



# Io Woman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXII, No. 4, July/August 2002

## Iowa Celebrates Its Women

You are cordially invited to attend, free of charge, the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 24, 2002, to celebrate the induction of four outstanding women. The ceremony will take place at the Iowa State Historical Building, 600 East Locust, Des Moines. Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally J. Pederson have been invited to attend.

Induction into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame is one of the highest honors bestowed upon a woman by the State of Iowa. Bonnie Jean Pierce Campbell, Washington, DC; Sue Ellen Follon (deceased), Cedar Falls; Alice Yost Jordan, Des Moines; and Shirley Ruedy, Cedar Rapids will be honored for their significant contributions to society. (More complete biographical sketches and photographs will appear in the September/October issue of the *IoWoman*.)

*The Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice* will also be presented during the Hall of Fame ceremony. This award is given to a distinguished Iowan who has dedicated her/his life to promoting equality and justice. Carlos Jayne of Des Moines will receive this honor.

At 12:30 p.m., the *Friends of the ICSW Fundraising Luncheon* will take place at the Younkers Tea Room, 7th and Walnut Street, Des Moines. The featured speakers will be Paulette Wiley and Mary Ann Spicer of Sisters on Target.

Cost of the Friends' fund-raising luncheon is \$30 per person and \$240 per table of 8. **Send checks for the luncheon by Wednesday, August 14** to Friends of ICSW, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

## Uncle Sam Wants You to Marry

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), called Family Investment Program (FIP) in Iowa, is due for reauthorization on the federal level. Senator Grassley recently listened to former welfare recipients in Mason City on a fact-finding mission, and Senator Harkin just announced his six-point proposal.

State lobbyists were posturing and e-mails were flying asking for contact in June with our two Iowa senators. Discussions are centering around child care and development funds as well as creating a "work block grant" (for a variety of work-related purposes, transitional jobs, barrier removal activities, transportation, parents as scholars and other programs that would help parents move into the workforce, retain employment and secure better paying jobs). Also desired are support of the current 30-hour work week, expanding access to education and training for welfare recipients, and restoring benefits to legal immigrants, along with fair and flexible time limits for working families.

National lobbyists are condemning the \$300 million marriage incentive portion in the TANF reauthorization bill in Congress. A national poll by Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates in Washington DC indicated only 2 to 3 percent of the public want this, but it is rumored to be absolutely essential by members of Congress for passage.



1996 Iowa Self-Sufficiency Standard by the Wider Opportunities for Women	Adult	Adult + infant	Adult + infant + preschooler
Hourly Wage for Self-Sufficiency in Polk County	\$5.82	\$11.57	\$16.49

The question has been raised, of course, whether there is any amount of money per month that would make it worthwhile to get married if you just got OUT of a bad, unhealthy, or even violent relationship? And, if exploiting men to make a husband a woman's way out of poverty, how many of them does it take? If the husband is making a living wage (around \$8 per hour), it would only take two husbands; however if making minimum wage, it would take at least three husbands to get a family to an income at a self-sufficiency level.

An organization of low-income women in Kentucky recently organized a protest about the \$1.8 million marriage incentive over the next five years. Women In Transition also urged Congress to take substantial steps to address the root causes of poverty, such as lack of education and living wage jobs and unaffordable housing and healthcare. One member said, "We are pro-families...ALL families. We want the real causes of poverty to be addressed, not for the government to define our morals."

## Long Legislative Session Ends

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) proposes, supports, opposes, and tracks state legislation affecting Iowa women. For a complete legislative report, contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, [dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us) or go to our website, [www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/legis.html](http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/legis.html).

The bills were enacted into law unless otherwise specified.

**SF2323** created a registered nurse recruitment program and fund to be administered by the College Student Aid Commission:

[www.iowacollegeaid.org](http://www.iowacollegeaid.org) or 515/242-3344. (In 1999, 96.5 percent registered nurses were female and earning an average of \$16.04 per hour.)

**SF2326** authorized \$11,458,412 for HAWK-I funds, which is an increase from \$8.4 million in FY02.

When the General Assembly returned to deal with the fiscal year 2003 state budget woes, **HF2627** was written. It lumped sexual assault and domestic violence program grants (\$1.7 million) and grants for legal services for people in poverty (\$.5 million) into the Attorney General's budget without their own line item amounts, and then reduced the AG's budget by \$2.5 million.

While **HF2582** allowed \$1,399,000 for homeless shelters, **HF2627** directs Economic Development to explore the potential of allocating moneys to homeless shelters programs and no state funds were appropriated.

**HF2627** also:

- directs Public Health and Human Services to discuss combining adolescent pregnancy prevention programs under one department; applying for available federal funds and complying with the US Congress' intent to promote abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage; \$1.3 million and 1 FTE continue the adolescent pregnancy prevention program in Human Services.

