



OREGON

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

JUNE 2010

JOIN US FOR THE

WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BRUNCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

RSVP today for the 26th Annual Awards Celebration!

Every year, the Oregon Commission for Women celebrates women in our State who have worked tirelessly to improve the status of women through their profession, their vocation, or their volunteerism. Every year, we are humbled by the depth and breadth of the caliber of the women nominated. We are consistently inspired by their passion, their drive, their persistence, and their accomplishments. Collectively, there is not an indifferent bone in their bodies when it comes to helping women realize their dreams.

This year we will be honoring Hon. Gretchen Kafoury, Dr. Melody Rose, and Tricia Tillman (see bios on page 2). The festivities will include a sumptuous Sunday Brunch Buffet complete with Silent Auction, complimentary champagne and Bloody Mary Bar.

The Women of Achievement Brunch is a “must-do” event. To view a photo slideshow of the brunch, use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/Awards-brunch-photos>

SHE FLIES
WITH HER
**OWN
WINGS**

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS FOR THE 2010 WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BRUNCH!

**Reserve your table or individual ticket
today and pay less!**

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$55/per person
TABLE OF 8 GUESTS \$440

AFTER AUGUST 1

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$65/per person
TABLE OF 8 GUESTS \$520

Pay via check or credit card by visiting our website:
<http://friendsofocfw.org/>
Or call 503-378-3129 for details and information.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you are a candidate or a corporation, an industry or an individual, your sponsorship not only makes it possible to bring attention to and celebrate the accomplishments of three amazing Oregonian women, it also sustains our ability to advocate for all of Oregon's 1.9 million women. As an important voice on their behalf, the Oregon Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission for Women are committed to creating better lives for women and their families, providing more educational opportunities.

PLATINUM Sponsor - \$2,000
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<http://friendsofocfw.org/>

*The Oregon Commission for Women's***2010 WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES**

Hon. Gretchen Kafoury has been part of the Oregon advocacy landscape in Oregon for over 20 years. Be it women's rights, health care, domestic violence, low income housing, teen health centers or gender equity in elected office, Gretchen Kafoury has lead the fight.

During the late sixties and early seventies, Kafoury was active in volunteer political activities. She worked on Robert Kennedy's presidential and Wayne Morse's US Senate campaigns in 1968, helping found Oregon NOW in 1970 and the Oregon Women's Political Caucus in 1971, and working on Barbara Robert's gubernatorial campaign in 1974.

In 1977, when her husband successfully ran for the State Senate, she ran for and won his vacant House seat. She served the Oregon Legislature as State Representative from inner NE and SE Portland from 1977 until 1982. Her key issues during her tenure were human resources including mental health, health care, domestic violence and nurse practitioners.

She was elected as a Multnomah County Commissioner in 1985, serving NE Portland. Her work in the commission continued her legislative priorities of health care and mental health care while adding criminal justice, homelessness and poverty, and teen health centers.

In 1991, she was elected to the Portland City Council, where she served until 1998. Her priorities during her service to the city included fair housing, community development, civil rights, and the arts.

Kafoury retired as instructor at Portland State University's College of Urban and Public Affairs, Hatfield School of Government in 2009 after 10 years of teaching. At PSU, Kafoury taught classes related to homelessness, poverty, and community development since 1999.

Gretchen Kafoury's record of public service is extraordinary and her commitment to improving the status of women is legendary. Her role as an important political leader in our community does not diminish overtime but rather expands and continues to grow.



Dr. Melody Rose is the Founder and Director of The Center for Women, Politics, and Policy at Portland State University, where she is also Professor and Chair of the Division of Political Science. The Center houses NEW Leadership™ Oregon and Teens Lead, public service leadership training programs for college- and high school-aged women in Oregon. Her research is focused on the descriptive and substantive representation of women in American government, and she has authored a number of award-winning books, articles, and chapters on the presidency, social policy, women & politics, and elections. Her third book, *Hillary Clinton's Race for the White House: Gender Politics and the Media on the Campaign Trail* (with Regina Lawrence)

was published in 2010 by Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Dr. Rose is a regular political analyst on local, state, and national media on matters of elections, voting, party systems, and women's political action. In 2007, she was chosen by the *Northwest Women's Journal* as one of the "100 Most Powerful Women" in the Northwest. In 2008 she was awarded the PSU Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty award for excellence in research, teaching and community engagement. In 2009 she received the selective International Women's Forum Fellowship – a year-long honor and professional development program provided to 25 women from 9 nations. She currently serves as President-Elect of the City Club of Portland.

Dr. Rose's professional and volunteer commitments center around civic engagement and access to higher education; this passion stems from the fact that she is the first member in her family to receive a college degree. She and her husband Eric Butler live in Portland, and are the proud parents of four children, ages 8 – 16.

WHAT ARE WE UP TO?



