given by Jessica Tuchman Mathews, Vice President and Director of Research at the World Resources Institute, which examines global issues as we head toward the 21st century.

In addition, an article from the NOW National Times which describes an interesting case of women using their political clout to support women

(continued...)



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Compiled by:  
Kathy Stanwick

(...continued)

in the West Virginia legislature is enclosed. For the next issue of News & Notes we'd like to include a listing of other examples of how women in politics and government make a difference, so if you know of some interesting examples, please send them to us in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope. Feel free to include articles, news clips or stories in your own words.

Yes, it's that time again - *if there is an "87" in the bottom right-hand corner of your mailing label!* In order to keep receiving News & Notes, please return the enclosed subscription renewal form with your check. The first issue of our next subscription year will include:

- o an article about women on the staffs of presidential campaigns
- o a feature on an exciting women's candidate development project in Minnesota
- o examples of how women in politics and government around the country are making a difference
- o updated fact sheets on women in public office
- o a report from CAWP's Forum for Women State Legislators

Finally, I want to thank those of you who respond regularly to our requests for information and encourage those of you who postpone your response to please answer more promptly. We often get calls and letters about your activities and can only direct interested individuals and reporters to you if we know to whom we should direct inquiries, where to contact you and what you are doing. So keep us posted!

Thanks,

Kathy Stanwick  
Editor



# ORGANIZATIONS OF WOMEN OFFICEHOLDERS

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### National Association of Counties -- Women Officials in NACo (WON)

Contact: Lee Palmer  
NACo  
440 First Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 393-6226

### National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ)

Founded in 1979, the NAWJ has grown to become a strong national network for women judges around the country. The NAWJ has three major objectives: to increase the number of women in the state and federal judiciaries; to eliminate gender bias in courts; to improve the professional and substantive skills of women judges. In addition to bringing women judges together nationally, the NAWJ also brings together women within states and within regions.

One major accomplishment of the NAWJ has been the dramatic growth in membership and activities. Today, NAWJ boasts 775 members and has established the Women Judges' Fund for Justice which conducts research and education activities related to women in the courts. The Fund has actively created and supported a number of state task forces on "Gender Bias in the Courts." The newly-appointed executive director of the Fund is Marilyn Nejelski. Formerly appointments director of the NWPC, Nejelski coordinated and staffed the Coalition for Women's Appointment which promoted both executive and judicial appointments in the federal government.

This year the NAWJ will celebrate the 200th birthday of the Constitution at its annual conference in October in Seattle, Washington. Women and the Constitution will be discussed in a program led by Professor Barbara Babcock of Stanford Law School, author of Sex Discrimination and the Law. The Honorable Bertha Wilson, justice of the Canadian Supreme Court, will discuss the recently adopted Canadian Constitution and compare it with the U.S. Constitution.

Although the NAWJ can point to significant accomplishments over the past nine and one-half years, the Association has had some setbacks. One is the failure to find a permanent source of financial support for the Women Judges' Fund for Justice. Another is its lack of success in lobbying the Reagan administration for the appointment of women to the federal judiciary.

Speculating on the future of the Association, its 1987 president Justice Christine M. Durham predicts that in 1997 the Association will be three times as big, that the White House and Justice Department will consult with NAWJ on judicial appointments, that nearly every state and federal court in the country will include women and that major steps will have been taken toward eliminating gender bias in the courts.

For further information:

Contact: Barbara Oliverio  
National Center for State  
Courts  
300 Newport Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798  
(804) 253-2000



**National League of Cities (NLC) --  
Women in Municipal Government (WIMG)**

Women in Municipal Government was founded in 1974 to serve as a Forum for communication and exchange among women local government officials within the National League of Cities. WIMG has three major objectives: to encourage active participation of women officials in NLC; to identify qualified women for office in NLC and other national positions; to promote issues related to women and the status of women in the nation's cities.

Over the past ten years, WIMG has been very successful at moving women onto the policy and steering committees and the board of directors of the NLC. This year the president of the board of NLC is Cathy Reynolds, a councilwoman from Denver. She will be succeeded, for the first time ever, by a woman councilor, Pamela Plumb from Portland, Maine. Despite this "first" for women in NLC leadership, it is still difficult for women to become leaders of NLC and it remains a challenge to get issues of interest and concern to women in the nation's cities on the agendas of NLC's committees.

The membership of WIMG has continued to grow. Today WIMG has approximately 400 members chaired by Ms. Joy Picus, Councilwoman from Los Angeles.

What will WIMG look like in 1997? It will be much larger because there will be many more elected women. NLC will have more women leaders and issues that are now perceived of as "women's issues" will be of concern to both men and women officials.

For further information:

Contact: Janet Cratsley  
Staff Associate  
National League of Cities  
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 626-3115

**Women Executives in State Government**

Established in 1983, WESG has grown to nearly 200 members from across the country. In 1986, WESG had 154 members representing 45 states and Puerto Rico. Nineteen percent of WESG members serve in elective positions. The remainder hold appointed posts.

WESG provides opportunities for women holding top government posts to share leadership and management strategies in both formal and informal settings. Earlier this summer, WESG hosted a seminar designed for newly elected and appointed state executive-level offices with the goal of offering CEO management strategies. The annual meeting is scheduled for Boston in October.

For further information:

Contact: Meg Armstrong  
Executive Director, WESG  
1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW  
Suite 814  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 293-7006



## STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS

### California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research (CEWAER)

Established in 1974, CEWAER now has over 700 members. CEWAER is organized to: encourage women to run for political office; provide a network of support between elected, appointed and other politically aware women; further the education of women on public issues. Over the past decade CEWAER has been successful at educating and encouraging women to run for public office and for providing a stable and supportive network for elected women regardless of party or political philosophy. As its membership has grown, CEWAER's programs have adapted to meet the needs of its members, providing more skills training seminars and workshops.

As is the case with other organizations of women officeholders, CEWAER expects to expand its membership over the next ten years. They also hope to establish a scholarship fund and become more actively involved in getting women elected.

For further information:

Contact: Sheila B. Anderson  
Executive Director  
CEWAER  
1400 K Street, Suite 304  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 441-3870

### Illinois Women in Government (IWIG)

Contact: Rep. Jane Barnes  
Room 220 State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-8186

### Maryland Association of Elected Women (MAEW)

Contact: Carol Blum  
Councilwoman  
7205 46th Street  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

### Minnesota Women Elected Officials (MWEO)

Contact: Lisa Brienzo  
MWEO  
c/o P.O. F-8  
2004 Randolph Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
(612) 690-6819

### Nevada Women's Network

Contact: Senator Helen Foley  
2080 Karen Ave., #A30  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
(702) 734-0888

### New Jersey Association for Elected Women Officials (NJAFEWO)

Contact: Gail Firestone, Ph.D.  
President, NJAFEWO  
747 Prospect Avenue  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
or  
Debbie Walsh at CAWP  
(201) 828-2210



### **New York State Association of Women Officeholders (SAWO)**

First organized in February 1986, over 150 women attended the initial meeting of SAWO. SAWO was organized "to help build women's political confidence and expand their knowledge about entry and advancement in the public sector." Co-founders of the group were Democratic Secretary of State, Gail S. Shaffer and Republican Senator Mary B. Goodhue.

In its short life, SAWO has held three statewide meetings, each attended by over 150 officeholders. In addition, SAWO has hosted regional meetings in Syracuse, Buffalo, Rochester, New York City and Suffolk County and has sponsored seminars at the NY Association of Towns, NY Association of Counties and the Conference of Mayors.

SAWO is working to build regional chapters, in addition to continuing its statewide activities.

For further information:

Contact: Nita Lowey  
Department of State-Executive  
Office  
270 Broadway, 28th Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 587-4250

### **Elected Women of Oregon**

Since its beginning in 1985, EWO has held three meetings. Starting with 60 members at its initial organizing meeting, now only 25 women remain active. The current chair, Multnomah County Auditor Anne Kelly Feeney, has sent a questionnaire to EWO's 500 person membership list asking for input about how to increase membership. One suggestion has been to hold only one meeting a year in August.

For further information:

Contact: Anne Kelly Feeney  
County Auditor  
Room 136, County Courthouse  
Portland OR 97204  
(503)248-3320

### **Pennsylvania Elected Women's Association**

The Pennsylvania Elected Women's Association is a growing network of women whose common goal is to explore the advantages of having women in the political arena and to educate women about the importance of running for office. Early in its existence, PEWA had difficulty drawing women to its programs. This year local workshops, seminars and speakers were co-sponsored with other organizations around the state. The cosponsorship of programs has increase PEWA's visibility and membership.

