



California Women Lead

ENGAGE • EMPOWER • ELECT

A newsletter for the members of California Women Lead (formerly CEWAER)

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MESSAGE FROM THE

President

2009 is off to a grand start for California Women Lead! We had a great crowd for the Legislative Welcome on January 26. We were honored that 20 women legislators were in attendance and also pleased to have the support of so many male legislators. Many thanks to our generous corporate sponsors who are dedicated to our mission to engage, empower and elect women at both the local and state level.

The Legislative Welcome was the culmination of a busy day for the California Women Lead State Board of Directors. The first highlight included the election of two new state board members: San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis & Trustee for Modesto Elementary and High Schools Cindy Marks. Our congratulations to them! We look forward to working with them in encouraging more women to seek elected and appointed office.

Our second highlight was having the opportunity to join chapter representatives for a luncheon. This working

lunch was the first meeting that included the State Board of Directors and representatives from each of the seven chapters. These representatives are on the ground making California Women Lead's presence known in seven different locales statewide. It was most interesting to hear about how each chapter is responding to member needs, scheduling appointments trainings and networking events. In this diverse state, there is no single cookie-cutter approach to building a successful chapter. We salute these women who are local leaders of California Women Lead Chapters and thank them for focusing on the mission of getting local women into elected and appointed positions.

As always, we thank Rachel Michelin and Jessie Mapes for their good work on California Women Lead's behalf. The State Board is very grateful for their dedication and commitment.



President Barbara Patrick

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CHAPTER –

Los Angeles!

In January, after much anticipation, the California Women Lead State Board of Directors officially recognized our seventh chapter - Los Angeles! We are thrilled to now have a formal presence in the Los Angeles area. Even better is that this chapter already has over 150 members!! A huge THANK YOU goes to California Women Lead State Board Member and Los Angeles City Controller Laura Chick for diligently working to make this chapter both a success out of the gate and, more importantly, a reality. On Wednesday, March 18th they hosted their first chapter meeting at LA City Hall and over 50 women attended as well as a number of potential new members. Their first "official" chapter event will be an appointments training on Wednesday, May 20th at LA City Hall. Check the web page for updates and registration materials. Also, we would like to introduce the new LA Chapter Board of Directors - thank you to these women who are taking a leadership role in Los Angeles; with them at the helm we know the LA Chapter will be a success!!

LOS ANGELES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2009/2010
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Sacramento Region
San Diego County
San Mateo County



LEGISLATIVE WELCOME 2009
A Huge Success

On January 26, 2009 California Women Lead hosted its annual Legislative Welcome at Sacramento's newest hotspot - the Citizen Hotel. Over 200 guests enjoyed a wonderful Sacramento evening on the outdoor veranda overlooking the State Capitol. This year CA Women Lead honored the women in the Legislative Woman's Caucus and even though intense budget negotiations were going on, over 20 members of the Women's Caucus and a number of male legislators joined us. Members of the State Board of Directors were also there, including one of the newest members San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis. This is California Women Lead's premier event to raise funds to our leadership and appointments trainings around the state and would not be a success without the support of our members and sponsors. Mark your calendars for January 2010 so you can attend next year's event!

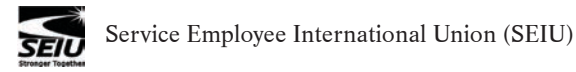


Thank you to our 2009 Legislative Welcome Sponsors who support our mission of women in leadership. If you are interested in sponsoring CA Women Lead events, please call the CA Women Lead office at 916-551-1920.

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California Women Lead has a
New Web Page!

First it was a new name with a new logo; now California Women Lead has launched a new web page!! We are working hard to make the web page a resource for our members and for women interested in becoming politically engaged in elected and appointed office. Visit the site where you will find information on upcoming events, register for events, renew your membership or join, find information about the chapters and the State Board of Directors and much more. In the next few months we will be launching a member's only site that will be full of useful information such as articles on mastering the media, campaign finance laws, how to file campaign paperwork, and developing your message. Let us know what you think of the site and how we can make it better. Check it out at www.cawomenlead.org.



MEET CALIFORNIA WOMEN LEAD STATE BOARD MEMBER

Lori Saldaña



Assembly Member Lori Saldaña, now in her third term in the California Legislature, serves as Speaker pro Tempore in the State Assembly. Ms. Saldaña is Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus and a member of the California Commission on the Status of Women.

She was elected to her first term in the state Assembly in 2004, having served previously as both a Mayoral and a Presidential appointee on border water quality issues. In 2009, Ms. Saldaña was appointed to the California Coastal Conservancy, a position

which reflects her life long passion for clean water and environment advocacy.

