

April 2007

YEO Frontline News

2007 YEO National Convening a Huge Success!

The 2007 YEO National Convening renewed our collective spirit for the work that we are responsible and committed to doing. More than 100 YEOs from across the country joined together for a healthy balance of issues, skills and networking.

Below several YEOs share their experiences.

Brandon Buchanan

City Councilman,
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

“Before I came here, I knew how active and organized the Religious Right was in building a farm team. I know that other progressive groups have wanted to do the same. I am very thankful to have found a group that is actually doing this.”



Peggy Flanagan

Minneapolis School Board
Minneapolis, Minnesota

“It is critical. The right has been methodically developing leaders for generations. We must engage in a long-term strategy for progressive leadership development. The future of our nation depends on it.”



Chad Campbell

State Representative
Phoenix, Arizona

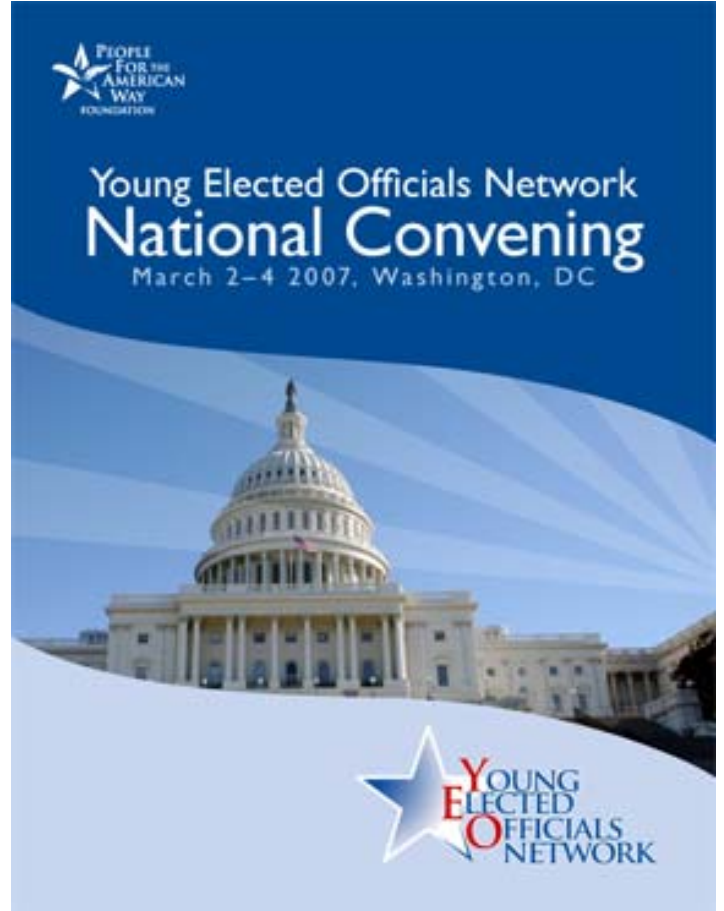
“This is my first experience with YEO and I am very impressed. A great networking opportunity and exchange of ideas, strategy and vision.”



Heather Hudson

Mayor
Greenville, Mississippi

“Outstanding! It gets better every year and to see so many of us together showed how much it is needed. I am so proud of where this organization has come from and where it is going.”



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YEO National Convening Reflections

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Alexander Waters

Ashland County Board Member
Ashland, Wisconsin

“It is a very cutting edge idea that is a great investment. We will go on to do great things and continue to bring more young leaders up as we go.”



Y. Laketa Cole

President Pro Tem of City Council
Cincinnati, Ohio

“The exact motto: New generation of leaders. Yes, because we learn from each other and when you learn from past experiences, you don't waste time or repeat past mistakes.”

Chris Jones

Councilman
San Marcos, Texas

“It was the sting I needed to wake up.”



Rebekah Gewirtz

Aldermans
Somerville, Massachusetts

“This network is so important because it is not just YEOs – it is a progressive YEO Network. It is exactly what we've needed for years. I am so grateful it exists.”

Trinity Donovan

City Councilwoman
Chandler, Arizona

“Often, as young elected officials, we are underestimated by the established community. Thankfully, the voters chose us, despite the stereotypes bestowed on us by others. It has been helpful and encouraging to be around so many inspiring people. When I go to other conferences for electeds, most people are over twice my age. I have enjoyed being around a group of people who can relate to some of my experiences based on our similar age.”



YEOs IN THE NEWS

Hannah Pingree- Augusta, ME

Majority Leader Hannah Pingree recently asked the Maine State House to give communities the option to impose a real estate transfer tax of 1 percent on properties that sell for more than \$500,000 to help build affordable housing for middle-income families now priced out of the market because of the influx of second-home buyers along the coast.

<http://www.keepmecurrent.com/Government/story.cfm?storyID=34369>

Rob Teilhet- McDonough, Georgia

Georgia is debating whether or not to continue to reduce class sizes and a few members of the Legislature believe that such reductions need to stop. However, State Representative Rob Teilhet said the Legislature should use the state's estimated \$500 million to \$600 million surplus to continue the reductions. “Research shows kids do better with smaller class sizes,” he said. “If you're not putting money into the classrooms now, when will you ever do it?”

http://www.henryherald.com/local/local_story_087220554.html

Andy Meisner- Royal Oak, MI

State Representative Andy Meisner wants to change the state's "big company" culture to an entrepreneurship culture. This week, the third-term official unveiled his "Michigan Spirit of Entrepreneurship Initiative," a multi-part plan he hopes will encourage business growth. "What we're trying to do is make Michigan No. 1 in the country for entrepreneurship," he said.

<http://www.hometownlife.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070330/NEWS/703300314/1035/NEWS18>

Michele Reinhart- Great Falls, Montana

Motorists who fill up their tanks with biodiesel fuel would be eligible for a tax credit, under a bill co-sponsored by State Representative Michele Reinhart. “Tax policy is a good way to reward people for doing the right thing, and this is something our consumers want,” said Reinhart.

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070329/NEWS01/70329029>

Jon Cardin- Annapolis, MD

Maryland is poised to become the first state in the nation to approve going around the current Electoral College system and give the state's 10 electoral votes for president to the winner of the national popular vote. Delegate Jon Cardin argued that the measure would make Maryland more relevant in the presidential election process. <http://www.wtopnews.com/index.php?nid=598&sid=1104830>

Policy Corner:

Creating and Funding Community-Based Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Programs

**By: County Commissioner Dave Woodward
Royal Oak, MI**

Target level of Government: County / State
Policy Category: Combating Sexual Assault / Victim Rights
Possible Allies: Women Groups, Law Enforcement Community (prosecutor groups, police organizations, judicial groups), Victim Rights Groups, Health Community (nurses, doctors, hospitals, etc.)

Synopsis

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs are cost effective, locally-based programs that help and support sexual assault survivors while gathering and securing the forensic evidence that is most effective in prosecuting sexual predators.

According to the International Association of Forensic Nurses, there are more than 400 SANE programs in operation across the country. Getting support for the programs is easy; securing the funding necessary to operate them is the challenge.

Benefits of SANE programs:

- Survivors of sexual assault get immediate medical attention in a calm and nurturing environment, by trained professionals, as well as quick access to other critical support needs;
- Survivors are matched with other support services;
- Specially-trained nurses gather the forensic evidence (compile the rape kits) in a form that insures it is available for prosecution should the survivor decide to prosecute. Specialized equipment to maximize forensic evidence gathering is often not present in hospital emergency rooms;
- Evidence gathered is admissible in court;
- When evidence is used, outcomes usually result in very high conviction rates
- Reduces congestion in hospital emergency rooms;
- Saves communities considerable resources. Promptly providing care to survivors of sexual assault prevents police officers (who are required to stay with a survivor until an exam can be conducted) from waiting hours in an emergency room.

It should be a goal for policymakers, victim rights activists, and other community leaders that every survivor of sexual assault has access to a quality SANE program. Many tools and resources exist to support new program development (see resources below).

The biggest barrier to insuring all survivors of sexual assault have access to SANE programs and services is securing the funding to run this type of specialized program. A comprehensive strategy that brings all community partners (state and local government, law enforcement, hospitals, and advocacy organizations) to the table is critical to insuring long-term funding stability. No single entity should have the exclusive financial burden of maintaining such programs, especially when all parties benefit from the existence of programs in their community.

States and local communities can work to develop funding strategies that generate new revenue, or create dedicated funding streams (or a combination of both) so that these programs are available to those who need them most.

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YEOs in Action: Payton and PFAW on Voting Reform

On Tuesday, March 13, affiliate People For the American Way held a forum and lobby day in Harrisburg, Penn. to examine the need for election reform in the state. The event featured experts and activists from across Pennsylvania, as well as several elected officials who work on voting reform, including YEO and State Representative Tony Payton.



Panelists addressed the need for secure and accessible voting machines that provide voter-verified paper ballots, more accessible polling places and curbside voting, and reduced restrictions on absentee ballot eligibility. Other issues discussed included making Election Day a holiday, allowing voters to register to vote on Election Day and preventing deceptive practices.

For more information on the panel [click here](#) or go to <http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/general/default.aspx?oid=23659>.

