

West Virginia Women's Commission

State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 850
1900 Kanawha Blvd, East, Charleston, WV
25305



Making Your Voice Count

Women's Day at the Legislature

Wednesday, February 6, 2008



West Virginia Women's Commission

Advocacy. Education. Research.

www.wvdhhr.org/women

Why should women vote?

That's a question that you should have the answer to after attending the 2008 Women's Day at the Legislature.

In 1645 one vote gave Oliver control of England.

In 1649 one vote caused Charles 1st of England to be executed.

In 1776 one vote elected Marcus Morton the governor of Massachusetts.

In 1845 one vote brought Texas into the Union.

In 1875 one vote changed France from a monarchy into a republic.

In 1923 one vote gave Adolph Hitler control of the Nazi Party.

In 1941 one vote saved the Selective Service System just 12 weeks before Pearl Harbor.

The Hayes/Tilden Presidential contest of 1876 was a bitter struggle and was contested, resulting in a Hayes victory, 185 to 184.

In his book, *Profiles in Courage*, John F. Kennedy said: "In a lonely grave, forgotten and unknown, lies the man who saved a President (with his vote) and who as a result may well have preserved, for ourselves and prosperity, constitutional government in the United States." The one vote that Kennedy refers to was cast by Edmund G. Ross, U.S. Senator.

These are just a few samples of the hundreds of times where just one vote counted, where one vote made a difference. In your lifetime, one vote makes the difference every year in a State Legislative Committee or on the floor of the State House or Senate; in Congressional Committees or on the floor of the U.S. House or Senate of the Congress; and from the lowest court to the Supreme Court. Be reminded that in the Kennedy presidential race, the total margin of his victory nationwide would equal one vote per precinct.

When and if you feel that your participation in the voting booth is not important, that your vote can't or won't make a difference, that no one really cares what you think, or believe, who you would support if you voted or that you are only one vote among thousands in your precinct on Election Day, just think again. Don't let others decide for you. You can make a difference.

If unmarried women voted at the same rate as married women, more than six million voters would have gone to the polls in 2000. Approximately 22 million single, divorced and widowed women who were eligible didn't cast their ballots and another 16 million weren't registered to vote. Women, on their own, can transform the face of American politics.

Only through your involvement in the political process will we see these numbers improve. Whether it's running for office, supporting someone who is running or becoming an informed voter, you can help to improve the status of West Virginia women and families. Do the right thing! *When Women Vote, Women and Families Win!*

Agenda Wednesday February 6, 2008

7:30 AM—8:00 AM

Registration and Breakfast
Dignitary Greeting

8:00 AM—8:45 AM

Women's Commission's Public Policy
Statements

8:45 AM—9:15 AM

How a Bill Becomes a Law

9:30 AM

Visit the Legislature and
Lunch on Your Own

2:00 PM

Tour of the Governor's Mansion

2:45 PM

Healthy Break

3:00 PM—3:50 PM

Keynote Speaker, Gina Martino Dahlia
and Film Viewing of the documentary
"Monongah Heroines"

West Virginia Women's Commission Mission Statement

The West Virginia Women's Commission advocates for the social, educational and professional growth of women and girls of all ages and cultures in the Mountain State.

The Commission seeks to identify and eliminate barriers and discrimination, expand opportunities and encourage women of all generations in an effort to help them reach their fullest potential.

Keynote Speaker

Gina Martino Dahlia



Dahlia is a West Virginia native and WVU graduate. She was awarded the School of Journalism 2002–2003 Adjunct Professor of the Year award. She worked at WDTV News Channel Five in Bridgeport, as an award-winning news anchor, reporter and producer. She has worked as a columnist, feature and business writer and restaurant critic. And, most recently, was appointed as a Commissioner to the Women's Commission.

Dahlia was the Business and Professional Women's Young Careerist winner for North Central West Virginia in 1998 and the state runner-up in 1999. She believes that her calling in life is to inspire others through her love of teaching. When she's not teaching at WVU, she's a substitute teacher in Marion County and a licensed adult basic education teacher. Most recently, Ms. Dahlia produced a documentary about the Monongah Mine disaster and what happened to the widows, mostly immigrants, who were left to take care of themselves at a very dark time in their lives.

"Approximately 1,000 widows and children were left without breadwinners. No one has told their story. Some lost not only their husbands, but also their young sons, maybe 9 to 12 years old, who were used to boost their fathers' tonnage per day, thereby, boosting their paychecks. Some women were left with a household of children and extended family to take care of. There was no time to grieve," says Dahlia.

More about Women's Day

After a morning spent learning about the legislative process from bill conception to law, and learning about the Women's Commission's Legislative Initiatives, you will have the opportunity to speak face-to-face with elected officials from your district and let them know what issues are important to you. During the day, various members of the Women's Caucus will join us in our sessions as their schedules allow.

Meals

A healthy breakfast and afternoon refreshment break will be provided by the Office of Healthy Lifestyles and the West Virginia Osteoporosis and Arthritis Program.

Exhibitors

Exhibitors will be at the event to provide useful information to participants.

If your organization would like to exhibit at Women's Day, please contact the Commission office at 304-558-0070 or go to www.wvdhhr.org/wwc to download the forms. Exhibit fee is \$100 and includes a six-foot table, 2 chairs, table top covering, breakfast & break and participation in all sessions for two attendees. Additional attendees will be charged \$20 per person.

Getting There

Women's Day at the Legislature will be held at the Cultural Center on the State Capitol Complex, Charleston.

Limited parking is available for visitors to the Capitol Complex. Car pooling is highly recommended.

Metered parking can be found within the complex and on neighboring streets. Space may also be found at Laidley Field (off Piedmont Road). Shuttles run every fifteen minutes between the complex and various parking areas. Uniformed security personnel are stationed throughout the complex to assist you during your visit. To access an online Capitol Complex map, please go to www.wv.gov/govdirectory/capitolmap.jpg and www.wv.gov/govdirectory/capnmaplegend2.jpg

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Registration

The non-refundable fee for Women's Day at the Legislature is \$20. This includes breakfast, refreshment break, all sessions and materials, and a ticket for admittance into a special viewing of the documentary, "The Monongah Heroine"—a film about the women left behind after the Monongah Mine Disaster in 1907, produced by Gina Martino Dahlia.

Please make checks payable to **West Virginia Women's Commission**. Payment must accompany registration form. Faxes will not be accepted. We do encourage you, however, to copy this registration form and invite your friends. **Deadline for registrations is January 25. (Late registrations accepted on an "as available" basis.)**

Name	_____
Organization	_____
Address	_____
City / State / Zip / County	_____
Phone	_____
Fax	_____
E-Mail	_____
Website	_____
How did you learn about this event? Please be specific.	

GROUP REGISTRATION: Any group registering and paying for at least twelve people can receive the "Baker's Dozen," Pay for twelve and get one FREE. TO QUALIFY: Please attach a copy of the registration form for each attendee and pay with one check or credit card.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> To register and pay online please go to www.wvdhhr.org/wwc	



The West Virginia Women's Commission is an office within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.