Her district includes the central and northern portion of the city of San Diego, including the communities of Clairemont, Bay Park, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Tierrasanta, Serra Mesa, Hillcrest, University Heights, North Park, South Park, Linda Vista, Mission Valley, City Heights, Old Town, Normal Heights, Mission Hills and Downtown San Diego.

A MESSAGE FROM THE
Executive Director/CEO



Executive Director/CEO Rachel Michelin

California Women Lead is off to a great start!! We started 2009 with a State Board of Directors meeting and chapter presidents meeting in Sacramento. What a great group of women committed to encouraging women to be leaders in their community through elected or appointed office. The meeting was followed up by a very successful Legislative Welcome Reception. We used a different venue and the response was FANTASTIC! We had a number of legislators and other political leaders attend and the response from our sponsors was great. It is so wonderful that there are so many corporations who support women in leadership.

This event started the year with such great momentum that we have yet to even slow down. 2009 will see California Women Lead become even stronger. Did you know that in the past three years CA Women Lead has tripled in membership and has gone from just two chapters to seven - momentum. Did you know that CA Women Lead has trained hundreds of women to run for office or apply for an appointment and many of them have been successful - momentum. Did you know that in the next few months CA Women Lead will be launching even more

programs to outreach to women interested in being politically engaged - momentum. But CA Women Lead cannot have momentum without our members - you are the ones who support us, believe in us and are a part of us.

Over the past few months discussion is turning to the 2010 election (didn't we just have an election?!) and I think it is shaping up to be an exciting one for women. We have a woman running for Governor, a woman running for Secretary of State, a woman running for Superintendent of Public Instruction and possibly TWO women running for the U.S. Senate. Regardless of your political party, 2010 is looking like a great year for women on the statewide ballot. Over the campaign season we will be working with these women to make sure they are in touch with CA Women Lead and our members and hopefully give CA Women Lead members the opportunity to meet them.

It is a great time to be a member of CA Women Lead. I am glad you are a member and I am excited for what is in store. Thanks for being part of the momentum!!

MEET CALIFORNIA WOMEN LEAD'S
 NEWEST STATE BOARD MEMBER

Cindy Marks



Cindy Marks is a trustee for the Modesto Elementary and High School Districts. Ms. Marks was Appointed by the California Legislature to the "Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education - Kindergarten through University" and also serves as Modesto City Schools' Board of Education representative to the Region 6 California League of High Schools (a statewide organization dedicated to the most current educational trends for high school students, including school-to-career and workplace objectives). Ms. Marks is dedicated to safe schools and serves on the Modesto City Schools' SAFE SCHOOLS PROJECT Committee to implement programs to ensure safe and peaceful schools; foster individual student academic achievement on campuses where "respect for all" is promoted and rewarded; and, to increase the District's high school graduation rate. She was also elected by the members of the school boards in Stanislaus County to serve as their delegate to CSBA (California School Boards Association).

Ms. Marks has volunteered for the past 10 years as a mentor in west Modesto working with at-risk youth and gang members encouraging them to complete high school and served for 15 years as a junior high and high school Health Education speaker. Ms. Marks has also worked with at risk youth as an Instructor and Counselor to pregnant teens, as a liaison between runaways and the Modesto Police Department and by serving on the Stanislaus County Office of Education's Committee for Youth and Gang Violence Prevention.

Ms. Marks is also involved in many professional and community service organizations such as the League of Women Voters, California School Board Leadership Council, Medical Ambassadors International, Bethany Christian Services Adoption & Counseling Agency, Toastmasters International and the Modesto Pregnancy Center.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER KAREN BASS JOINS
 CALIFORNIA WOMEN LEAD AT THE
**Los Angeles Chapter
 Kick Off Event**



In October, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass joined members of California Women Lead at LA City Hall and shared her insight on what it was like to be a woman leader in California. She shared her background and experiences that led her to the State House and to the Speaker's Office. As the only second woman and first African American woman to hold that position it was interesting to hear her perspective on women in the State Legislature and why their presence is so important. She also shared how the skills she learned before coming to elected office are useful as she worked to negotiate the State Budget. Speaker Bass was very gracious in answering questions and sharing her advice and insight to women who are considering entering the political arena. Over 100 women joined us for this special event, including a number of young women. The event would not have been possible without the support of our corporate supporters - a BIG thank you goes to them. Also, thanks to CA Women Lead State Board member and LA City Controller Laura Chick: without her support and involvement this event would not have happened.



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CORPORATE CORNER

California Association of Health Underwriters

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) is the state's largest association for health insurance agents, brokers and other professionals. Our members help millions of Californians find, purchase and use their health care coverage, resulting in greater health and financial security. We recognize the health care system can be overwhelming for consumers who interact with it only occasionally. Through education and training programs, we enhance the ability of our membership to provide better and more complete service. Through our members' community and political involvement we seek to improve communities throughout California.