- appropriated \$5,133,042 for the Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) program, which is \$564,783 less than FY02. Family Investment Program (FIP) was funded at the level requested by Human Services at \$46,508,982 plus \$25,452,071 with PROMISE JOBS at \$10,714,119 and

\$6,839,776 between federal and state appropriations; and child care at \$28,638,329 state funds.

- appropriated the operation of the Iowa Correctional Institute for Women in Mitchellville at \$12,024,416 and 215.5 FTEs (FY02 was \$12.29 million with 236 FTEs).

- appropriated only \$100,000 for the entire prison system in Iowa for education in FY03 (dropped from \$2.9 million in FY02).

- reduced the Iowa Juvenile Home in Toledo funding to \$6,273,663 with 134.54 FTEs.

- continued the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, but combined the budget in with foster care review for a total of \$1,711,033.

- allowed \$1,000,000 (ICSW wanted \$3,000,000 maintained state funding) for the emergency assistance program, preventing homelessness through emergency payments of utilities and rent; and

- reduced funding for Iowans in Transition and issues on domestic abuse and sexual assault, since the final ICSW appropriation of \$327,292 is \$99,272 less than two fiscal years ago.

### Are you being treated unfairly at work because you are pregnant?

Laws against sex discrimination protect pregnant workers and pregnant women applying for employment. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission has released a new Pregnancy Factsheet about pregnancy discrimination and Family Medical Leave Act. For a copy of this factsheet, go to [www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/pubs.html](http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/pubs.html) or call 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427.

## MathChallenge

On May 31, 2002, University of Iowa Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) and Cedar Rapids Washington High School students unveiled the new MathChallenge website. MathChallenge involves Iowa youth, especially young women, in the practical application of math concepts as real world problem-solving tools.

Based on a 'problem of the month' concept, the site uses problems from the book "She Does Math," published by the Mathematics Association of America, to interest students in taking the challenge to complete and submit an answer to the posed problem. The questions come from women currently working in science, math, engineering, or technology (SMET) fields and represent real problems they had to solve in their jobs. The career history of each woman that submitted a problem can also be found on the site including how much math she took in High School and College, how she chose her field of study, and how she ended up in her current position.

Additionally, this site exposes young Iowans to exciting career options within technical fields and includes bios and contact information for women role-models currently working in SMET careers in Iowa.

The importance of these problems is found not solely in their direct math content but also in their context (i.e., linkage to specific women in specific careers dealing with specific real-world, practical problems). Context has been found to be a very important element in keeping young women interested in math and science since they tend to find theoretical approaches less engaging.

MathChallenge is a joint project of the University of Iowa WISE program and students and teachers at Cedar Rapids Washington High School with software support from Microsoft and technical assistance from Rockwell Collins.

To learn more, contact Chris Brus, WISE director at 319/353-2290, or [christine-brus@uiowa.edu](mailto:christine-brus@uiowa.edu).

# Calendar of Events

## July

- 2 or 9 Women's Consciousness-raising Group.** Free of charge, meets weekly. For more information, contact Laurie Fein, Women's Counseling Center, 515/963-1311 or [womenscc@aol.com](mailto:womenscc@aol.com).
- 15 First Lady Tea.** 11 a.m. or 3 p.m., Terrace Hill, Des Moines. \$25. Terrace Hill Foundation. For more information or reservations, contact Beth at 515/281-7205.
- 16 Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners.** 12 noon. Wesley United Methodist Church, 800 East 12 Street, Des Moines. Bring a brown bag lunch and your concerns about women in the Iowa correctional system. Anyone interested is welcome. 515/283-1911.
- 18 Insights from the Women of Des Moines Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Hoyt Sherman Place, Des Moines. \$20. Speaker: Connie Wimer. Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853.

## August

- 2 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon., Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Sue Ryan-Anderson, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or [sue.ryan-anderson@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:sue.ryan-anderson@dhr.state.ia.us).
- 14-17 The XXIII Annual Regional Conference of Networking Together: Women of Colors - Connecting in the Millennium and Beyond.** Holiday Inn, Cedar Falls. Fee varies. United Sisters of Black Hawk County, Essie Buls, 319/234-7589.
- 16-17 2002 Midwest Regional Conference: Progressive Policy Solutions for the Midwest.** Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Center for Policy Alternatives, Kirsten Linquist, 202/956-5134, [klindquist@cfpa.org](mailto:klindquist@cfpa.org), or [www.stateaction.org/leaders/plfs/mw/confindex.cfm](http://www.stateaction.org/leaders/plfs/mw/confindex.cfm).
- 19 First Lady Tea.** 11 a.m. or 3 p.m., Terrace Hill, Des Moines. \$25. Terrace Hill Foundation. For more

information or reservations, contact Beth at 515/281-7205.

