



**16th Annual Midwestern Regional Conference
June 25-27, 2009**

**InterContinental Chicago
General Session Room: King Arthur Court
Chicago, Illinois**

Thursday, June 25, 2009

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm **Reception**

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm **Dinner**

6:30 pm – 6:35 pm **Opening Remarks**

Mary Brooks Beatty
President, Women In Government

6:35 pm – 6:50 pm **Welcoming Remarks**

Comptroller Daniel Hynes
State of Illinois

Friday, June 26, 2009

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Breakfast**

9:00 am – 9:05 am **Welcome**

Mary Brooks Beatty
President, Women In Government

9:05 am – 9:15 am

Welcome to Illinois

Facilitated by: Mary Brooks Beatty

Attorney General Lisa Madigan

State of Illinois

9:15 am – 9:50 am

The Economic Assessment and the Midwest Economy

Facilitated by: Representative Mary Sue McClurkin

Alabama State Legislature

Chair, Women In Government Board of Directors

William Strauss

Senior Economist and Economic Advisor

Economic Research Department

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

The economy officially entered a recession in January 2008. The economic headwinds increased in the fall of last year as the economy dealt with a very significant crisis. Tight credit conditions, large job losses, a struggling housing market, and the collapse in manufacturing are just some of the factors challenging the economy. Mr. Strauss will look at the performance of the overall macro economy with specific attention paid to key economic sectors in the Midwest.

Q & A – 10 minutes

9:50 am - 10:15 am

Stimulus Funding in Illinois

Facilitated by: Senator Karen Morgan

Utah State Legislature

Immediate Past Chair, Women In Government Board of Directors

Kristi LaFleur

Deputy Chief Of Staff

Illinois Office of the Governor

This session will provide an overview of the complex and sometimes controversial stimulus funding now filtering to the states. Example of how states can access this and the role of state legislators will be discussed.

Q & A – 10 minutes

10:15 am – 10:50 am **Telemedicine and Mental Health**

*Facilitated by: Senator Katie Dorsett
North Carolina General Assembly
Vice Chair, Women In Government Board of Directors*

Eve-Lynn Nelson, PhD

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics
Assistant Director, Research
Kansas University Center for Telemedicine

Despite many advances in mental health treatments, the majority of adults and children with mental health concerns do not receive professional help. The session will describe innovative technologies, including telemedicine, used to deliver a range of mental health services, especially to underserved populations.

Q & A – 10 minutes

10:50 am - 11:05 am **Break**

11:05 am – 11:45 am **Rheumatoid Arthritis**

*Facilitated by: Representative Kathy Hawken
North Dakota Legislative Assembly
Treasurer, Women In Government Board of Directors*

Patience White, MD, MA

Chief Public Health Officer
Arthritis Foundation

Rheumatoid arthritis affects 1.3 million Americans. This session will provide information on the disease state and current research to find appropriate medical regimens.

Q & A – 10 minutes

11:45 am – 12:15 pm **Barriers to Access for Care in Minorities for Diabetes Diagnosis, Treatment and Management**

*Facilitated by: Representative Kimberley Rosen
Maine State Legislature
Secretary, Women In Government Board of Directors*

Gary Puckrein, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Minority Quality Forum

Diabetes is more prevalent in minority and low-income populations. We will learn about the policy issues for treatment, access and care for these underserved populations.

Q & A – 10 minutes

12:15 pm - 1:15pm **Networking Lunch**

12:15 pm – 12:25 pm **Resource Center Update**

Michele Wagner, MPH
Policy Director
Women In Government

1:15 pm – 1:45 pm **Domestic Violence: Empowering Victims**

*Facilitated by: Senator Bettye Davis
Alaska State Legislature
Member, Women In Government Board of Directors*

Senator Tarryl Clark
Senate Assistant Majority Leader
Minnesota State Legislature

Domestic violence issues plague every state. Due to their unpleasant nature, they typically go unaddressed. We will learn about state policy in Minnesota to empower and assist victims.