CAHU is active in helping to fashion laws and regulations which protect consumers, increase market competition and improve the stability of the health care and related coverage we represent. For example, CAHU's comprehensive health care reform plan, *Healthy Solutions*, provides a responsible, workable path to universal, affordable coverage for all Californians.

CAHU is the largest state association within the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU). Through NAHU, CAHU members are active in informing health care policy decisions made in Washington, D.C. CAHU, in turn, is comprised of many local chapters located throughout California.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit www.cawomenlead.org for details and to make your reservation.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER APPOINTMENTS TRAINING
El Dorado Hills
Monday, April 20
6 - 8 pm

SAN MATEO CHAPTER APPOINTMENTS TRAINING
San Mateo
Wednesday, April 22
5:30 - 8:30 pm

NORTH STATE CHAPTER EVENT
Redding
Thursday, April 30

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER APPOINTMENTS TRAINING
San Diego
Friday, May 1
6 - 8 pm

CA SPECIAL DISTRICT'S ASSN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
Sacramento
Wednesday, May 6

NORTH STATE APPOINTMENTS TRAINING
Chico
Thursday, May 14
5:30 - 7:30 pm

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER APPOINTMENTS TRAINING
LA City Hall
Wednesday, May 20
5:30 - 7:30 pm

CA STATE ASSN OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE

CA WOMEN LEAD BREAKFAST WITH GUEST BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEMBER BETTY YEE
Sacramento
Wednesday, May 27

Calendar subject to change; for the latest information call 916-551-1920 or visit our website at www.cawomenlead.org

Chapter Roundup

SACRAMENTO REGION

On Monday, March 9th the Sacramento Regional Chapter held its first appointment training of 2009 in Rancho Cordova. This free workshop hosted by State Board Member and Rancho Cordova Councilmember Linda Budge and CA Women Lead Executive Director Rachel Michelin, reached nearly 50 women on the importance of serving on boards and commissions. The topics of discussion ranged from the importance for women's engagement in the political process to necessary steps to becoming appointed and how to navigate the local and state application process to what electeds look for in appointees. The Sacramento Chapter looks forward to following up with each attendee and helping them fulfill their wish to serve on a board or commission. The next appointments training being hosted by the Sacramento Chapter will take place Monday, April 20th in El Dorado Hills.

EAST BAY

The East Bay chapter hosted its second annual "Women Making a Difference" Luncheon in Honor of Past California Women Lead State President Juanita Haugen. Awards were presented to local women in three categories: Education, Community Service and Business. An additional award, the Juanita Haugen Legacy Award was also presented as the highest honor at the event. The Criterion for the award followed the Community of Character model and the belief that individuals should embody the attributes of responsibility, compassion, self discipline, honesty, respect and integrity. Juanita believed that if adults and children exhibited these traits in their daily lives they would solve problems more efficiently and lead a more fulfilling life. In the next newsletter we will introduce you to these extraordinary women.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The San Diego County Chapter hosted its 12th Annual Women's Networking Luncheon at the Prado in Balboa Park. Special guests included Assembly Speaker Pro Tem and California Women Lead State Board Member Lori Saldana

and the newest California Women Lead State Board Member San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis. The guest speaker was Midge Constanza, Public Affairs Officer from the Office of the District Attorney and women's political activist. Over 50 politically active women from the San Diego region came together to support and celebrate women in leadership. The Chapter will be following this event up with an appointments training on May 1, 2009.

LOS ANGELES

The Los Angeles chapter hosted its first chapter meeting on Wednesday, March 18th at City Hall. Los Angeles City Controller and California Women Lead State Board Member Laura Chick offered opening remarks and California Women Lead Executive Director/CEO Rachel Michelin spoke about how the organization can help women become leaders in their communities. Following the inaugural meeting, the LA Chapter is hosting an appointments training on May 20th.

NORTH STATE

The North State Chapter has two exciting events coming up. On Thursday, April 30th, they will begin hosting the first in a monthly series of brown bag lunches, to bring politically engaged women together to discuss important issues facing their communities. The first lunch guest is newly elected Redding City Council Member Missy McArthur. Upcoming brown bag lunch guests will include women who are elected or appointed, government agency directors, or professional/business leaders. The second event planned by the chapter will be a meet and greet on Thursday, May 14th in Chico. This first time event held in the city of Chico will also include a presentation from California Women Lead State Board Member and Rancho Cordova City Councilwoman Linda Budge. The event will also include light hors d'oeuvres and wine.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

An appointments training with the San Mateo Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is in the works for the San Mateo Chapter.