- 19-20 Des Moines Conference for Women 2002.** Holiday Inn Downtown, Des Moines. Fee varies. National Businesswomen's Leadership Association, 800/682-5078 or [www.natsem.com](http://www.natsem.com).
- 20 Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners.** 12 noon. Wesley United Methodist Church, 800 East 12 Street, Des Moines. Bring a brown bag lunch and your concerns about women in the Iowa correctional system. Anyone interested is welcome. 515/283-1911.
- 21 Voices of Mid-life & Older Women Meeting.** 6 p.m. Mama Lacona's, Urbandale. Althea Rausch, 515/222-1114.
- 24 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony.** 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., State Historical Building. Free and open to the public. ICSW, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or [dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us).
- 24 Friends of ICSW Fundraising Luncheon.** 12:30-2 p.m., Younkers Tea Room, Des Moines. \$30. Friends of ICSW, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or [dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us).
- 24 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting.** 2:30 p.m., Younkers Tea Room. Free and open to the public. For special accommodations, contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or [dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us).

## Upcoming

- September 6 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon., Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Sue Ryan-Anderson, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or [sue.ryan-anderson@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:sue.ryan-anderson@dhr.state.ia.us).
- September 26 Iowa City Human Rights Commission 19th Annual Human Rights Awards Breakfast.** 7:30 a.m., Iowa Memorial Union Wayne Richey Ballroom, Iowa City. Speaker: Dave Leshtz, Iowa Civil Rights Commission chairperson. Heather Shank, 319/356-5022.

### Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) FY 2002-2003 Meeting Dates

August 24, 2002  
**\*November 7, 2002**  
December 10, 2002  
February 20, 2003  
April 8, 2003  
June 3, 2003

\* November 7 is the ICSW Public Hearing. People and organizations with an interest in issues of concern to women/girls in Iowa are encouraged to present written or oral testimony for/at the hearing. Testimony will assist the ICSW in developing the 2003 Proposals to the Governor and General Assembly. Contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427 or [dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us) to find out how you can testify.

# Bits and Pieces

Oops. We stand corrected. In the last issue we indicated that no woman had ever run for the position of Treasurer in Iowa. We hope **Joan Fitzpatrick Bolin** will accept our apology.



The **Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc.** is currently accepting applications for its Annual Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Award. Awards will be given to individuals or organizations who have made a significant contribution in promoting civil rights in Iowa during the past one to two years in each of the following categories: individual, business, government/non-profit, educational institution, and community organization. The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2002. For more information or an application, contact Dawn Peterson at 515/281-8086 or [friendsicr@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsicr@hotmail.com).



Interested in receiving more women's news? **News We Can Use** focuses on news, issues, books and websites of interest to women, most of which aren't heavily publicized in the mainstream media. To receive this free electronic newsletter, send an email to [request-newswecanuse@newswecanuse.com](mailto:request-newswecanuse@newswecanuse.com) with "subscribe" in the body. Links to the featured stories can also be found at [www.newswecanuse.com/](http://www.newswecanuse.com/).



After September 11<sup>th</sup>, it would seem unpatriotic to answer a survey that the **United States military** should not be given priority in the federal budget. But do you think the military should be spending the proposed \$396 billion next year? That's 53 percent of the total budget and amounts to over \$1 billion each and every day of the year. Iowa's entire fiscal year 2003 budget equals **FOUR DAYS** of the federal military budget.



Far more **men are earning high salaries** than women, with the gap narrowing only in the lowest income categories, according to a report in the New York Times on a study by the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS examined wages reported by employers in 1998 and found that 43,662 men had annual salaries of \$1 million or more, while 3,253 women had top earnings; a 13 to 1 ratio. Men outnumbered women 10 to 1 in the \$500,000 to \$1 million category, and 9 to 1 in the \$250,000 to \$500,000 range. The gap closed as salary range decreased, with women and men roughly equally represented in the \$25,000 to \$30,000 category. Women earning less than \$25,000 outnumbered male earners, with women representing 57 percent of that group.

*(Reprinted with permission from Women's Enews, <[www.womensenews.org](http://www.womensenews.org)>.)*

Help save printing/postage costs!  
If you no longer wish to receive  
this newsletter, please write or  
call the ICSW office. You may also  
send your e-mail address. Thank you!

**Friends of the Iowa Commission  
on the Status of Women**  
Lucas State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
**Telephone:** 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427  
**Fax:** 515/242-6119  
**E-mail address:** [dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us)  
**Website:** <http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw>

Enclosure of items in the newsletter does not necessarily connote endorsement by the Friends of the ICSW or by the ICSW. All information must be mailed or faxed to the ICSW no later than the 15th day of all even numbered months. The use of any submitted material is at the discretion of the editor. The *IoWoman* is mailed six times per year to 8,600 persons or organizations.

Suzanne O'Dea Schenken, President • Charlotte Nelson, ICSW Executive Director • Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor