



Letter from the President

USNC-UN Women Advocacy: Working Within Coalitions to Advance Women's Rights

Dear U.S. National Committee
for UN Women,

With the historic election of 20 new or returning female senators, the CEDAW Task Force seized the opportunity this winter to call for ratification of this global women's treaty. USNC-UN Women was one of 66 organizations to sign on to a letter that was delivered in person by members of the Task Force to all 100 senators on January 3rd, the first day of the 113th session. Via our Facebook page, USNC-UN Women members signed onto the petition that accompanied the letter. Visit our Facebook page to stay informed of future CEDAW petition drives and other actions regarding global women's rights: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-National-Committee-for-UN-Women-USNC/118372414848063>.

As part of the US Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, USNC-UN Women was also a signatory to thank-you letters to outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Ambassador for Global Women's Issues Melanne Vermeer. The letters expressed deep gratitude to both women for their historic contributions towards improving the lives of women and girls around the world and served to mark the one-year anniversary of the US National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. On January 30, 2013, USNC-UN Women Program Director Susan Cutri and national board member Caroline Slobodzian represented USNC-UN Women at the group's panel discussion, "Partners in Peace and Security".

USNC-UN Women also signed on to the February 2013 letter from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in support of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013.

Maggie Forster Schmitz

UN Women-USNC Board of Directors Executive Committee

Maggie Forster Schmitz
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New Chapter Development Chair

Board Members

Allison Asplin
Francine Cerami
Neale Godfrey
Rene Kraus
Donald McPherson
Younghee Overly
Kim Randle
Grace Richardson
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Chapter Presidents

Linda Poteat-Brown
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Denise Ferguson
Chicago, IL Chapter
Joy Macci
Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter
Lalita Janke
East Coast, FL Chapter
Cathy Hillman
Greater LA Chapter
Sharon Burde
Gulf Coast, FL Chapter
Cheryl Benton
Metropolitan NY Chapter
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Miami Chapter
Liga Plaveniece
National Capital Chapter
Yvonne Garlin
New Jersey Chapter
Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell
North Carolina Chapter
CeCe Sloan
Southern CA Chapter
Benedicte Richardson and
Rebecca Chesney
San Francisco Chapter
Maya Venkatraman
UVA Club

USNC-UN Women Office

Susan Cutri, Program Director
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Washington, DC 20036
202-939-2675
www.unwomen-usnc.org

WE'VE MOVED

In September, USNC moved to our new office space in Washington, DC. We are subletting from a non-profit organization whose purpose is aligned with ours, International Council for Research on Women. ICRW is a global research institute with a mission to empower women, advance gender equality and fight poverty in the developing world.

The new USNC-UN Women contact information is:

1120 20th Street NW
Suite 500 North
Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: 202-469-8732

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 8th -

8:00 - 9:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:30	Opening Plenary Session
9:30 - 10:15	Power Of One Organization

Breakout sessions

10:20 - 11:15	Power of One Person
11:30 - 12:15	Annual Meeting of USNC
12:15 - 1:10	Lunch & Keynote Speaker
1:30 - 2:15	Power of Youth
2:20 - 3:10	Powerful Positions Abroad
5:00 - 7:00	Networking Reception

Call for Nominations

Each year, the Nominating Committee for the U.S. National Committee for UN Women (USNC-UN Women) selects and presents a slate of qualified nominees for election to the Board of Directors. The Committee is looking for individuals with experience, contacts, and resources who will help to shape the future of USNC-UN Women.

We welcome all qualified candidates and are especially seeking nominees who have the following specific skills and experience:

- **Technology (website and database skills)**
- **Fund development (willing to raise money and experienced in donor interaction)**
- **Financial Expertise (work with the Treasurer and Finance Committee)**
- **Advocacy (knowledge/expertise in working with legislators and staff to promote our mission)**

Each nominee elected to a position must be willing to serve on at least one board committee, attend two board meetings each year, and employ personal skills, connections and financial resources to make USNC-UN Women a leader in advocating for the human rights and empowerment of women and girls. The financial expectation is that each board member donates or raises \$1,000 annually.

Nominating qualified candidates is a valuable service and your thoughtful participation in this process is crucial. Help us to identify and encourage qualified individuals to run for the Board. Please keep in mind that the Board of Directors is a volunteer, working group in need of active participation by all mem-

bers. Board members whose terms are expiring this year are also required to follow the nomination procedures outlined below:

- **Letter of intent, with a paragraph explaining your interest**
- **Outline of the skills and abilities you will bring to the board**
- **Resume**

Please submit nominations via email or mail by March 5, 2013. Once your nomination is received, a copy of the Code of Conduct will be sent to you; you will need to sign it and return it along with a letter of recommendation. Only completed nominations emailed or postmarked March 14, adhering to nomination procedures outlined above, will be considered by the Nominating Committee. Only members who have paid dues are eligible to vote or be nominated.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact the national office by phone at 202-939-2675 or by email to director@unwomen-usnc.org

Join USNC-UN Women at the UN CSW!