The founding members of PEWA still remain active participants in the Association. Many of the newer members are less active and tend to come and go. Currently PEWA has 150 members.

PEWA is optimistic that its ranks will continue to grow. In 10 years, the number of young women entering politics right out of college will increase as politics is looked at as a career, indicated Joan Gaumer. Gaumer also hopes that more women will seek seats in the legislature now that Pennsylvania has one of the highest legislative salaries in the nation.

For further information:

Contact: Joan Gaumer  
4463 Steuben Road  
Bethlehem, PA 18017  
(215) 759-3384



### **South Carolina Women in Government (SCWIG)**

Since its founding four years ago, SCWIG has sponsored workshops, luncheons and speakers for elected women across the state. A network of about 100 women has been established through these activities. Making it different than other statewide organizations, SCWIG decided against becoming a membership organization. All elected and appointed women are invited to the programs. SCWIG is now working hand-in-hand with the University of South Carolina Women's Studies Program and the South Carolina Commission on Women in sponsoring programs and highlighting women's political activities.

Keeping the organization going without staff is difficult. Since election lists change every two years, it is hard to find the "womanpower" to continually recruit for the organization's activities and it is hard to find "the best time" for contacting current and potential members.

For further information:

Contact: Rep. Harriet Keyserling  
Box 1108  
Beaufort, SC 29901  
(803) 524-5944

### **Texas Women in Government**

Contact: Councilmember Pat Doyle  
18314 Carriage  
Nassau Bay, TX 77058  
(713) 333-2941

### **Elected Washington Women (EWW)**

EWW, founded in 1979, continues to be an active organization. With a mailing list of 1500, EWW sponsors conferences and programs aimed at women who are currently serving in elected office and women who might be interested in running for office.

For further information:

Contact: Louise Miller  
State Representative  
17005 191st Ave., NE  
Woodinville, WA 98072

Virginia Galle, Councilwoman  
11th Floor, Municipal Bldg.  
Seattle, WA 98104



# **ORGANIZATIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT**

**American Planning Association --  
Planning and Women Division**

**Contact:** Marsha Retzdorf  
PPPM-Hendricks Hall  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403

**American Public Works Association --  
Women in Public Works**

**Contact:** Yvonne Taylor-Allen  
APWA  
1313 E. 60th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637  
(312) 667-2200

**American Society for Public  
Administration -- Section for Women  
in Public Administration**

The Section for Women in Public Administration has nearly 1200 members -- the second largest section in ASPA. SWPA: promotes equal education and employment opportunities for women; studies and advises the national ASPA Council on matters of interest to women; works with chapters to develop strategies for implementation of ASPA policies affecting women; recommends qualified women to elective and appointive ASPA and governmental leadership positions.

Over the past ten years, the women's network of ASPA became a section. Becoming a section rather than a committee, means that SWPA now publishes a newsletter, participates more actively in national conference programs and provides more services for its members. The result? SWPA has more influence over national policy and has increased the representation of women in ASPA policy positions.

**Contact:** Kathy Roth  
PO Box 3070  
Garden Grove, CA 92642

**American Society for Training and  
Development (ASTD)**

**Contact:** Greta Kotler  
Professional Development  
Coordinator  
ASTD  
1630 Duke Street  
Box 1443  
Alexandria, VA 22313  
(703) 683-8100

**California Women in Government --  
San Diego**

**Contact:** Sally McPherson  
P.O. Box 81307  
San Diego, CA 92138  
(619) 560-3634

**California Women in Government --  
East San Diego County**

**Contact:** Marcie Findlay  
c/o Supv. George Bailey  
250 E. Main Street  
El Cajon, CA 92020  
(619) 579-3290

**California Women in Government --  
North San Diego County**

**Contact:** Doris Ahrens  
c/o City of Oceanside  
704 Third Street  
Oceanside, CA 92054

**California Women in Government --  
Sacramento**

**Contact:** Esther Raines  
c/o Department of Aging  
1020 19th Street  
Sacramento, CA 96814  
(619) 323-6681



**California Women in Government --  
South**

Contact: Audrey Mathews  
1098 S. Sycamore Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90019

**Federally Employed Women (FEW)**

Contact: Karen R. Scott  
Executive Director  
1010 Vermont Ave., NW  
#821  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 638-4404

**Women in State Government - Michigan (WSG)**

Women in State Government, a network of women working in state government in Michigan, is one of the most active organizations of administrative women in government in the country. In addition to publishing a monthly newsletter for its over 360 members, WSG has been active in influencing major policies of concern to women state workers in Michigan.