All Call for Newsletter Articles

Interested in submitting an article to the YEO Newsletter? Please contact Raquel Simon at rsimon@pfaw.org and get connected with more than 350 Young Elected Officials across the country.



PROGRESSIVE PARTNER

HIGHLIGHT: Drum Major Institute

The immigration debate is one of the most heated discussions in America. People want to know how to reconcile their progressive values with the need to protect America's squeezed middle class and all the workers fighting for secure jobs and decent wages.



The Drum Major Institute (DMI) has recently released its "Principles for an Immigration Policy to Strengthen and Expand the American Middle Class: 2007 Edition." [DMI's report](#) argues that immigration policy is sound only if it also helps to strengthen and expand America's middle class.



The new edition of the paradigm-challenging paper features their latest research, including more extensive analysis of border control and guest worker programs as well as a bilingual toolkit for readers and activists.

In the report, you can read how DMI applies its Middle Class Litmus Test to prominent immigration bills proposed by Congress in order to evaluate them for the current and aspiring middle class.

You'll find the above report at www.drummajorinstitute.org/immigration.

The Drum Major Institute for Public Policy is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan, non-profit think tank generating the ideas that fuel the progressive movement. For more information, please visit www.drummajorinstitute.org.

Please note that the views, ideas, or positions of DMI on immigration policy do not reflect the views of People For the American Way Foundation or its advocacy affiliate People For the American Way and should not in any way be attributed to either YEO Network or People For the American Way Foundation.

POLICY CORNER: (SANE) Programs

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Resources

State Legislative Model SANE Funding Policy Legislation:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006/billintroduced/House/pdf/2005-HIB-4222.pdf>

Legislation assesses a \$250 additional fee to individuals convicted of criminal sexual conduct and placed into a dedicated fund that will be used to support SANE programs across the state.

Model for County Funding

Oakland County, MI contracts with Help Against Violence Now (HAVEN), Inc. which operates the only SANE program in the county. The county pays HAVEN \$200 per complete forensic exam of county residents (and covers the personnel cost to perform each forensic exam). Funding does not fully support the program (facilities, equipment, training, public awareness education, etc.). Many communities in Oakland County have also used their Federal Community Development Block Grants to help support the program.

SANE Program Development and other useful information:

US Dept. of Justice Office of Victims Rights http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/bulletins/sane_4_2001/welcome.html

Sexual Assault Resource Center
<http://www.sane-sart.com/>

The Effectiveness of SANE Programs by Rebecca Campbell

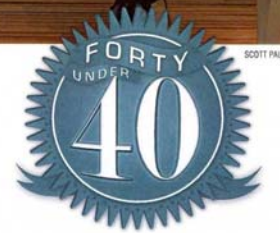
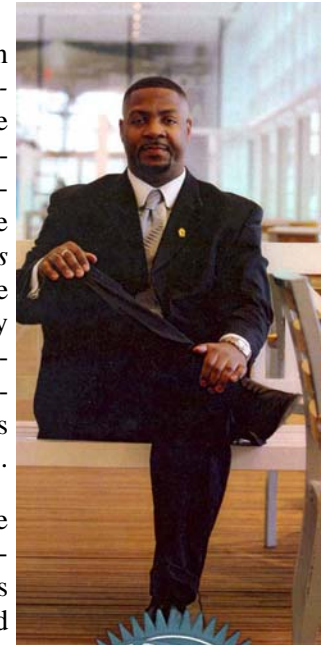
http://www.vawnet.org/SexualViolence/Research/VAWnetDocuments/AR_Sane.pdf



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jason Fields- Milwaukee, WI

State Representative Jason Fields was honored by the *Milwaukee Business Journal* as one of its "forty under 40." In addition to highlighting his successful career in finance, insurance and stockbroking, The *Business Journal* awarded Fields the honor for his business-friendly legislative work and his continued efforts to increase minorities', women's and veteran's access to business opportunities.



Tim Sheehy, president of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce was quoted, "It may sound old school, but he is a man of the people. His interests lie with those ideas that will improve the lives of his constituents, and he is willing to find partners to get that job done. I wish we had more legislators like him."

Kyrsten Sinema- Phoenix, AZ

At the 14th Annual YWCA Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon, State Representative Kyrsten Sinema was selected as this year's Emerging Leader. "I have always cared about women's issues, not just because I am a woman, but because I believe very strongly in justice and equality for all people and groups," Sinema said. "The work that the YWCA does in Arizona and around the country is outstanding. To be honored by that group is really quite extraordinary."

