



## Newsletter

February 2010

### **ADVOCACY DAY at the STATE CAPITOL**

**Tuesday, March 2**

**Join the Oklahoma Women's Coalition on Tuesday, March 2 for Advocacy Day at the State Capitol.** This is our largest event of the year to educate and encourage citizens to take part in advocacy at the State Capitol.

Participants will learn about issues that affect Oklahoma women, girls, and families. We'll discuss ways to improve the state's track record. We'll give you tips on how to communicate with legislative leaders who can make policy changes. After a briefing, we'll head to the State Capitol to put what we learn into action.

At the event luncheon, you'll hear from the top contenders running for Governor in 2010. Find out where they stand on issues and what they think are solutions to improve the lives of Oklahoma women and girls.

### **ADVOCACY DAY AGENDA**

- 8 a.m. Registration starts  
Oklahoma History Center**
- 9 a.m. Welcome & Briefing**
- 10 a.m. State Capitol  
Meet with Legislators**
- NOON Oklahoma History Center  
Luncheon/Presentations**

**The cost for the event is \$30. The fee for students is \$15.**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...**

An exciting new year is underway for the Oklahoma Women's Coalition. We are busy preparing for an important event - **Advocacy Day at the Capitol on March 2**. This is an event that will unite our membership, allow participants to learn about the legislative process, and hear first-hand from the top gubernatorial candidates vying for the seat. Register now by going to [www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org](http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org)!

When you go to [www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org](http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org), you'll notice that we've launched a re-designed Web site. Please check it out! The new site allows you to register for the upcoming Advocacy Day at the Capitol event. Look for details on Coalition events, news, and other updates. We've also made it easy for you to renew your membership, invite others to join and donate to the Coalition.

**In 2010, the Coalition will focus on the issue of incarceration in Oklahoma.** Our state ranks #1 in the nation for incarcerating women. It is an issue that greatly impacts the fabric of our communities, affecting children and families. The Coalition is partnering with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women to host a summit on the

Register Today at [www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org](http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org).

For more information, you may call the Coalition office at (405) 286-0356.

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*The Oklahoma Women's Coalition is proud to welcome the following new board members for 2010:*

**Maggiann Green**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Okla. City

**Nancy Humphrey**

YWCA of Enid

**Pam Richardson**

Resonance Center for Women, Inc. - Tulsa

**Devon Shannon**

Individual Member - Lawton

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**INCARCERATION SUMMIT**

**April 30, 2010**

**Oklahoma National Guard**

**Training Facility - Oklahoma City**

*More info and registration coming soon!*



*Representatives with the George Kaiser Family Foundation and Dr. Laura Pittman, Deputy Director with the OK Dept. of Corrections, discuss with Coalition members the issue of incarceration in Oklahoma at a coffee social recently held at the YWCA Tulsa offices.*

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The OKLAHOMA WOMEN'S COALITION will participate in a four-part interview series on **KWTV News9** in Oklahoma City. The series of LIVE interviews will air every Sunday morning in February at 7:40 a.m.

issue of incarceration. Save the summit date - **April 30, 2010**. We'll keep you posted on the event details by email and on the Web site.

**We continue to ask for your support by helping us grow our membership.**

Encourage others to join and be part of an organization that advocates for Oklahoma women and girls. Organizations may join for \$100. An individual membership is just \$25 - for students, the cost is \$10. Visit [www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org](http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org) to learn more about being an organizational or individual member.

As we move forward with upcoming events and focus on advocacy efforts, we could use the help of the membership. Your time and talents are needed in a variety of areas from communications to fundraising. Let us know if you can help - send us an email at [info@oklahomawomenscoalition.org](mailto:info@oklahomawomenscoalition.org)!

**The Coalition is made up of more than two dozen organizations and 250 individuals.** We are all volunteers who share a passion and commitment to improve the lives of Oklahoma women and girls. Together, we know we can strive to create change and make that happen!

Kind regards,  
Jean Warner, Ph.D.

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## ORGANIZATIONS PARTNER TO ZERO IN ON ISSUE: **Oklahoma's High Incarceration Rate**

(Tulsa) - After its December board meeting, the Oklahoma Women's Coalition held a coffee social for organizational members. The Coalition and other organizations were able to learn about each other and discuss advocacy issues that include the incarceration of women.



Representatives with the George Kaiser Family Foundation and Dr. Laura Pittman, Deputy Director with the

The interviews will highlight the Coalition and its issues areas. The interviews will lead up to the Coalition's Advocacy Day at the Capitol event!

### **Tune in for the interviews**

**Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28**  
**at 7:40 a.m. on News9.**

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## **RE-DESIGNED COALITION WEB SITE LAUNCHES!**

**Visit us at [www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org](http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org)**

*Have you renewed your membership?  
Do you want to support the Coalition?  
Plan to attend Advocacy Day at the Capitol?*

**Sign up, donate, and register now at**  
**[www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org](http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org)!**

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Oklahoma Corrections Department, shared why the issue is a concern in Oklahoma. The state ranks first in the nation for the number of women incarcerated. Rebecca Kennedy, a Coalition board member, is helping organize a summit to address the issue and its impact.

"The incarceration issue affects the social fabric of our lives. Children and families are greatly impacted," explained Kennedy. "We hope to create discussion and identify workable solutions for prevention, intervention, and reentry."

The George Kaiser Family Foundation, Don and Donna Millican, and Oklahoma Christian University Academy of Liberty and Leadership held a free luncheon event on January 26 to address the incarceration issue. Oklahoma Christian University plans to conduct activities and efforts regarding the issue over the next three years.

Since 2002, The Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma - a Coalition organizational member - has partnered with the Turley Correctional Center on Project M.E.N.D. The program helps repair the mother/daughter relationships that may be broken due to separation from incarceration. The program has helped more than 80 mothers and daughters.



The Oklahoma Women's Coalition believes that programs like Project M.E.N.D. and continued discussions will help create awareness. The Coalition is joining forces with the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women and corrections officials to tackle the topic. A summit will be held on **Friday, April 30, 2010** at the Oklahoma National Guard Training Facility in Oklahoma City. More details will be available in the coming weeks via email alerts and postings on [www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org](http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org).