

PCSW News—Summer 2008

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AUGUST 2008



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JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 35 YEARS OF THE PCSW ON NOVEMBER 6!

We truly hope you can join us on Thursday, November 6 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. as we celebrate this milestone at our Anniversary Gala. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT and the cost is \$50 per person. While we cannot announce the guest speaker at this time, we can tell you that there will be live entertainment provided by Nicki Mathis Afrikan Amerikan Jazz Quartet (to hear audio samples of this amazing group, click [here](#)).



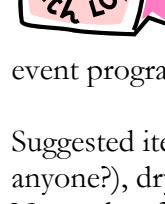
Electronic registration, which will be posted to our Web site, is currently being created to provide the ease of buying a seat...or even a full table! We will send notice when registration is open, but please check our Web site periodically. **The deadline for registration is October 15, 2008.**

The year 2008 is an exciting time for the PCSW. Not only have we reconnected with and recognized those who have journeyed before us at April's [Founders Brunch](#), we are in the 35th year of our permanency as the State's leading force for women's equality. By the way, we look pretty good for 35, don't we?

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

A call for all women-owned business

For PCSW's upcoming 35th Anniversary Gala, women-owned businesses will have a wonderful opportunity to promote their products or services.



A special gift bag will be distributed to guests attending the gala, and to show our support of women-owned businesses we invite those businesses to submit a "goodie" for the bag that will place your product or service in the best possible light. There is no "placement fee" to include your item and you will not receive monetary compensation for your contribution. **Please keep in mind we expect 500 guests so you will have to plan accordingly.** We will also include a special thanks in the event program to businesses who contribute.

Suggested items are compact mirrors, bath products, coupons for services (day spa anyone?), dry beverage goods (herbal teas or specialty hot cocoa to stave off the November fall chill), and samples of hand or body lotions to name a few. Take note: caterers who specialize in confection (like, ahem...chocolates) are strongly encouraged to submit.

If you are interested, please submit a proposal describing your business and the item you are contributing, and a sample of the item to: PCSW, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Attn: Lisa Smith-Overton. **The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, September 17, 2008.** Proposals and items will be reviewed and selected by the PCSW Commissioners. Businesses will be notified if their proposal is selected and given a deadline for receipt of items.

A call for volunteers

We need your support! Volunteers are needed to help stuff goodie bags, arrange the set-up for the event, assist staff at the registration tables...the list is endless! If you would like to volunteer, please forward your intentions to Lisa Smith-Overton at Lisa.Smith-Overton@cga.ct.gov.

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 (EEO) Specialist of an Attorney General Designee (AGD)? 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.

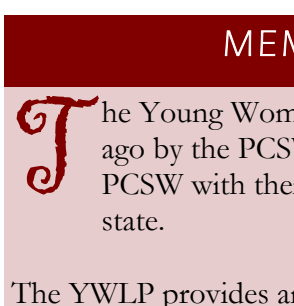
The fall Foundation Class, *Conducting Internal Investigations* will be held on: **Thursday, October 16 and Friday, October 17 8:45 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Legislative Office Building, Room 1D**

To print a copy of the flyer as a reminder or to post in your office, [click here](#). To register, please contact Jeanne D. Miner at (860) 240-8448 or via e-mail at Jeanne.Miner@cga.ct.gov.

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.

THE VOICE OF CT WOMEN: PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY



The PCSW held three [public hearings](#) across the state to allow women to testify to their local and state officials on the difficulties of meeting their basic needs in the state of Connecticut.

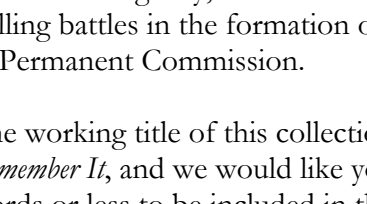
To read the full report of testimony, visit our Web site [here](#).

MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR THE YWLP

The Young Women's Leadership Program (YWLP), a project established 2 years ago by the PCSW, is looking for a few great women, ages 18-30, to help the PCSW with their charge of advocating for the rights of girls and women in this state.