WSG has researched, testified and lobbied in support of pay equity. As a result, the state of Michigan is re-designing the classification system and the public employee unions will have a solid basis for getting increases for female-dominated jobs over and above the .50/hour across-the-board increases female-dominated positions already received.

WSG has also worked actively to expose discrimination and unfair labor practices in Michigan's Civil Service system. Every month WSG reports on the appointment of women to upper management jobs and encourages the movement of women into non-traditional jobs.

WSG is disappointed with two recent developments on their agenda -- child care and the statewide movement to bring women's issues to the top of the policy agenda. WSG is working to involve the state and union people in child care issues. However, because only about 15% of workers have young children, progress has been slow. WSG is also very active in a statewide coalition of women's organizations, which has not been willing to actively push the executive and legislative branches of government toward addressing women's issues.

Over the past ten years, WSG has moved from being a career development organization for women to becoming a feminist voice for broader women's policy issues. For further information:

Contact: Mary MacDowell  
President, WSG  
Box 14133  
Lansing, MI 48901  
(517) 373-8155



# ABOUT WOMEN LEGISLATORS

## NATIONAL NETWORKS

### National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) -- Women's Network

Contact: Kate Farrell  
NCSL  
1125 17th Street, Suite 1500  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 292-6600

### National Order of Women Legislators (NOWLs)

Contact: Joy Stone  
Executive Director  
1377 K Street, Suite 169  
Washington, DC 20005

### National Organization of Black Elected Legislators/Women (NOBEL)

Contact: Sen. Diane Watson  
4401 Crenshaw, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90043  
(213) 445-5215

## STATE CAUCUSES

### Alaska

Contact: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-3818

### California

Contact: Assemblywoman Theresa Hughes  
3253 South Hoover  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(213) 747-7451

### Connecticut

Contact: Rep. Alice V. Meyer  
18 Lantern Hill Road  
Easton, CT 06612  
(203) 372-9811

### Illinois Conference of Women Legislators (COWL)

Contact: Joyce Nardulli  
114 Stratton Building  
D-Wing  
Springfield, IL 62706

### Iowa Women's Legislative Caucus

Contact: Rep. Sue Mullins  
Prairie Flat Farms  
RR1, Box 49  
Corwith, IA 50430  
(515) 583-2156  
(515) 583-2230

### Kansas Study Group on Issues of Interest to Women

Contact: Rep. Joan Wagnon  
Convenor  
1606 Boswell  
Topeka, KS 66604  
(913) 235-5881

### Women Legislators of Maryland

Contact: Kathy Brasington  
Administrator, Women  
Legislators of Maryland  
Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Blvd., Room 319  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(301) 841-4077



**Massachusetts Caucus of Women  
Legislators**

Contact: Barbara J. Talkov  
Executive Director  
MA Caucus of Women  
Legislators  
Room 156, State House  
Boston, MA 02133  
(617) 722-2266

**Legislative Women's Caucus of New York  
State**

Contact: Arlene Rosenfeld  
Legislative Women's Caucus  
of New York State  
State Capitol, Room 645  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-3016

**North Carolina Legislative Women's  
Caucus**

Contact: Sen. Lura Tally  
3100 Tallywood Drive  
Fayetteville, NC 28303

**Virginia Women's Roundtable (VWR)**

Contact: Del. Mary A. Marshall  
2256 N. Wakefield Street  
Arlington, VA 22207  
(703) 528-1710



## WOMEN'S PACs

### CAMPAIGN FUND FOR REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Contact: Wilma Goldstein  
1320 21st Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/293-7118

### HAWAII WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTION LEAGUE

Contact: Ann Fisher  
1526 Wilhelmina Rise  
Honolulu, HI 96816

### COMMITTEE OF 21

Contact: Sandra Duncan  
1716 No. Clairborne Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
504/943-6622

### HOLLYWOOD WOMEN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Contact: Marlene Saritzky  
2029 Century Park East, Suite 600  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