Gabrielle Giffords- Tucson, AZ

Freshman U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords has been awarded the vice chairmanship of the House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment. It's part of the larger House Committee on Science and Technology. Giffords will be number two on a panel that oversees civilian research on energy and conservation programs run by the Energy Department.

Cathy Jolly- Kansas City, MO

Former State Representative Cathy Jolly was elected to the Kansas City Council with nearly 80 percent of the vote. She chose not to run for re-election to the State Legislature because she wanted to spend more time with her family.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2007 FLLA PROGRAM

FRONT LINE LEADERS ACADEMY: CAMPAIGN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Do you know young leaders eager to become a public servant or run a campaign?

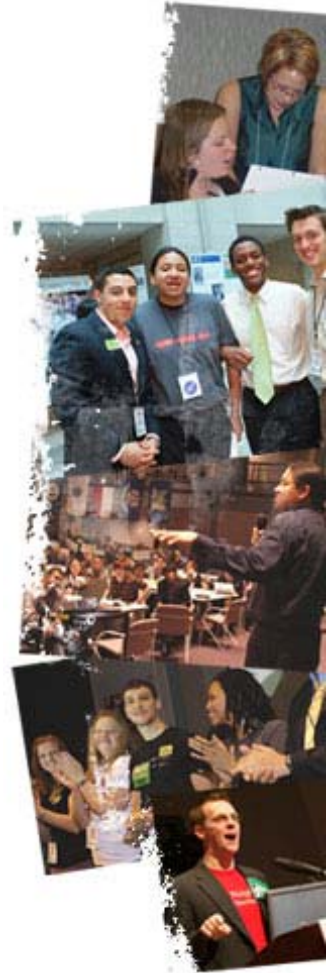
The Young Elected Officials Network is pleased to offer its premier campaign leadership development program known as the Front Line Leaders Academy (FLLA) to twenty talented young people.

For eight months FLLA works with young, unknown leaders and provides trainings on a wide range of leadership development and political skills. Fellows selected to this elite academy are trained on how to be an effective candidate, campaign manager, finance director, communication director and field organizer. Young Elected Officials and fellows work one-on-one, as they develop the necessary skills to become the next generation of progressive candidates and campaign leaders.

If you know young, highly motivated leaders eager to go to the next level in progressive politics, send them to the YEO Website at www.YEONetwork.org to [apply](#) today. The deadline is May 8th!

If you're an expert in any of the five campaign components and interested in being YEO trainer, contact Raquel Simon at rsimon@pfaw.org.

APPLY NOW >> (DEADLINE MAY 8TH)



Mayor Luke Ravenstahl Joins Constituents to Clean Up Pittsburgh

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl joined the Explorer's Club of Pittsburgh's 16th annual Mt. Washington Hillside clean-up last month to help make Mount Washington a more beautiful place. The clean-up was organized by the Explorer's Club of Pittsburgh along with the Mount Washington Development Corporation, with Mayor Luke Ravenstahl taking part in the annual event.

If you have a Constituent Service to report, email rsimon@pfaw.org.





**NATIONAL
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION**

nea.org

The National Education Association (NEA) would like to invite you to participate in an exclusive webcast discussion on how you can help drive a positive agenda for change during the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

NEA's hour-long webcast (see the schedule below) will update you on the status of the reauthorization and NEA's recommended changes to NCLB. Most importantly, you will discuss how you can best influence congressional lawmakers and ensure that the final reauthorized law reflects your input as a policymaker.

They have scheduled two identical webcasts. You are welcome to join whichever webcast fits your schedule. Please RSVP to jhicks@pfaw.org to indicate which webcast you plan to attend. Once we have received your response, we will forward you the webcast instructions.

Webcast schedule

(all times are Eastern Daylight Time):

Monday, May 7 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. EST

Thursday, May 10 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. EST

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Black Caucus of State Legislators:

Healthy Living Summit
May 31- June 2, 2007 Miami, FL
<http://www.nbcsl.com>

AFL-CIO Working for America Institute

June 12-15, 2007 Las Vegas, NV
<http://conference.workingforamerica.org/>

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund

June 14th, 2007 Chicago, IL
<http://www.maldef.org>

National Conference of Mayors

June 22-26, 2007 Los Angeles, CA
<http://www.usmayors.org/>

National Education Association:

Joint Conference on Concerns of Minorities and Women
June 27-28, 2007 Philadelphia, PA
<http://www.nea.org>

National Black Caucus of State Legislators:

NOBEL/Women Annual Conference
June 28 - July 2, 2007 Memphis, TN
<http://www.nbcsl.com>

National Association of Latino Elected Officials:

2007 Annual Conference
June 28-30, 2007 Orlando, FL
<http://www.naleo.org>



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A program of People For the American Way Foundation

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