More information can be found on our web page.

MEET CALIFORNIA WOMEN LEAD'S NEWEST STATE BOARD MEMBER

Bonnie Dumanis



Bonnie Dumanis is the first woman to serve as the District Attorney for San Diego County. Since taking office in January 2003, DA Dumanis has shown extraordinary leadership in several areas. With public safety as her top priority, her office has focused on crime prevention, reducing recidivism, helping victims and keeping the office transparent and accessible to the people of San Diego County.

DA Dumanis began her career in the San Diego DA's office as a junior clerk typist. She studied law at night and received her Juris Doctorate degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 1976. DA Dumanis served as a prosecutor for 12 years under former District Attorney Ed Miller.

In 1994, DA Dumanis was elected to the Municipal Court. She served in this capacity for the next four years using her strength in organizational leadership to create one of the first Drug Courts in San Diego, which has since been recognized as a national model.

In 1998, DA Dumanis was elected to the San Diego Superior Court. During her tenure on the bench, DA Dumanis again was the driving

force behind another innovative program called Domestic Violence Court. This project has been proven to reduce recidivism among perpetrators. Her ideas about stressing accountability and treatment for the batterers have received statewide recognition. Throughout her career, DA Dumanis has been recognized as a team builder and organizational strategist.

Besides her dedication to the criminal justice system, DA Dumanis has never wavered in her support of community and civic organizations. She serves on the California State Bar Association Board of Governors, she is the President of the California District Attorneys Association, is a Commissioner for California Peace Officers Standards and Training, and a member of the San Diego County Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association. In addition, she is an Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Member, a past president of the Lawyers Club of San Diego, served on the Board of Directors of the San Diego Bar Association and taught ethics at the University Of San Diego School Of Law.

DA Dumanis has never forgotten her first job in DA's office and keeps a plaque in her office that reads, "The clerk helping in your division today may be your boss tomorrow."

CALIFORNIA WOMEN LEAD...

In Their Communities



Last year, California Women Lead joined forces with the *Network for a Healthy California* in their Champions for Change Campaign. The *Network*, an initiative of the California Department of Public Health, represents a statewide movement of state and local partners working collectively to prevent obesity and improve the health status of low-income Californians. California Women Lead has been asked again by the *Network* to help identify community leaders - California Women Lead members - who are interested in becoming Champions for Change and taking an active role in improving the health of their own neighborhoods. Champions for Change can help make positive and lasting changes by acting as *Network* spokespersons and promoting healthy eating and active living at community events. We had a great response to our pilot

program and are currently working to make sure the women (and some men!) who volunteered to be champions are utilized in their communities by the Regional Collaboratives under the *Network for a Healthy California*. We are proud of the number of California Women Lead members who have stepped up to be spokespersons and advocates for healthy eating and active living. If you would like to see healthy changes in your own county, city, or school district, we would like to ask you to become a Champion for Change. Please call the California Women Lead office at 916-551-1920 or email us at admin@cawomenlead.org

For more information on the *Network for a Healthy California*, visit <http://cachampionsforchange.net>.

Thank You to Our Partners

California Women Lead wishes to express our sincere appreciation to our Partners around the state who share our mission of encouraging women to become leaders in their community. We want to acknowledge the important role they play and thank them for their generosity. We couldn't do it without you! If you are interested in becoming a partner and support us in encouraging women to become leaders in their community, please contact our office via email at admin@cawomenlead.org or visit our website at www.cawomenlead.org for a complete listing of our partners.

Premier Partners



CALIFORNIA WOMEN LEAD –

Training One Woman at a Time

California Women Lead's mission is to increase the number of women in elected and appointed office in California. One way we deliver this message is through our successful appointments trainings. 2009 is already a great year for women interested in being appointed! In March, CA Women Lead hosted two very successful trainings in the Bay Area. By partnering with UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley, California Women Lead educated over 200 women at the two separate trainings. These workshops included tips on the application process, pointers from guest speakers Assemblywoman Fiona Ma and San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and a special training from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Appointments Secretary John Cruz. The California Women Lead Sacramento chapter followed up with a training in Rancho Cordova and other chapters will be following suit in the next few months. Visit our web page for upcoming trainings in your area. If you are interested in CA Women Lead doing a training in your community please let us know!

SAVE THE DATE

CALIFORNIA WOMEN...LEADING THE STATE

Join us for our Annual Summer Reception in Sacramento as we honor women running for statewide office in 2010. Invited guests include:

Gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman

US Senator Barbara Boxer

California Secretary of State Debra Bowen

Senator Gloria Romero

(Candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction)

And other women who declare for statewide office prior to the event.

Check the California Women Lead website at www.cawomenlead.org for updates.



California Women Lead

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