Q & A – 10 minutes

1:45 pm - 2:30 pm

Endometriosis: Barriers to Treatment and Diagnosis and Effects on the Workforce

*Facilitated by: Senator Nan Orrock
Georgia General Assembly
Member, Women In Government Board of Directors*

Mary Lou Ballweg

President and Executive Director
The Endometriosis Association

Frank Tu, MD, MPH

Director, Division of Endoscopic Surgery and Chronic Pelvic Pain
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
NorthShore University HealthSystem

Endometriosis is a poorly understood disease by the medical profession and the general public. Affecting primarily women, this session will focus on raising awareness in your state of the debilitating effects of the disease on women's personal and professional lives.

Q & A – 10 minutes

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Alternative Energy Use – It Makes Cents

*Facilitated by: Representative Patricia Bellock
Illinois General Assembly
Midwestern Regional Director
Women In Government Board of Directors*

Representative Elizabeth Coulson

Illinois General Assembly

This session will provide state legislators with sample policies and legislation on business incentives, homeowner incentives, balanced energy portfolios, and other programs that have worked to increase alternative energy use.

Q & A – 10 minutes

3:00 pm – 3:40 pm

Promoting Adolescent Well Visits

*Facilitated by: Representative Jo Ann Pottorff
Kansas State Legislature
Member, Women In Government Board of Directors*

Kenneth Alexander, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Pediatric Infectious Diseases
University of Chicago

Representative Patricia Bellock

Illinois General Assembly
Midwestern Regional Director, Women In Government Board of Directors

Well visits during the teen years are important for preventative services like vaccines, and education about the health effects of risky behaviors. Hear about the role policymakers play in ensuring teens see primary care providers regularly, and the influences these and other caring adults can have on youth well-being.

Q & A – 10 minutes

3:40 pm - 3:45 pm

Wrap Up

Mary Brooks Beatty

President, Women In Government

Saturday, June 27, 2009

8:00 am – 9:00am **Breakfast**

8:15 am - 8:45 am **State Director Nominations & Regional Bidding**

9:10 am – 9:45 am **Paths To Power**
Facilitated by: Mary Brooks Beatty

Senator Christine Radogno
Senate Minority Leader
Illinois General Assembly

This presentation provides participants with a Midwestern woman state legislator's experiences in obtaining a leadership role within her state. This may include strategic bi-partisan efforts, overcoming obstacles to advancing policy or legislation, and specific steps taken to achieve a leadership position in the state.

Q & A – 10 minutes

9:45 am - 10:30 am **Water Issues in the Midwest**
Facilitated by: Representative Annie Mobley
North Carolina General Assembly
Southern Regional Director, Women In Government Board of Directors

Douglas Scott
Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director Doug Scott will highlight the massive wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs indicated by the influx of applications for federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Director Scott will also discuss the continued challenges of addressing groundwater contamination in urban areas with historic, pre-regulatory industrial activity, and the potential impact of climate change on water quality, as well as other topics of current interest.

Q & A – 10 minutes

10:30 am - 10:45am **Break**

10:45 am – 11:15 am **Social and Economic Costs of Patient Non-Compliance**

*Facilitated by: Delegate Joseline Peña-Mehnyk
Maryland General Assembly
Eastern Regional Director, Women In Government Board of Directors*

Michael Wolf, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine
Northwestern University

Patient non-compliance occurs when individuals do not follow the treatment regimen prescribed by a doctor – usually for a chronic disease. This results in complications or worsening of the condition and eventually increased medical treatment costs. Encouraging constituents to adhere to treatment regimens and living a healthy lifestyle will save overall health care costs for your state.

Q & A – 10 minutes

11:15 am – 12:00 pm **Wind Energy and State Policies**

*Facilitated by: Representative Barbara Marumoto
Hawaii State Legislature
Western Regional Director, Women In Government Board of Directors*

Parthiv Amin

President
Winergy Drive Systems

This session will address wind energy issues in the Midwest, from efforts to generate this renewable source, as well as transmission issues. What state policy makers can do to support this renewable source in their state will be discussed.

Q & A – 10 minutes

12:00 pm – 12:05 pm **Wrap Up and Adjourn**

Mary Brooks Beatty

President, Women In Government
