

# PCSW News—June 2008

JUNE 2008

- The passing of Ruth Pulda, Merrilee Milstein and Chris Haddock
- Join the PCSW's Young Women's Leadership Program
- PCSW Celebrates its Past
- PCSW Expands Research on Older Women
- End of Session Report
- Teresa Younger named one of 2008's 8 Remarkable Women in Business
- PCSW says good bye to Christa Allard and Aloha to Barbara Potopowitz who are on to other adventures
- Recent PCSW Events Pay Equity Day Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?
- Attention Equal Employment Opportunity Specialists and Attorney General Designees!
- Planning Ahead: Get your calendars out and mark these dates!

## PCSW LOSES FRIENDS, COMMISSIONERS, LEADERS AND TRUE FIGHTERS FOR US ALL...

Ruth Pulda, Merrilee Milstein and Chris Haddock, all women of distinction.



Ruth Pulda (l) and Merrilee Milstein (r), both former PCSW Commissioners, died on the same day in June from long battles with cancer. Ruth was an attorney and Merrilee a union organizer. Both were remarkable advocates for the rights of women. An article on the passing of these two women can be found at [this link](#).



Chris Haddock worked for the PCSW as the director of the women in non-traditional employment. [Her full obituary can be found by linking here...](#)



## PCSW YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SEEKS NEW MEMEBRS

The Young Women's Leadership Program (YWLP) is sponsoring a free [Evening of Networking for Young Women](#) on June 24, 2008 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The event will take place at Barca Restaurant & Tapas Bar which is located at the Design Center, 1429 Park Street in Hartford. There is plenty of free parking in the lot across the street.

The event is open to Connecticut women ages 18-35, and you do not have to be a member of the YWLP to join us. Please bring a friend....or two! Questions.....contact Michelle Noehren at 860-240-0016 or e-mail [michelle.noehren@cga.ct.gov](mailto:michelle.noehren@cga.ct.gov).

Why should you attend? Networking contacts can be instrumental to your professional advancement. Over 80% of job seekers say that their network has helped them with their job search. You'll find that participants have the same goals you do and will be glad to exchange business cards. Use your network to your advantage!



## CELEBRATING THE PAST WITH OUR FOUNDERS BRUNCH

As many of you know the PCSW is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. In April, current and former Commissioners and staff got together on a Saturday morning to celebrate the accomplishments of the PCSW from its inception in 1973.

From 1973 when the Equal Rights amendment became part of the Connecticut Constitution to 1980 when Sexual Harassment was a violation of the law in Connecticut, PCSW was there. In 1999, when health insurers were required to cover prescription birth control and 2003 when an assault that results in a termination of pregnancy became a class A felony, PCSW was there. In 2007 when partners of state employees in a civil union were given health benefits, the PCSW was there helping to make these public policy issues and many others, law.



Former Commissioner Patricia T. Hendel and Honorary Commissioner Patricia Russo



Former Commissioners Justice Ellen Peters, Helen Z. Pearl and Floria Parkisky

## PCSW EXPANDS RESEARCH ON OLDER WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Elder Economic Security Initiative of Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) will expand to Connecticut with PCSW as a partner. The initiative builds economic security for older adults through a multi-pronged approach that includes organizing, advocacy and research. [Read more.....](#)

## END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

The PCSW submitted testimony on 79 bills before 17 legislative committees during the session that adjourned May 7th. [Read the full report...](#)

## TERESA YOUNGER IS ONE OF 2008'S 8 REMARKABLE WOMEN IN BUSINESS!

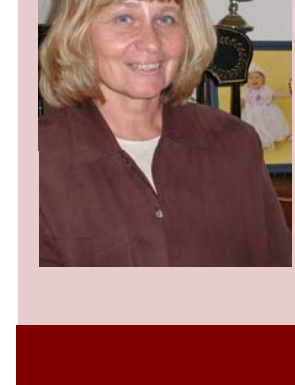
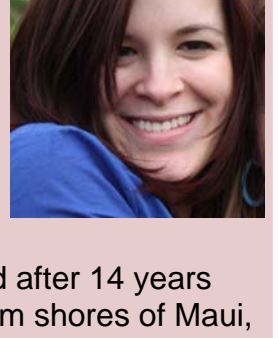