Latricia Tillman assumed the role of Administrator for the Oregon Office of Multicultural Health and Services in May 2009. A native Oregonian, Ms. Tillman graduated from St. Mary’s Academy in Portland. She received her bachelor’s degree in political science from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and her master’s degree in public health from Boston University. She earned a prestigious Martin Luther King Fellowship from Boston University as well as a public health fellowship through the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

Ms. Tillman’s goals throughout her career have been to promote a highly qualified, diverse workforce, to engage communities experiencing disparities in promoting health and well-being, and to reduce social inequities. She has worked in various capacities in maternal, child and community health over the last 17 years, coordinating efforts to improve the health of culturally diverse communities in Arizona, Massachusetts.

She returned to Oregon to serve as a program manager at the Multnomah County Health Department. She initiated and managed the county’s Health Equity Initiative and the African American Sexual Health Equity Program. Her work helped create a mandate for policy makers and elected officials to support policies and programs that reduce avoidable and unfair health inequities experienced by communities of color, immigrants and refugees.

To date, in her role as Administrator of the Office of Multicultural Health and Services, Ms. Tillman has increased funds awarded to empower communities of color, immigrants and refugees to promote health and well being, created opportunities for individuals representing Oregon’s diverse communities to serve in policy leadership roles, and advanced the creation and implementation of policies that promote equity in health and human services.

Tricia enjoys watching her 11 year-old son play soccer and lacrosse, as well as dancing salsa, skiing, and supporting urban farming.

THE OREGON COMMISSION FOR WOMEN ~ WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

In 1964, Governor Mark Hatfield established the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women to advise him of the needs and concerns of Oregon women. In 1983, Governor Victor Atiyeh gave the commission independent agency status. The Oregon Commission for Women was legislatively established in 1983 to work for women's equality. The commission does this by advocating for women in the community, providing information on women to the governor and state legislature, serving as a link for women to state agencies, and providing services to individual women in Oregon. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to serve the people of Oregon.

Susan B. Castner ~ Chair

Nena Cook ~ Vice-Chair

Senator Martha Schrader

Representative Betty Komp

Cynthia Homan

Megan Jacquot

Sunny Petit

Stacey Schultz

Karen Shimada

Darlene Taylor

Joy Howard, Executive Assistant ~ Oregon Advocacy Commission Office

GET INVOLVED! JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE OREGON COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The Friends of the OCFW is the non-profit organization established to assist the OCFW in its mission. The next meeting for The Friends will be on July 8th. Call 503-725-9980 for details.

ONE STEP AWAY

by Paul Homan, Chair, Friends of the OCFW

Women are poised to have a record-breaking year in 2010. With a total of 37 gubernatorial elections in 2010 (including a special election in Utah), women could be major party candidates in as many as 11 of those contests with possible women v. women contests occurring in Wyoming and Oklahoma, as well as one already set in New Mexico, where Democratic Lt. Governor Diane Denish and Republican District Attorney Susana Martinez won their respective primaries.

Martinez has also become the first Latina to be nominated by either party for Governor of any state – whether Denish or Martinez wins, she will become New Mexico's first woman Chief Executive. Also for the first time, a woman of East Indian descent has become a major party candidate for Governor in South Carolina. State Representative Nikki Haley handily defeated the Lt. Governor, State Attorney General and a Member of Congress to win the Republican nomination in the Palmetto State and to become the first woman nominated by either party to be a candidate for Governor in South Carolina.

Elsewhere in the nation, women have been winning tough primaries for a chance to have a shot at the Governor's Mansion in November. In Maine, Senate President Libby Mitchell defeated former State Attorney General Steven Rowe to become the first woman to win the Democratic nod for Governor. In 2009, Mitchell became the first woman to have served as Speaker of the House and President of the Senate of any state. Only current US Senator Susan Collins in 1994 was able to secure a major party nomination for Governor in Maine, and unfortunately came in third in the general election when Independent candidate Angus King was elected; if Mitchell wins (as she is favored to do), Maine will become the second state, behind Washington, to have a woman Governor and two women US Senators serving simultaneously. This could also happen this year in California where former E-Bay CEO Meg Whitman trounced State Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner to become the Republican's nominee to head up the Golden State. She will face State Attorney General and former Governor Jerry Brown in the general.

There are still quite a few primaries to go in various other states where women are strong candidates. In Minnesota, State House Speaker Margaret Anderson

Kelliher won the delegate count at the state convention and goes into the August primary as a frontrunner against former US Senator Mark Dayton and former State House Minority Leader Matt Entenza. Kelliher could become the first woman to win a major party primary in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. In Oklahoma US Congresswoman Mary Fallin is poised to win the Republican nomination for Governor, while Lt. Governor Jari Askins is slightly behind State Attorney General Drew Edmondson for the Democratic nod. Wyoming State Auditor Rita Meyer is one of four candidates for the Republican ticket to succeed popular Democratic Governor Dave Freudenthal, while former Wyoming Democratic Party Chair Leslie Peterson has minimal competition for her party's contest.

