



April 2011

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Message from the Chair:

by Jennifer Phillips, WLG Chair

The WLG Board is more than half-way into our 2010-11 year, and we are proud of our accomplishments so far. Providing high quality, valuable roundtable/panel discussions remains a top priority for WLG and this year we have already held two events, one at the November CSAC Conference in Riverside and in February in Long Beach (be sure to check out our photos.)

Coming up WLG is sponsoring a panel discussion at the **Women's Leadership Summit in San Jose on April 21**. The next Southern California Roundtable event is planned for **May 18 in Orange County featuring Cindy Abbott, CSUF Professor who successfully summited Mount Everest!** Also, WLG is sponsoring a breakout session panel at the MMASC conference entitled **"Climbing a Curvy Career Ladder" in San Diego on May 6th**.

WLG launched a **small group coaching** program this year, where senior members serve as coaches to groups of 4-6 members. Through monthly conference calls, the groups discuss topics that include resume writing techniques, interview skills, labor relations, pension reform, and RDA issues. The groups will continue through June. **New groups will be formed in October 2011**. WLG is also on **LinkedIn**, so check us out and join our group!

Finally, another exciting success for this year is that **our membership has surpassed 100** and the Board has set a **goal to reach 200 members** by October 2011. Soon you will be receiving a renewal notice and we hope that you will remain committed to your professional development and building your network and will renew your WLG membership. Our member fee remains only \$50 and is vital to our young organization as we continue to grow and expand the services and support to our members. On behalf of the WLG Board, **thank you for continued support** of WLG and we look forward to serving you for many years to come.



"Providing high quality, valuable roundtable/panel discussions remains a top priority for WLG..."

Moved to Action



WLG Board Member and Alameda County Administrator **Susan Muranishi** got a crash course on earthquake preparedness on a recent trip to Japan. Muranishi was part of 13-member delegation of Japanese-American leaders from across the U.S. that met with Japanese government and business leaders the week of March 7 when the largest recorded earthquake in Japan's history hit northeast Japan. Even though she was about 230 miles away from the epicenter, Muranishi felt the impact of the temblor when the group's charter bus "started rocking and rolling" as it pulled up to a high-rise building in Tokyo. Muranishi noted in several news articles reporting on her experience that people in Tokyo were "very orderly and calm" and "well-prepared for their response to the earthquake." Muranishi said Alameda County has activated an emergency relief fund for employees to donate money and vacation time to help victims of the Japan earthquake. Check out acgov.org/disaster for more information on how you can help Alameda County and US-Japan Council help Japan. Susan, you're a real mover and shaker!

WLG Events: Past and Future



Jacki Niemi, Moderator. Teri Black, Jennifer Phillips, Joan Flynn and Cathy Standiford, Panelists

Want More?

The Women's Leadership Summit in San Jose will feature a conversation on "Surviving the Reset" on April 21st. Jennifer Phillips will lead a panel of professionals consisting of Bobbi Peckham, Executive Recruiter with Peckham & McKenney; Cathy Standiford, Senior Manager with Management Partners; and Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager for the City of El Cerrito, through a lively discussion of how they and their organizations are responding to and adapting to change.

Recently, WLG hosted a Southern California Roundtable Event that looked at what's happening with California's local governments following the country's major economic "reset". The dynamic discussion included what characteristics employers are now looking for in executive level candidates and according to Teri Black, President of TB&Company, courage to manage the challenges is a

highly sought after skill. Jennifer Phillips, President, JFPhillipsConsulting and WLG Chair, shared her experiences of being a manager in transition and how important networking and support from colleagues when in transition. Joan Flynn, City Clerk, City of Huntington Beach, talked about the employee support programs being offered at the City of Huntington Beach to help city employees through these difficult

times. Cathy Standiford, Senior Manager with Management Partners, discussed several trends that she and her colleagues are seeing among California local governments in dealing with the challenges of the "reset". The event also included the opportunity for attendees to share their personal experiences related to the impacts of change on them and their organizations.

"Surviving the Reset"

PHOTO GALLERY



Nov. 16, 2010 CSAC Conference in Riverside. Panelists from right to left: Pam Easter, ICMA Senior Advisor; Amy Amirani, Civil Source; Veronica Ferguson, CAO Sonoma County; Anna Peters, County of Orange; Jennifer Phillips, WLG Chair. Moderated by Susan Muranishi.



October 2010

Noshing and Networking luncheon in Orange



Contact us!

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Meet Your WLG Board

League of California Cities Liaison: Linda Barton



Linda Barton, City Manager of Livermore for over ten years, is a 35-year member of ICMA and a Credentialed Manager. Linda has an MPA received in 1975 from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has served several organizations in executive management positions, including Bellevue, Washington; Bedford, Texas; Burnsville, Minnesota; Corvallis, Oregon; Lakewood, Colorado; and the State of Minnesota.

She and her husband Gordon Steinman live in Livermore. They have three children and four grandsons. The favorite part of her job is working with the community to make a difference. She says that she was inspired to enter local government service through her “desire to make government and provision of service to our communities a source of pride for our citizens, and the hope that we could make government work effectively and efficiently so that our work is valued.”

Linda serves WLG as the board liaison to the League of California Cities. She says that WLG is important to her for “the opportunity to work with an outstanding group of women and to support women who are just entering our wonderful profession or who are trying to advance their careers.” Linda Barton is a real leader in city management and has been selected by her colleagues for numerous leadership positions. She is currently the President of the City Managers Department of the League of CA Cities and President of the California Redevelopment Association.

Liaison to Special Districts: Kimberly Thomas

Kimberly Thomas serves Women Leading Government as the board liaison to special districts. Kimberly is the Assistant to the City Manager in Mountain View. She lives in Sunnyvale and is a relatively new transplant to northern California, having come from southern California. Kimberly says that the favorite part of working in the City Manager's Office is “the sheer variety of what we get the opportunity to work on daily! No day is ever the same and you get the ability to interact and work with a wide diversity of people who are committed to the community.” She says she was inspired to work in local government through an internship while in graduate school. “I was simply amazed at the variety of work that the staff was able to work on, and frankly, myself as an intern was able to work on! I also enjoyed immensely the ability to have direct interaction with those we serve in the community.”



Kimberly has three degrees – a BA in Political Science with a minor in International Relations from University of California/Irvine, a MA in International Relations from USC, and an MPA from Cal State University/Fullerton. She is a member of ICMA, MMANC, and other professional associations and was a member of MMANC when she was in southern California. She has served in leadership roles in many organizations, including serving as Chair of the Santa Clara City/County Assistants Association, several League of California Cities committees, and a number of MMASC and MMANC committees.

Kimberly says that WLG is “an important organization for all women in the public sector as it provides additional support and resources in what can sometimes be a challenging business. Though city management can at times be challenging, it is also full of opportunities, and one of WLG's roles is to promote and foster career growth for women in the public sector – across the boundaries of “fields,” – whether you hope to be a City Manager or Department Head— WLG will support you! In particular, I have appreciated over the years, its commitment to assisting the next generation of leaders in local government. In addition, I think the organization is strongly committed to building good working relationships among a wide variety of cities and positions.” She says, “sometimes, you just need a professional colleague to offer advice or just listen and WLG is a great success in providing this support, through events, conferences, and/or via mentoring.” Both my professional career and personal life have been enhanced through my participation in WLG.