### EAST BAY WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Contact: Kare Anderson  
c/o Taylor Associates  
958 Alma Place  
Oakland, CA 94610

### LOS ANGELES WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FUND

Contact: Barbara Romey  
c/o AMB  
1631 Pontius Avenue, Suite 113  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

### ECONOMIC SECURITY PAC

PO Box 33245  
Washington, DC 20033-0245

### MARIN COUNTY WOMEN'S PAC

Contact: M. Lee Hunt  
Hunt & Oliver  
1000 4th Street, Suite 475  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415/457-5700

### ELEANOR ROOSEVELT FUND

Contact: Nancy Kirschner  
Democratic National Committee  
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/797-6543

### MICHIGAN WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FUND

8100 East Jefferson  
Suite 115D  
Detroit, MI 48214  
313/823-1830

### EMILY'S LIST

Contact: Ellen Malcolm  
Suite 410  
2000 P Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/887-1957

### MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FUND

Contact: Barbara Stuhler  
877 Jefferson Avenue, #E  
St. Paul, MN 55401-2801  
612/293-1298

### GOP WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTION LEAGUE

Contact: Maureen Reagan  
1012 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

### NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN

Contact: Maxine Waters  
7900 South Central Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90001  
213/582-7371



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN  
Contact: Molly Yard  
1401 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 2005-2102  
202/347-2279

NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS  
Contact: Irene Natividad  
1275 K Street, NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20004  
202/898-1100

THE NETWORK FOR WOMEN'S ELECTIONS  
Contact: Harriett Woods  
PO Box 3245  
St. Louis, MO 63130

PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FUND  
Contact: Helen Seager  
508 Roslyn Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
412/682-1271

SACRAMENTO WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FUND  
Contact: Kate Karpilow  
President  
PO Box 162212  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916/446-6733

THE SULLIVAN PAC (for Women Democrats)  
Contact: Stephanie Cartwright  
18600 Sheffield Road  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FUND  
815 15th Street, NW, Suite 601  
Washington, DC 20005  
202/638-3900

WOMEN'S CONGRESSIONAL COUNCIL--  
DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN  
COMMITTEE  
430 South Capitol Street  
Washington, DC 20003  
202/863-1500

WOMEN'S ISSUE NETWORK PAC  
Contact: Elaine Bursic  
739 Broadview Terrace  
Hartford, CT 06106

WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE  
OF NEW JERSEY  
Contact: Pat Gentile  
PO Box 170  
Edison, NJ 08818  
201/638-6784

WOMEN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
11355 West Olympic Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

WOMEN'S POLITICAL FUND  
Contact: Franza Newsom  
PO Box 421811  
San Francisco, CA 94142-1811  
415/924-9704  
415/861-5168

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Network for Women's Elections

Harriett Woods, Lt. Governor of Missouri and former Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate has created a PAC to elect women candidates, The Network for Women's Elections. The PAC will operate by having its members contribute directly to women's campaigns. The Network for Women's Elections is currently accepting founding members with a contribution of at least \$30. For further information contact: The Network for Women's Elections  
PO Box 3245  
St. Louis, MO 63130



## WHAT IF WOMEN RAN THE WORLD?

Recent years have seen some landmark achievements for women in government around the world, despite the minuscule numbers of women in top leadership roles. In 1986, for example, **Corazon Aquino** was inaugurated as the first female president of the Philippines, joining four other women presidents or prime ministers: **Gro Harlem Brundtland** of Norway, **Mary Eugenia Charles** of Dominica, **Vigdís Finnbogadóttir** of Iceland, and **Margaret Thatcher** of Great Britain. **Alexandra P. Biryukova** became the only woman in the U.S.S.R. in twenty-five years to join the eleven-person Soviet Secretariat; she oversees the quality and distribution of consumer goods. **President Finnbogadóttir** of Iceland hosted the U.S. - U.S.S.R. summit talks in October, the first woman head of government to play that role. **Joan Child** was elected unanimously by members of the Australian Labor Party to be Australia's first female speaker of the House of Representatives.