The YWLP provides an outlet for young women to make their issues known and to help facilitate change in Connecticut. Current membership is 225 women strong, but more members can make it stronger. Joining is easy, just provide an active e-mail address...that's it. You will receive updates and notices on current events with the YWLP and the PCSW, and will also be notified of networking events and meetings...all electronically. As a member, you will also be allowed to participate in the upcoming legislative poll that will assist the PCSW in setting its legislative agenda for 2009.

For further information and to join, please visit our Web site [here](#) or contact Michelle Noehren at 860-240-0016 or via e-mail at michelle.noehren@cga.ct.gov.



SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US!

We are inviting you to share your remembrances of the time that you were involved with the PCSW. Whether you were a commissioner, a staff member, or a friend of the agency, we want to hear your stories! We'd like you to tell us about compelling battles in the formation of the PCSW or significant moments in the life of the Permanent Commission.



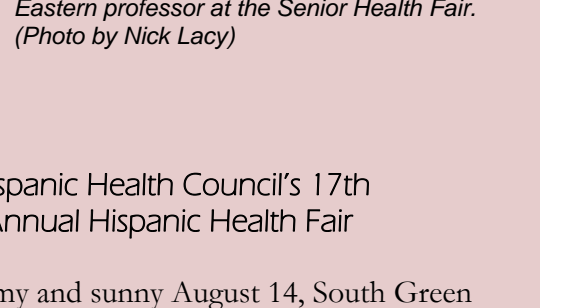
The working title of this collection of essays is *As I Remember It*, and we would like you to write an essay of 400 words or less to be included in the collection. This collection will be available for purchase at the 35th Anniversary Gala. Please e-mail your essay to Lisa Smith-Overton at Lisa.Smith-Overton@cga.ct.gov and type in the subject line of your e-mail, "Essay Submission."

Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 30, 2008.

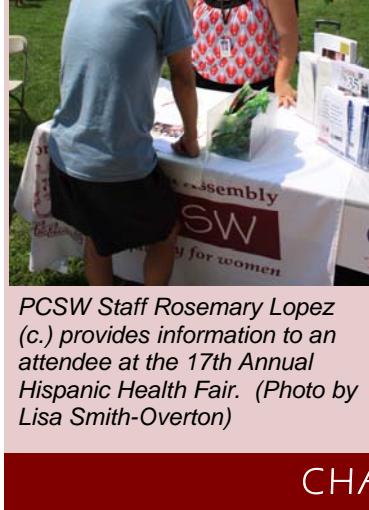
OUT AND ABOUT

Eastern Connecticut State University's Senior Health Fair

The PCSW and the Connecticut Women's Council attended Eastern Connecticut State University's first-ever Health Fair for senior citizens in the campus's Student Center on July 25. The fair, which was co-sponsored by Senator Pro Tempore Don Williams, Jr. and Senator Edith Prague, attracted seniors from New London and Windham counties. Other state and community agencies such as the [University of CT School of Nursing](#), [AARP, Commission on Aging](#), [Windham Hospital](#), and [CT Probate Court](#) were also present to provide support, services and information.



PCSW staff Lisa Smith-Overton (l.) and Lisa Sementilli (far r.) share a laugh with a former Eastern professor at the Senior Health Fair. (Photo by Nick Lacy)



PCSW Staff Rosemary Lopez (c.) provides information to an attendee at the 17th Annual Hispanic Health Fair. (Photo by Lisa Smith-Overton)

Hispanic Health Council's 17th Annual Hispanic Health Fair

On a balmy and sunny August 14, South Green Park on Main Street in Hartford was alive with white tents and activities for children at the 17th annual Hispanic Health Fair sponsored by the [Hispanic Health Council](#).

The PCSW, which has hosted a table at this annual event for close to 7 years, was one of 53 community and state agencies at the fair to inform the public about various issues that impact the Hispanic community. Attendees had access to health care, housing, sexual assault, senior and child advocacy resources. PCSW's attendance at this fair plays an integral part of our mission of outreach to women of color, and we thank the Hispanic Health Council for allowing us to be a part of such a worthwhile event.