PCSW Executive Director Teresa C. Younger was honored recently in the Hartford Business Journal as one of their 8 Remarkable Women in Business and she received her award at a luncheon in May. This is the 6th year the Hartford Business Journal hosted this event where they select women who have broken barriers in their fields. [Follow this link to read more.](#)

## PCSW STAFFERS SAY GOOD-BYE

CHRISTA ALLARD TAKES POSITION WITH KOMEN CT  
 BARBARA POTOPOWITZ GETS READY FOR MOVE TO MAUI

Christa Allard has moved on to become the Communications and Events Coordinator for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure CT in April. She served as the PCSW's Communications Assistant and was with us for 3 years.



Barbara Potopowitz, PCSW's Communications Director has decided after 14 years with the PCSW to move on to the warm shores of Maui, Hawaii. She will retire as of July 1 and move mid-September to try her hand at consulting and reading and tanning on the beach! The PCSW is sending her away with Aloha.....Click [here](#) to join us.

## RECENT PCSW EVENTS

### Pay Equity Day

Equal Pay Day is celebrated nationally on April 22. In 1973, when the PCSW was established, the pay gap for women was 56.6%. Today, 35 years later it still remains at 76.9%. This is not just about women, it's about families. At the current rate, equal pay won't be realized until the year 2057. The PCSW commemorated Equal Pay Day at a press conference in Hartford and at other events throughout the state that day. For further information on pay equity, click [here](#).



PCSW Chair Jean Rexford kicks off the day



AAUW members Susan Hoover (above) and State President Carol R. Virostek participate in the press conference

### Unnatural Causes

This PBS documentary explored how population health is shaped by the social and economic conditions in which we are born, live and work through portraits of individuals and families across the United States. The PCSW's Connecticut Women's Health Campaign hosted audience participants for the showing of *In Sickness and in Wealth*.



Audience members at the event

## REQUIRED TRAINING FOR CT STATE AGENCY EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY SPECIALISTS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL DESIGNEES

Are you new to your position as an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist or Attorney General Designee? You may not know that you are **required** by statute to attend training pertaining to your new job. The law requires that you:

1. **Attend Foundation Training in the fall.**  
This is a two-day training that will teach you the basics of affirmative action investigations and provide you with a space to have your questions answered. Once you have attended this training, you have met this requirement and do not need to attend Foundation training again.
2. **Attend Update Training every spring.**  
For each year you are in your position as EEO Specialist or AGD, you are required to also attend update training. This one-day training covers various "hot topics" and acts as a refresher for the Foundation training. It is important that you know you **must** attend the update training each year.

The Foundation Class, *Conducting Internal Investigations* will be held in the fall.

**We need your help identifying new hires!**

If you believe someone in your office needs this training, please let us know so we can add them to our database.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- June 24, 2008—[YWLP Evening Networking for Young Women](#)
- June 25, 2009—[Aloha lunch for Barbara Potopowitz](#)
- July, 2008—Visit the PCSW wall display at the Legislative Office Building
- November 4, 2008—Election Day—Please be sure to vote!
- November 6, 2008—[PCSW 35th Anniversary Dinner](#)

## PCSW COMMISSIONERS

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 Tanya Meck, Vice-Chair  
 Adrienne Farrar Houel, Secretary  
 Elizabeth Donohue, Treasurer  
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 Senator Andrew J. McDonald  
 Representative Michael P. Lawlor  
 Representative Arthur J. O'Neill

**Honorary Members**  
 Connie Dice  
 Patricia Russo

## PCSW STAFF

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 Legislative Director

[Lisa P. Sementilli](#)  
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