

Oklahoma Women's Coalition Newsletter

August 2011

Save the Date - Nov. 15th

Plan to attend our **Fall Issues Symposium** on the afternoon of November 15th in Oklahoma City. We are lining up speakers now. We will have information on all of our issues - aging, education, girls, health, incarceration, violence and work & family - as they impact women and girls on Oklahoma.

OWC To Be Honored

Our organization has been selected as a finalist for The Journal Record's "Programs Making a Difference." The ten finalists are being honored as organizations working toward the betterment of women in Oklahoma. This means OWC will be featured in the "50 Making a Difference" magazine, which is read by thousands of business leaders statewide. To learn more about the Woman of the Year banquet, [CLICK HERE](#).

To make reservations for the Woman of the Year Banquet on October 6 in Oklahoma City, call Lesley Martin at (405) 278-2820.

House Parties - Making An Impact

For several months, OWC members have been hosting fundraiser house parties across Oklahoma. Proceeds from these fun gatherings will allow us to help us hire a full time Executive Director. Our next party is in Ada later this month. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to help reach our funding goal. If you'd like to host an OWC fundraiser, just let us know!

OWC Calendar

August 23 - Ada House Party
September 1- OWC Board Meeting (Tulsa)
October 4 - Advocacy Committee



Chair's Report

I am very pleased to be serving as OWC chair and expect amazing things in the year ahead. In less than three years, OWC has attracted hundreds of individual members and donors. State legislators view us as a trusted source of information and advice on issues and bills impacting Oklahoma women and girls. Our Organizational Council represents nearly 40 extraordinary member organizations. Our three Advocacy Day events were great successes and we've had similar success on many of the bills we've supported the past two years. And we've only just begun.

Our FY12 plans include using social media to expand the conversation on ways to improve the lives of Oklahoma women and girls. We will host our first Fall Issues Symposium on the afternoon of November 15. Best of all, we are taking our message statewide and signing up new members in Oklahoma legislative House and Senate districts all across Oklahoma.

To our members we say, "Thank you and congratulations!" You are pioneers making a difference. Please help us spread the word. Tell your friends about OWC. Attend our Symposium. And when the 2012 legislative session begins, let your voice be heard. Stay connected as we work together to improve the potential for Oklahoma's women and girls.

Jean Warner
Chair, Oklahoma Women's Coalition

OWC Annual Business Meeting

On June 30, 2011, OWC hosted a combined Annual Business Meeting and Organizational Council Meeting. The gathering included a celebration of FY11 accomplishments, roundtable discussions on key issues, and brainstorming on future events. Outgoing OWC chair Donna Lawrence received our Pioneer Woman Award for her extraordinary service to the coalition. New officers and board members were elected. The program ended with a drawing for our Marriott weekend get-away, which was won by former

Retreat (OKC)
November 3 - OWC Board Meeting
(Stroud)
November 15 - OWC Issues
Symposium

Thanking Our Partners!

The following Community Partners have made a significant impact on the work of the Oklahoma Women's Coalition through a major donation.

Additional Community Partners are listed on the website.

AT&T of Oklahoma



Crowe & Dunlevy



OWC board member Susan Winchester. See our website for FY12 officers, board members, committee chairs and FY11 highlights.



Donna Lawrence (left) receives Pioneer Woman Award from Jean Warner

Exciting Incarceration Reform Project

Along with many other concerned organizations, OWC has worked to reduce the number of women incarcerated in Oklahoma. We have been a co-host of a statewide conference, helped craft a Public Agenda Action Plan, and worked to organize the new statewide collaborative alliance -- Count the Costs. We successfully lobbied last year for the state funds that now support transition programs for women leaving prison and this year for passage of HB1197 and HB2131 which reform our criminal justice system.

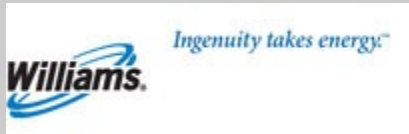
Additional good news came when Oklahoma received a major grant for an intensive criminal justice study that will recommend reform legislation in 2012. This Justice Reinvestment Initiative represents a data-driven approach to reduce corrections spending and reinvest those savings in strategies that can reduce crime while increasing public safety. It has been applied in other states with remarkable success. You can read more about the Justice Reinvestment project on our website by [clicking here](#).

Project Targets Low-Income Single Moms

For the past year, OWC has been a team member on a one-year planning grant from the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma (WFO). The research team studies programs and best practices designed to help more low-income single mothers attend and graduate from college. The final report went to WFO last month in the form of 7 possible programs WFO might sponsor. Each targets single mothers including



The Journal Record



a scholarship program, a student mentoring project, encouraging faculty and colleges to adjust policies to better accommodate students who are also parents, expanding childcare options on college campuses and more.

OWC Welcomes New Organizational Members



Welcome Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma and Metro Technology Centers of Oklahoma City -- the newest members of OWC's Organizational Council. They can expect a phone call and a packet of OWC information from Louise Alexander, our Organizational Council chair! [CLICK HERE](#) to see a list of all of our Organizational Members.



OWC Board Member, Alison

Anthony

This month our spotlight is on board member Alison Anthony. She is director of Diversity and Community Relations at The Williams Companies, Inc. and president of The Williams Foundation. An Enid native, she holds a bachelor's and master's degree in English from Oklahoma State University. She has been honored by the Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women with their Pinnacle Award for significant contributions toward improving the status of women in the community and for taking risks on behalf of others. She's been one of The Journal Record's 50 Women Making a Difference in Oklahoma. A graduate of Leadership Oklahoma Class XXIII, she serves on numerous boards and we are thrilled to have her on ours!

Oklahoma Women's Coalition
720 W. Wilshire, Suite 101-D
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
405-286-2356
info@OklahomaWomensCoalition.org
www.OklahomaWomensCoalition.org

Please visit our website at www.OklahomaWomensCoalition.org