Women have also joined together across national borders to address international concerns. In Washington, a follow-up to the 1985 United Nations Decade for Women Conference, "**Equity by 2000: Meeting the Nairobi Challenge**," sponsored by the **American Association of University Women**, brought together eight hundred equity advocates to compile a two-year plan based on strategies discussed at the 1985 session. A March 1987 program in San Francisco, sponsored by the **National Democratic Institute for International Affairs**, brought together some of the women who have held powerful positions in governments around the world. Called "**The First Eleanor Roosevelt International Women's Caucus**," the gathering drew more than 100 women from 42 nations. In the words of **Geraldine Ferraro**, who chaired the event, it was "the first time that key women political leaders, most of them cabinet ministers and parliamentarians, assembled to address a purely political agenda. The stated goal was "to prescribe an action plan and a precise blueprint for increasing women's political participation and leadership."



It was in this context that Douglass College, the women's college at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) convened in April 1987 a small planning conference on the topic, **"Women in International Leadership."** Because women constitute only a tiny percentage of the leaders in national governments around the world, the conference was to focus on that specific area while acknowledging that "leadership" has many forms and meanings.

The conference organizers, CAWP director Ruth B. Mandel and Dean Mary S. Hartman of Douglass College, posed to participants the following questions:

- o what is already known about women in leadership around the world?
- o who is currently doing research or conducting programs related to this subject?
- o what are the most critical questions about women as national leaders which should be investigated right now?
- o what issues could usefully be addressed in future programs or activities about women as leaders around the world?

The meeting was purposely small, with a total of 55 participants. Those attending included academics, activists, and women with experience in national governments of several countries. Experts on at least sixteen different nations were among those present.

A highlight of the April weekend was a larger forum, open to the public, on the topic, **"What If Women Ran the World?"** More than five hundred people turned out to hear the evening panel moderated by former Congresswoman **Bella S. Abzug** and featuring former Portuguese Prime Minister **Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo**, former Zambian Ambassador and Education Minister **Gwendoline Konie**, U.N. Assistant Secretary General **Mercedes Pulido de Briceno**, former New Zealand Parliament Member **Marilyn Waring**, and author **Robin Morgan**.



Panelists described their experiences in traditional, male-dominated governments and spoke of the urgency of redefining power and transforming leadership, at least in part through women's participation in the governing process. As Abzug pointed out, women have traditionally been taught to "speak softly and carry a lipstick." She added, "It's not that we don't understand about 'throw weights' and the like; it's that we're more concerned about low birth weights."

Konie concurred that women have not, until now, been adequately equipped to take power. She pointed out that existing social, political and economic power structures ensure that women can't become leaders.

Pulido de Briceno deplored the paucity of women in top posts in international organizations, including the United Nations. She also observed that, in her experience, women are not likely to be corrupted by the use of power.

Pintasilgo emphasized that it would only be worthwhile for women to fight for leadership if they questioned existing paradigms of power. She suggested that, "Neither men nor women are ready to delegate power to women," adding, "There is a need for solidarity among women." Waring agreed, insisting that women would change the world only "by being, in our guts and our hearts, women first and foremost."

Morgan, in concluding remarks, wondered whether the session might have been more aptly named. After all, she pointed out, women already do run the world in the sense of doing the bulk of its work; what remains to be seen is what would happen if women ruled the world.

The goal of the weekend was not to provide clear answers or offer immediate responses to problems identified, but rather to begin the brainstorming process and identify important issues and questions. For that reason, the program was relatively unstructured and open, allowing for wide-ranging discussion and



exploration. Definitive conclusions were neither sought nor reached, but several key ideas emerged:

- o the nature of power needs to be rethought and humanized;
- o despite varying views and feelings about existing systems of national government, a very strong case can still be made for devoting women's energies to increasing substantially the numbers and influence of women in them;
- o while it may be impossible and undesirable to develop a single "women's agenda" on which women around the world can agree, there are many issues around which many very different women can come together -- core issues such as violence and hunger;
- o the linkage between education and politics is critical; in particular, women with formal educational credentials need to be open to learning from grassroots women, rather than assuming that only certain kinds of knowledge have value.

For the sponsoring organizations, the conference was a valuable beginning. Together, Douglass College and CAWP hope to find ways to build on what was learned from conference participants and, within the limits of what can be done at one American university, to advance the prospects for women as leaders in many nations.

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**KNOW ANYONE ELSE WHO SHOULD BE KEPT UP-TO-DATE  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN POLITICS?**

*If so, please pass this form along to them.*

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