Rounding out female candidates are Florida Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, who also has only minor opposition for the Democratic nomination for her chance to succeed controversial Governor Charlie Crist; Democratic Vermont Secretary of State Deb Markowitz who is leading the pack in a competitive gubernatorial primary there; and former Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel who is trailing State Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine for the GOP nod for Governor. Controversial incumbent Governor Jan Brewer R-Arizona, who ascended to the post when Janet Napolitano was appointed US Secretary of Homeland Security, could be facing tough primary opposition from State Treasurer Dean Martin – however she is still leading in the polls. If all of these women win their primaries, and that is a big if, it will be the most women ever to win major party nominations for Governor in an election cycle.

Why does this matter? Four of the last six Presidents were Governors, and Sarah Palin's skyrocket to the national stage was primarily due to the fact that she was one of only three women Governors for her party in 2008, when John McCain was looking to diversify his ticket. Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney has already heavily invested in the young, articulate Nikki Haley in her bid to become her state's first woman Chief Executive, signaling that the former Governor of Massachusetts is looking for a possible running mate in 2012. If Meg Whitman should defeat Jerry Brown, it could put her in the sights of several Republican White House hopefuls, who'd love to be able to put California

WHAT ARE WE UP TO?

and its 55 electoral votes into play. As Governor of Oklahoma with Congressional experience, Mary Fallin could look promising to a GOP Presidential nominee who wishes to overtake the Midwest.

Women could see their numbers increase in the United States Senate as well. There will be 36 US Senate seats holding an election in November, including two special elections in New York and Delaware (this number does not include a possible special election in West Virginia, replacing the late Robert Byrd). Fourteen of these contests have a good chance to see a woman as a major party candidate, including a woman v. woman contest in California.

Women have been winning tough primaries this cycle for the United States Senate. Incumbent US Senator Blanche Lincoln D-Arkansas survived a gruesome primary against Lt. Governor Bill Halter, contrary to what most analysts had predicted. In California, former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina ran away win the Republican nomination for a chance to unseat US Senator Barbara Boxer – this race will become the first woman v. woman US Senate race in California's history; it will also be only the ninth time both major parties have nominated women for a US Senate race in any state. North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall soundly defeated State Senator Cal Cunningham for a chance to take on incumbent Republican US Senator Richard Burr. Cunningham had been encouraged to run by the National Democratic Party Leaders, even though Marshall (who had been elected statewide four times as Secretary of State) had already entered the race. In Iowa former US Attorney Roxanne Conlin won 77% of the vote against two men in the Democratic Primary to run against US Senator Charles Grassley in his bid for a sixth term. Former Nevada State Assemblywoman Sharron Angle, a self proclaimed tea party activist, edged out the GOP National Party favorite Sue Lowden, who previously served in the State Senate and as Chair of the Nevada Republican Party. Angle will face embattled Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in November. World Wrestling Entertainment CEO Linda McMahon won her party's nod at the Connecticut Republican State Convention, but still must tackle a

primary scheduled for August to run against presumed Democratic nominee Richard Blumenthal, the State Attorney General, to replace retiring US Senator Chris Dodd.

Aside from Lincoln and Boxer, four other women incumbents are running this year to be returned to the United States Senate. Interim US Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand D-New York has so far drawn no competition in her primary for the special election. Gillibrand was appointed by Governor David Paterson to replace Hillary Clinton when she became US Secretary of State in 2009, she is strongly favored to win the special election which will be for the remainder of the term ending January 2013. US Senators Lisa Murkowski and Patty Murray are expected to win their primaries, both face nominal opposition. US Senator Barbara Mikulski D-Maryland is heavily favored to win not only her primary, but also her fifth term to the United States Senate; if this happens she will become the first woman to do so and come January 4th, 2011 the longest serving woman US Senator in the nation's history, surpassing US Senator Margaret Chase Smith R-Maine who served four complete terms from 1949-73.

Democratic Missouri Secretary of State and political scion Robin Carnahan is expected to easily win her primary to oppose GOP frontrunner and former US House Minority Whip Roy Blunt in a race to replace retiring US Senator Kit Bond. While, former New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte and former Lt. Governor of Colorado Jane Norton (both Republicans) are leading in more competitive primaries in their respective states; and Democratic Arizona State Representative Cathy Eden faces a crowded primary to take on US Senator John McCain in November.

Since there are no women retiring and several competitive races on the horizon, women could easily expand their already record breaking number of 17 in the United States Senate. This could mean another pool to draw from for National Executive Office. It will be interesting to see how this year unfolds for women in public office; hopefully it will get us one step closer to parity and another step closer to the White House.

NEXT UP...Join us for the next Public Meeting of the Oregon Commission for Women, July 9, 2010. Time and place are posted on our website: <http://www.oregon.gov/Women/calendar.shtml> *Hope to see you there!*

HAVE THE VERY BEST 4th OF JULY HOLIDAY WEEKEND.