CHANGES FOR THE PCSW

The most damaging phrase in the language is: "It's always been done that way."
-Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, inventor

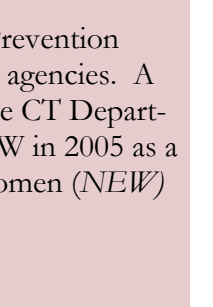
This edition of the newsletter is one of many changes coming down the road for the PCSW. New names on our masthead, a redesign of our Web site, as well as a fresh approach to our marketing material are lingering on the horizon.

Sometimes change is a good thing, and no doubt the invigorating energy of new staff, new roles for current staff and a slight shift in direction will make the PCSW stronger and faster for the new millennium.

With the departure of PCSW's Communications Director Barbara Potopowicz in July, one of many questions floated quickly to the surface: who would be taking over the duties of...?

The PCSW Newsletter

Lisa Smith-Overton, PCSW's Project/Events Assistant has volunteered to take on the important task of drafting all her news fit to print. Lisa, a Navy veteran and published writer, received her B.G.S. degree from Eastern Connecticut State University (Communication and English). She is currently a student at Western Connecticut State University in the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) Professional Writing Program and a Graduate Minority Fellow at Asnuntuck Community College.



Sexual Harassment and Prevention (SHAP) Training

Jeanne Miner is the new trainer for Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention (SHAP). PCSW provides free SHAP Training to state agencies. A Connecticut resident since 1965, Jeanne worked for the CT Department of Labor for fifteen years before coming to PCSW in 2005 as a consultant for the Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW) Training Program.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

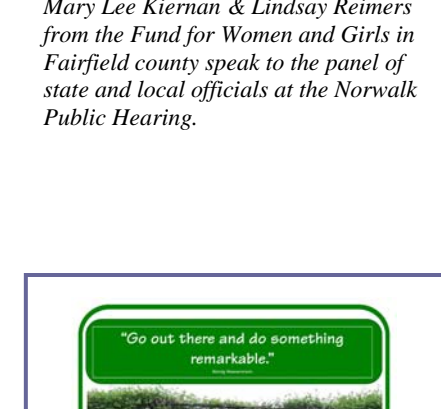
- September 11, 2008—[Secretary of the State's CT Showcase](#), Wallingford, CT
- September 12, 2008—CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs [Stand Down 2008](#), Rocky Hill, CT
- October 16, 2008—[The Women's Business Conference 2008](#), Trumbull, CT
- November 4, 2008—Election Day—Please be sure to vote!
- November 6, 2008—[PCSW 35th Anniversary Dinner](#)

August 26 Women's Equity Day

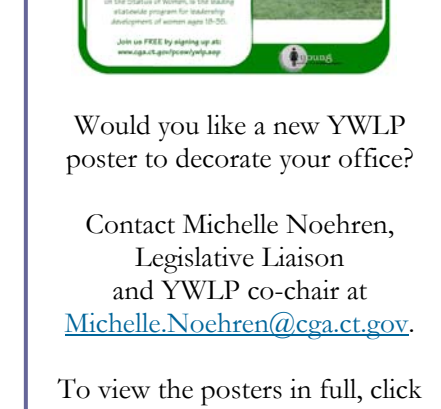
This year we celebrate the 88th anniversary of the women's right to vote!

Let's commemorate this day by registering to vote, running for office, supporting candidates and getting out the vote for the November election.

"Tremendous amounts of talent are being lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt."
-Shirley Chisholm



Mary Lee Kiernan & Lindsay Reimers from the Fund for Women and Girls in Fairfield county speak to the panel of state and local officials at the Norwalk Public Hearing.



Would you like a new YWLP poster to decorate your office?
 Contact Michelle Noehren, Legislative Liaison and YWLP co-chair at Michelle.Noehren@cga.ct.gov.

To view the posters in full, click on either graphic.



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 To stop receiving this newsletter but remain in our database for other communication, [click here](#).
 To remove yourself from our database entirely, [click here](#).
 Got this from a friend? To be added to our mailing list, [click here](#).

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) was established by the State Legislature in 1973. Severn appointed volunteer commissioners join a staff and volunteers to work to eliminate sex discrimination in Connecticut. They are to inform leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, to serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, to promote consideration of women for governmental positions, and to work with state agencies to access programs and practices as they affect women.