

Wisconsin Women's Network

Bi-Weekly E-Bulletin | July 15, 2009



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WOMEN'S
network

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Please consider giving to the Wisconsin Women's Network through Community Shares of Wisconsin's Workplace Giving Campaign. For more information, visit [Community Shares](#) or contact the [WWN office](#).

Be sure to visit our new and improved website:

www.wiwomensnetwork.org

→ Events from Our Members

July 15-19

"Speak Out! A Survey on the Issues Affecting Your Life," Madison Madison SOS (Speak Out, Sister!), a city-wide organization engaging high school teen girls in grassroots leadership and activism, is looking for Madison teen girls, ages 14-19, to complete a survey on local social justice issues affecting their lives. Information gathered by the survey will be used by Madison SOS to advocate for policies and programs that address the needs of teen girls across Madison. This is a great way for girls to make their voices heard and to make a difference this summer! Please encourage girls to go to <http://tinyurl.com/speak-out-survey> to take the survey.

Participants are eligible to win an iPod touch.

For more info: 608-320-3882 or madisonsos@yahoo.com

July 22

Milwaukee Women Speak Out for Health Care Reform, Milwaukee

5:30-8:30 PM, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. Women are often the arrangers of health care for our entire families. So, we are inviting women to share stories of how they and their family members have struggled with the current system, and what needs to change! Grassroots women will share their personal stories about how America's health system is failing them and their families. Health policy experts will engage with participants to link these stories to needed policy reforms and compile an action agenda for change. State Representative Tamara Grigsby and Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton have been invited to serve as the co-emcees for the evening. Fee: free, but [pre-registration is required](#). Sponsored by the [WI Alliance for Women's Health](#).

[For a complete events calendar, click here.](#)

→ News

[Women's Health and Reproductive Rights](#)

[Birth control access gets boost in state budget](#)

Not many people seem to have noticed yet, but buried among the new measures signed into law last week as part of Gov. Jim Doyle's budget is a trio of family planning initiatives that are expected to

WWN is on Facebook!

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expand access to birth control and contraceptive education in Wisconsin. Advocates who had fought for previous versions of the controversial measures over the past years, only to see them get beat back repeatedly by the Republican-controlled Legislature, are thrilled at the relative ease with which the measures passed this year -- thanks to the new Democratic majority. "Elections really do make a difference!" says Nicole Safar, a legal and policy analyst with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin.

[Committee Votes to Reverse Global Gag Rule](#)

Democrats on the Senate Appropriations Committee voted last week to permanently reverse a policy in effect under recent Republican administrations that banned giving U.S. taxpayer money to international groups that perform abortions or provide abortion information. The 17-11 vote would give the current policy - which President Obama set by executive order days after taking office - the force of law. That means the next Republican president could not restore the ban with the stroke of a pen as has been recent practice.

[Uganda seeks to ban female circumcision](#)

In Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni wants to outlaw female circumcision, and those that continue to perform the bloody practice would face the death penalty if a girl dies as a result of the procedure, Press Secretary Tamale Mirundi told CNN Wednesday.

LGBT Rights

[DC To Begin Recognizing Out-of-State Same-Sex Marriages](#)

The District of Columbia officially began recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states last week. The Washington, D.C. City Council voted 12 to 1 in May to recognize same sex marriages performed out-of-state. In June, the Washington, D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics rejected a proposed referendum that would have allowed D.C. residents to vote on the bill. The board's ruling found that the proposed referendum "would authorize discrimination prohibited by the D.C. Human Rights Act."

Young Women

[Opinion: Let's Do More for Young Mothers at the Margin](#)

Amid recent stories of teenage moms with family support, there's another segment of young moms being overlooked. Jeannette Pai-Espinosa says we also need to invest in female teens born into poverty, violence, abuse and other destructive cycles.

Economic Equity

[Investing in women and girls smart choice in troubled economic times - UN officials](#)

Top United Nations officials have called for investing in women and girls during the global financial crisis to help promote economic recovery and tackle poverty and inequality. "There is no smarter investment in troubled times," said Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

International Women

[Afghanistan Amends Controversial Shia Law](#)

Afghanistan's Justice Ministry recently released a revision of the controversial Shia law that legalized rape within marriage, among other provisions. The Associated Press reports that the new version omits original provisions that allowed men to demand sex from their wives and that required women to ask their husbands' permission to leave their home. But [the Afghan marriage law remains oppressive](#), women's rights advocates say.

[Sudan: Women Who Wore Pants Are Flogged in Public](#)

The police arrested 13 women in a raid on a cafe in the capital, Khartoum, and flogged 10 of them in public for wearing trousers. One of those arrested, Lubna Hussein, a journalist, said she was challenging the charges, which can be punishable by up to 40 lashes. "I didn't do anything wrong," she said.

[Scarred by acid in Bangladesh](#)

According to official figures, there are only around 200 acid-related crimes reported every year in Bangladesh. However, thousands of acid-attack victims find refuge at the Acid Survivor Foundation (ASF) in Dhaka, the capital, in any given year.

[Saudi Arabia: Women's Rights Promises Broken](#)

Saudi officials continue to require women to obtain permission from male guardians to conduct their most basic affairs, like traveling or receiving medical care, despite government assertions that no such requirements exist, Human Rights Watch said today. The Saudi government appears to turn a deaf ear to calls for gendered social reform.



Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

Posted: 7/1/09

Org: Independent Living

Activity: Independent Living, Inc. is looking for volunteers to help keep seniors and people with disabilities independent and in the home of their choice. We offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. Opportunities include:

Chore Corps: Help an older or disabled adult with running errands, grocery shopping, meal preparation or light housekeeping. Flexible schedule 1-2 hours per week.

Evening Meals on Wheels: Deliver hot, nutritious meals to the home of frail or homebound older adults or people with disabilities. Routes start between 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and generally take about an hour to complete. Delivering meals make a great group or family activity.

Friendly Visiting: Help prevent social isolation by offering weekly companionship to an older adult in their home or on an outing.

Flexible schedule 1-2 hours per week.

Kitchen Volunteers: Assist our professional chef in preparing and packaging meals for our Evening Meals on Wheels clients.

Reception Volunteer: Assist with answering the telephone, greeting visitors and general office projects. 3-4 hours per week. Shifts are available at the Independent Living Headquarters, 815 Forward Drive, or The Gardens, 602 N. Segoe Road, both in Madison.

Telephone Reassurance: Make daily calls to provide a safety check, medication reminder or companionship for an older adult in our community.

For more info: [Amanda Purington](#), Volunteer Services Program Manager at 608-274-7900

Posted: 6/17/09

Org: Madison SOS (Speak Out, Sister!)

Activity: research and survey design, writing and editing, community outreach, event-planning, mentoring, policy advocacy, and more

Location: various (in Madison)

When: opportunities available weekdays (daytime and evening) and weekend afternoons; very flexible scheduling

Description: Assist this grassroots, teen-led organization with several exciting summer initiatives: the creation of a Platform for Action and related policy advocacy on several key social justice issues affecting Madison high school young women, including community-based research on issues like sexual violence and sexual harassment, reproductive health, education, mental health, and more; the creation of a resource guide for young women interested in taking action locally to affect change; the development of an interactive website connecting girls interested in discussing and taking action on local issues; and the development of a workshop series to empower girls as social change agents.

More info/sign up: Email madisonsos@yahoo.com

For Equality,

Johanna Hatch, Administrator
Wisconsin Women's Network

MISSION

The Wisconsin Women's Network is a coalition of organizations and individuals advancing the status of women in Wisconsin through communications, education, and advocacy.

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