By Stephanie Block

The UN CSW: What does it stand for? A clear sunny Wednesday? A cool sisterhood of women? It's the UN's Commission on the Status of Women! An epic annual gathering of world leaders wholly focused on gender equality. Wow.

But, you say, I'm not an ambassador or anything. Do regular people attend? First of all, we say to you that you are already a gender equality activist. You support USNC-UN Women, a UN-affiliated agency focused on advocacy and

fundraising on behalf of UN Women in the United States. And while all the ministers and officials are meeting and discussing policies within the hallowed UN halls, there is a massive gathering of global NGOs at side events throughout the two weeks. These events are plentiful, accessible and free. This NGO group also happens to be tasked with coming up with its own recommendation that gets passed to the UN folks.

So come! Swap stories with rural women from Rwanda! Have coffee with courageous Colombianas. The most mobilized women and men in the world will be in New York City the first two weeks of March, and USNC-UN Women will be hosting events on March 11. "Part of the Solution: Men, Healthy Masculinity and What Men Should be Doing" is USNC-UN Women's first parallel event at CSW. Moderated by former NFL player and USNC-UN Women national board member, Don McPherson, this 2:30 pm panel discussion at the Church Center will feature a talk-show format with leaders in the healthy masculinity movement.

In the evening, the Metro NY chapter is hosting a fundraising reception from 6-9 pm at the Ana Tzarev art gallery. For more information about both events, please visit the USNC-UN Women's website. Making the world a better place for women and girls should always be this fun, social and inspiring! Follow us on Twitter (http://twitter.com/USNC_UNWomen) for live updates from New York at @USNC_UNWomen with our official hashtag #CSWUSNC!

Annual Meeting This Summer in Florida!

"The Power of One: One person, one group, one organization."



The Annual Meeting of USNC for UN Women is Saturday, June 8 in gorgeous Sarasota, FL. The Keynote address will focus on the power each person has to make a difference in the world. Sessions will address a variety of topics with panel discussions focusing on how one individual, company or organization can make a difference in developing a world where women and girls live free from poverty, inequality and violence.

Sarasota in June is wonderful; our conference hotel is the Lido Beach Resort, located on Lido Beach, just minutes from the shopping and restaurants of St. Armand's Circle. The resort is accepting reservations at the special rate of \$179 per night for a room with a kitchenette.

Contact the resort directly at 941 388-2161 and ask for the US National Committee for UN Women rate. www.lidobeachresort.com

All members are invited to participate in the National Board Meeting and the Chapter Presidents' meeting on Friday, June 7, and the wrap-up session of the National Board Meeting on Sunday, June 9.

Know Your Board Members: Allison Asplin

The Purple Wiggled Woman of the Walks was first drawn to USNC-UN Women by the Walk to End Violence in Washington, DC. Encouraged by her friends, Allison joined

THE MID-YEAR SEMI-ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The USNC Board met for the mid-year meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 19 - 20. In addition to the board reports by the committees, attention was focused on fund development and how to best increase our education and advocacy efforts. Mitushi Das and Carolyn Hardy from UN Women provided the board with an overview of the growth and focus of UN Women. Don Kossuf, a fund development consultant to UN Women, led a workshop on ways to develop monthly giving and increase our impact.

The busy day was celebrated with a dinner at the home of Vice President of Fund Development Kay Colson, her husband, Ellery McLanahan, and sister Liz Colson, a long-time USNC Communications Committee member. The event offered national board members, UN Women representatives, and local chapter members the opportunity to relax and socialize with each other beyond the boardroom, making an evening of lively conversation and great camaraderie.





Her involvement in the walks led to her nomination to the USNC Board last year. Allison grew up in North Carolina and has degrees in international relations and economics: a Bachelor's from the University of Virginia and a Master's from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). She speaks French, Spanish, Hindi, and Urdu. Now living in Washington, DC, Allison brings a wealth of talent and energy to the US National Committee.

the team that took the top spot in fund raising for the 2011 Walk, walking with friends from a yoga studio. "When it started to come out in the media what the Taliban were doing to women in Afghanistan, it really hit home with me that other women didn't have the opportunities I've had to get educated and build a career, or even make the most basic choices about their lives. UN Women is doing excellent work to support women's rights all over the world, and I wanted to be a part of that."

Professionally, Allison is a senior analyst with Cadmus and is an experienced project manager with expertise in real estate development, sustainable building construction and operations, and financial analysis. She has more than 10 years of finance and real estate industry experience and specializes in energy-efficiency projects and strategic planning. Her work has focused on the commercial and multifamily sectors.

WALK SEASON IS COMING SOON

While many of the chapters are still waiting for the end of winter and starting to plan their walks, the Gulf Coast Chapter enjoyed sunny skies and excellent walking on Siesta Key Beach on Saturday, February 2. The walkers and their teams raised over \$8,000. The WALKS to end violence against women and girls are an important part of chapter activities and raise awareness of this global problem. The Gulf Coast walk was chaired by Tala Rizkallah, a high school senior and one of the Chapter's Learners to Leaders.



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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES

