



MASSACHUSETTS CAUCUS OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS

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JANUARY 2012

REPRESENTATIVE GLORIA FOX RECEIVES NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS' LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



State Representative Gloria L. Fox was honored by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) with its 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award. She was recognized for her "continuous contributions leaving a lasting effect on the African American Community and our nation and the health & vitality of the NBCSL."

Representative Fox was presented with the award in December at the NBCSL annual conference in Chicago. They cited her consistent advocacy "for social and economic development issues particularly for constituents whose voices are seldom heard. As a community activist, (she) is known to work tirelessly to improve conditions that impact basic human services, community development, and family concerns. She lives by her life motto: "If you have a purpose in which you can believe, there's no end to the amount of things you can accomplish." (*Marion Anderson*)

The Lifetime Achievement Award was created to acknowledge legislators, current, past, living or deceased, whose contributions continue to have a lasting effect on the African American community and our nation. The National Black Caucus of State Legislators is a membership association representing more than 600 African American state legislators from 45 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NBCSL members represent more than 50 million Americans of all racial backgrounds.

The female Dean of the House, Representative Fox has been serving the people of the 7th Suffolk district since 1985.



Legislators and staff gathered in the State House's Bullfinch Room for a September dialogue with Massachusetts' only woman in Congress, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas.

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Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

A Message from the Co-Chairs



Senator Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland)



Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord)

Dear Colleagues, Staff and Friends,

Happy New Year to All!

As we reflect upon this past year, we can be proud of the accomplishments of the women of the Legislature, as well as the Legislature as a whole.

Since the beginning of the legislative session, we have successfully addressed an array of issues affecting the people of the Commonwealth. As members of the Legislature, we addressed human trafficking, provided tornado relief to stricken areas, and produced a fair and equitable redistricting plan. We created pension, court, and alimony reform. We worked to stimulate the economy and preserve unemployment benefits, as well as improved the Commonwealth's infrastructure with much needed road and bridge repair—all while maintaining a balanced budget.

We are proud of these achievements, and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities that await us in this session to improve the lives of the people of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

Established in 1975

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Representative Cory Atkins

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Rhonda L. Nyman
Shaunna L. O'Connell
Keiko Orrall
Sarah K. Peake
Alice Hanlon Peisch
Elizabeth A. Poirier
Denise Provost
Kathi-Anne Reinstein
Joyce A. Spiliotis
Harriett L. Stanley
Ellen Story
Martha M. Walz
Alice K. Wolf

CONGRESSWOMAN TSONGAS AND CAUCUS DISCUSS STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Caucus Co-chairs Senator Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland), Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord), and the Caucus of Women Legislators hosted Congresswoman Niki Tsongas for a conversation about issues affecting women at the federal and state levels.

Representing the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Tsongas is the first woman to be elected to Congress from the state of Massachusetts in twenty-five years. Only the fourth Massachusetts woman ever to serve in Congress, she was first elected in a 2007 special election. No woman has ever represented Massachusetts in the United States Senate.

The Congresswoman met with legislators and staff to discuss the impact of the Federal government's programs and funding on State programs. She also addressed two measures she authored to protect the men and women in our military. Congresswoman Tsongas has been a champion of better protecting our service members from sexual assault and providing for counseling to victims. Additionally, she has worked to speed the development of lightweight body armor for our troops.



(l-r) Senator Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland), Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, and Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord).



Representative Linda Dean-Campbell (D-Methuen), an Army veteran whose military career included a stint as paratrooper, commended Congresswoman Tsongas on her work on behalf of the military and veterans.



Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and Representative Linda Dorcena-Forry (D-Dorchester).

Congresswoman Niki Tsongas is only the fourth woman to represent Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives. No woman has ever represented Massachusetts in the United States Senate.



(l-r) Representative Elizabeth Poirier (R-North Attleborough), Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, and Representative Sheila Harrington (R-Groton).

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators



(l-r) Dr. Carol Hardy-Fanta and Caucus House Chair Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord).

UMASS BOSTON CENTER FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Caucus hosted a presentation by Dr. Carol Hardy-Fanta of the UMass Boston Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy. She provided information about the resources available to Legislators and staff and about current research being done by the Center. In addition there was an opportunity to talk about their graduate programs.



WOMEN VETERANS HONORED

Representative Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen), a veteran and Vice-chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, joined Attorney General Martha Coakley, Senator Thomas McGee and Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services Coleman Nee at the Women Veterans' Network 7th Annual Veterans' Appreciation Day held in Memorial Hall at the State House.

SENATE PRESIDENT MURRAY, SENATOR SPILKA CELEBRATE WORK OF BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION



(l-r) Ellie Anbinder, Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth), David Fox, Senator Stephen Brewer (D-Barre). Photo courtesy of David Fox

In September Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) was joined by Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth), Senate Ways and Means Chairman Stephen Brewer (D-Barre), Representative Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston), and other legislators to celebrate the Art beCAUSE Breast Cancer Foundation's exhibit, *Illuminating the Survivor Spirit*.

Displayed in Doric Hall at the State House, the exhibit is a collection of black and white portraits of women and men who have faced breast cancer head on, featured the work of Brookline-based photographer David Fox, who lost his first wife to breast cancer.

The Art beCAUSE Foundation, based in Framingham, uses profits received from its art gallery and additional events it hosts throughout the year to fund research aimed at exploring the links between environmental chemical exposure and breast cancer.



BRAIN INJURY COMMISSION RELEASES REPORT

Senator Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester) and Representative Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden) and the commission exploring issues related to acquired and traumatic brain injuries released its final report. The report addresses major gaps in services, including in case management, day programs, social and recreation services, and post-acute rehabilitation.

TROOP BEACON HILL

CAUCUS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING

The Caucus joined the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts and the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts in celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts is a leadership organization for girls, reaching more than 60,000 girls throughout the Commonwealth. The women of the Massachusetts State Legislature showed their support of Girl Scouts and the future leaders of Massachusetts at an event at the State House. They celebrated Troop Beacon Hill, an honorary Girl Scout Troop comprised of the women of the Massachusetts State Legislature.



Reciting the Girl Scout Oath are:

First Row (l-r) Girl Scouts Jacqueline Prew, Christina Prew, Chloe Wing, Anna Mullane.

Second Row (l-r) Pattie Halberg (G.S. Central and Western Mass.), Ruth Bramson (G.S. Eastern Mass.), Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), Representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) (hidden), Representative Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden), Representative Ruth Balsler (D-Newton), Representative Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge), Representative Denise Garlick (D-Needham), Representative Gloria Fox (D-Roxbury).

Third Row (l-r)

Representative Kate Hogan (D-Stow), Representative Martha Walz (D-Boston), Senator Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester), Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose) Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset), Representative Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown), Representative Denise Provost (D-Somerville), Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston). Fourth Row (l-r) Representative Elizabeth Poirier (R-North Attleborough), Representative Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston), Representative Ellen Story (D-Amherst), Representative Gailanne Cariddi (D-North Adams), Representative Susan Williams Gifford (R-Wareham), Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein (D-Revere), Representative Alice Hanlon Peisch (D-Wellesley), Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville). The group later spontaneously broke into song, singing the Girl Scout melody "Make New Friends but Keep the Old, One is Silver and the Other Gold."



Front row (l-r) Representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), Representative Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden), Ruth Bramson (CEO, Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass.), Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), Pattie Halberg (CEO, Girl Scouts of Central and Western Mass.), Representative Ruth Balsler (D-Newton), Representative Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge). Middle row (l-r) Representative Martha Walz (D-Boston), Senator Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester), Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose), Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset), Representative Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown), Representative Denise Provost (D-Somerville). Back row (l-r) Representative Denise Andrews (D-Orange), Representative Ellen Story (D-Amherst), Representative Gailanne Cariddi (D-North Adams), Representative Susan Williams Gifford (R-Wareham), Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein (D-Revere), Representative Alice Hanlon Peisch (D-Wellesley), Allison Lane (Board of Girl Scouts of Central and Western Mass.), Senator Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). State House photo by Bruce Di Loreto



Representatives Ruth Balsler (D-Newton) and Denise Garlick (D-Needham).

CAUCUS AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEONE HIGHLIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION



Representative Denise Andrews (D-Orange), Senator James Eldridge (D-Acton), and Representative Ellen Story (D-Amherst). Rep. Story spoke about her legislation relative to housing rights for victims of domestic violence.

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord), the Caucus of Women Legislators, and Middlesex District Attorney Gerald T. Leone hosted an October Domestic Violence legislative briefing. There are several pieces of legislation sponsored by Caucus members and supported by the District Attorney.

Legislators provided information about their bills which address the many troubling aspects of domestic violence.



Caucus Senate Chair Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) has several pieces of pending legislation addressing domestic abuse. She applauded the work being done by the district attorney's office .



Representative David Linsky (D-Natick), Representative Denise Provost (D-Somerville), and Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord) all are sponsors of legislation addressing domestic violence.



Representative Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston) spoke regarding bills she has filed regarding restraining orders , bail, and pretrial conditions.



Caucus House Chair Cory Atkins (D-Concord) pictured with District Attorney Gerry Leone, thanked him, Caucus members, and other legislators present, for their work in support of victims of domestic violence.



Representative Kate Hogan (D-Stow), Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose), and Representative Paul Brodeur (D-Melrose). Rep. Hogan spoke regarding preventing the release of a body by the medical examiner to a person charged with an offence that resulted in the death of the deceased. Senator Clark spoke about her bills dealing with strangulation and domestic violence and animals.

CAUCUS GROWS BY TWO

The Caucus of Women Legislators is happy to welcome two new members. Representative Keiko Orrall (R- Lakeville) and Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield) were elected in special elections this fall.

Representative Keiko Orrall lives in Lakeville with her husband, Norman, and their children Hannah and Ethan. Her parents were both public school teachers and she taught public school for several years. A graduate of Smith College, Representative Orrall served on the finance committee in Lakeville as well as a school needs study committee. She has led several successful grassroots campaigns including the defeat of a permanent tax increase and has been involved in advocating for people in the community for years.

Representative Orrall believes that volunteerism and public service are the duties of all Americans. She is proud of her heritage and family service in the military and felt the need to become involved in helping to solve the problems of the Commonwealth. She believes the position of State Representative is one of a public servant. Representative Orrall is family oriented and her favorite past time is to be with her family enjoying outings. She is an active member in her church community and enjoys volunteering and giving back to the community. An avid runner, she is working towards a goal of completing a half marathon in every state.

Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier was born and raised in Pittsfield. She has a BA in Special and Elementary Education from Salve Regina University and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Connecticut. She began her involvement in local politics in 2002 through the "Save Our Schools" campaign, a grass-roots movement designed to express support for municipal funding of the Pittsfield's schools. As an at-large member of the Pittsfield City Council, and later as a member of the Mayor's staff, she was proud to be part of a team that helped to shape a downtown Renaissance. She has served on the School Building Needs Commission and has been the mayor's staff liaison to the commission.

In addition to her experience in city government, Rep. Farley-Bouvier has 25 years of experience in the field of education as teacher, trainer, and administrator, most recently as the executive director of the Literacy Network of South Berkshire. She has twice lived overseas, first as a volunteer in Belize and second as a special education teacher in Uruguay. She and her husband Dan have three teenage children who are actively involved in local sports.



Representative Keiko Orrall (R- Lakeville)



Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield)



ADVOCATES FOR AUTISM

Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) joined Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts for a legislative briefing about what needs to be done to best help adults with autism.

EXPANDED BOTTLE BILL CHAMPIONED

Backers of the expanded bottle bill - a proposal to include non-carbonated bottled beverages that can be redeemed when the bottles are recycled - held a rally to convince lawmakers to act on the proposal. Representative Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge), a primary sponsor of the legislation, was among the legislators who spoke to the group. She is pictured with "Bottle Bill".



Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

PREMATURITY AWARENESS EVENT DRAWS LARGE CROWD *1 IN 8 BABIES IS BORN TOO SOON*

On the eve of World Prematurity Day in November, the Caucus joined the Massachusetts Biotechnology Caucus in hosting a briefing on premature birth with the March of Dimes and Jewish Family & Children Services and area health experts. The event highlighted the need for sufficient medical care for babies born prematurely, who are at increased risk for a variety of health complications due to their early birth.

Prematurity is a significant problem in Massachusetts and nationwide. More than half a million babies are born preterm in the U.S. each year, with 160 preemies born each week in Massachusetts alone. Because of their early births, these babies are especially



Elizabeth Dunn from the March of Dimes and Caucus House chair Cory Atkins.

vulnerable and often require inpatient medical care before they can go home to their families. Once outside the hospital, however, no standardized follow-up procedures exist to ensure that preterm babies continue to receive the care they need. House Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset) and Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose) spoke about legislation they sponsored to improve the support of preterm infants after discharge with the goal of reducing infant morbidity and mortality associated with prematurity. The large crowd in attendance learned more about how prematurity is being addressed from Dr. Jonathan Davis of Tufts-NEMC and Dr. Amir Lahav of Brigham and Women's Hospital, Ed Doherty of the March of Dimes, and Peggy Kaufman of Jewish Family & Children Service's Center for Early Relationship Support.



(l-r) Elizabeth Pujolas, MedImmune; Peggy Kaufman, Jewish Family & Children, Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset), Ed Doherty, March of Dimes, Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord); Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose); Dr. Jonathan Davis, Tufts-NEMC; and Dr. Amir Lahav, Brigham and Women's Hospital. State House photo by Bruce Di Loreto

Women's Hospital, Ed Doherty of the March of Dimes, and Peggy Kaufman of Jewish Family & Children Service's Center for Early Relationship Support.



Among the Legislators in attendance at the Prematurity Awareness Event were: Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset), Representatives Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield), Keiko Orrall (R-Lakeville), Edward Coppinger (D-Boston), Nick Collins (D-Boston), Paul Schmid (D-Westport), Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester), John Lawn (D-Watertown), Cory Atkins (D-Concord), Senators Katherine Clark (D-Melrose), Richard Moore (D-Uxbridge), Representatives Eugene O'Flaherty (D-Chelsea), Kay Khan (D-Newton), Jennifer Benson (D-Lunenburg), and Gloria Fox (D-Roxbury). State House photo by Bruce Di Loreto

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) and Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia A. Haddad (D-Somerset) were the honored speakers at a State House event celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Community Preservation Act. The Community Preservation Act allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. The Senate President was introduced by Senator Cynthia Stone Creem (D-Newton). The Robert Kuehn Community Preservation awards were presented to ten recipients from around the Commonwealth.



Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) and Senator Cynthia Stone Creem (D-Newton).

NEGOTIATING THE MEDIA

The Caucus hosted a panel for Caucus members and their staffs on "Negotiating the Media". Moderated by Heidi Raphael, Vice President of Corporate Communication of Greater Media, Inc., introductory remarks were offered by Peter Smyth, Chairman and CEO of Greater Media, Inc.

Session Panelists included Grace Blazer, Program Director for WTKK-FM (96.9 Boston Talks) and 969Bostontalks.COM; Gay Vernon, News Director of Greater Media Boston & host of Exceptional Women on MAGIC 106.7FM; Jennifer Williams, Director of Interactive Marketing at Greater Media, Inc.; and Timothy Egan, Chief Marketing Officer and Executive Producer of Moody Street Pictures.



Moderator Heidi Raphael, Vice President of Corporate Communication of Greater Media, Inc., kept the lively discussion on target. Special thanks from the Caucus go out to Heidi for her help with organizing the event.



(l-r) Representatives Alice Hanlon Peisch (D-Wellesley), Denise Provost (D-Somerville), Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown), Elizabeth Poirier (R-North Attleborough), Martha Walz (D-Boston) and Cory Atkins (D-Concord) were among the many Caucus members who attended.

(l-r) Caucus House Chair Cory Atkins (D-Concord), Peter Smyth, Gay Vernon, Timothy Egan, Grace Blazer, and Jennifer Williams.



Caucus Co-Chairs Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) and Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord) thanked the panel for their insights.

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PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION CAUCUS VISITS CAMPUSES

Representative Jennifer Benson (D-Lunenburg) visited UMASS Lowell as part of the Public Higher Education Caucus' visits to several public higher education campuses across the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts legislators visited campuses across the state to meet with administrators, faculty members, and students as part of a project to raise awareness of and appreciation for public higher education.

If speaking is silver, then listening is gold.
Turkish Proverb

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LISTENING TOUR

Representative Linda Dorcena Forry (D-Dorchester) led the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses on a statewide listening tour of community development organizations. The committee made a seven-stop regional tour designed to bring together leaders in the field of community development and state legislators to discuss best practices, challenges and how the state can most effectively support community-based development work.

The roundtable discussions throughout the tour revealed both the wide variety of projects pursued by local community development organizations and the key dilemmas those organizations face in meeting local needs.



JOBS CREATION COMMISSION LAUNCHES REGIONAL HEARINGS TOUR

Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) and Representative Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee), co-chairs of the Jobs Creation Commission, kicked off a Regional Hearings Tour. At these hearings held throughout the state, Commissioners are hoping to learn from business leaders, hiring agencies, and workers about how to increase job creation.



These sessions are intended to provide commissioners with a complete overview of the challenges and opportunities individuals face when looking for work and those that local businesses face when looking to hire. Discussions will focus on the methods, ideas and opportunities available to help spur job creation and ensure continued economic growth across the Commonwealth. The intent is to use this information to examine the effectiveness of the State's existing policies as well as identify what additional work can be done to propel economic growth, create jobs, and help Massachusetts maintain its competitive edge.

TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE FOCUS OF STATEWIDE TOUR

Senator Eileen Donoghue (D-Lowell) and Representative Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown), chairs of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development, led listening tours throughout the state. The committee heard testimony from various organizations and individuals from the fields of tourism, arts and culture. The picture above shows them touring the Lowell Canals and the Lowell National Historic Park. Pictured (l-r) are Representative Sarah Peake and Senator Eileen Donoghue.



Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

WORLD AIDS DAY

Representatives Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown) and Carl Sciortino (D-Somerville) hosted World AIDS Day at the State House. Senator Susan Fargo (D-Lincoln) and Representative Martha Walz (D-Boston) were among the speakers. The Massachusetts General Court, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Boston Public Health Commission jointly recognized the day. Prayer Ribbons from the annual Provincetown “Swim 4 Life” were on display. These ribbons honor the memory of loved ones.



Senator Susan Fargo (D-Lincoln).



Representative Martha Walz (D-Boston) addressed the large crowd.



Representatives Carl Sciortino (D-Somerville), Elizabeth Malia (D-Jamaica Plain), and Linda Dorcena-Forry (D-Dorchester).



Representative Kate Hogan (sixth from left) is pictured with other conference participants at the Northern La Grande Complex.

REPRESENTATIVE HOGAN PARTICIPATES IN QUEBEC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE

This fall Representative Kate Hogan (D-Stow) was sent as a delegate from the House of Representatives to a sustainable energy conference in the Province of Quebec, Canada. Representative Hogan, along with legislators from across the northeast, was given an overview of the 25 year energy plan, the *Plan de Nord*. She also toured Hydro-Quebec's Northern La Grande Complex, an energy producing facility. Hydro-Quebec is a state-run company that generates 95 percent of Quebec's energy from sustainable practices.

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

REDISTRICTING LEGISLATION APPROVED

Flanking Governor Deval Patrick at the Congressional Redistricting bill signing are members of the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting (l-r) Representatives Sean Garballey (D- Arlington), Elizabeth Poirier (R-North Attleborough), Linda Dorcea Forry (D-Dorchester), John Keenan (D-Salem), Michael J. Moran (D- Brighton), Alice Hanlon Peisch (D-Wellesley), Senator Daniel Wolf (D-Harwich) and Representative Marcos Devers (D-Lawrence).



GENERATION CITIZEN CIVICS DAY

Representative Gloria Fox (D-Roxbury) and Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose) joined more than 200 middle and high school students and their teachers in celebrating the rich tradition of democracy in our state. The students came from schools in Boston, Cambridge, Malden, and Arlington.

Generation Citizen sponsors action-based civics programs in Greater Boston schools, working with more than 2,000 students. The curriculum, taught by area college students, encourages middle and high school students to learn about the political process through taking action on an issue that is important to them. The students made their final presentations at a showcase held at the State House in December.



The Caucus was fortunate this fall to have Leanna Rodriquez serving as an intern in the office. She split her duties between the Caucus and Representative Kate Hogan's office. Leanna is a senior at Brandeis University, and will be graduating in the spring with a double major in Politics and American Studies and a minor in Legal Studies.



From Miami Beach, Florida, Leanna has been dancing for twelve years. At Brandeis she is part of the Adagio Dance Company, the largest student dance group on campus. She serves as the Events Coordinator on the Executive Board. Part of her job includes the planning and organizing of their second annual Dance Marathon charity event supporting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and Children's Hospital Boston.

Leanna decided that she would choose a path of law and government after reading the book To Kill a Mockingbird in sixth grade.

FERRANTE HOSTS ITALIAN POLICE



Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D- Gloucester) and Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R- Gloucester) hosted a delegation consisting of 29 Officers of the Italian State Police, accompanied by Italian Consul General to Boston Giuseppe Pastorelli. Boston was the delegation's final stop before returning to Italy after participating in a multi-jurisdiction law enforcement exchange.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

REPRESENTATIVE REINSTEIN NAMED CAPIC'S LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein (D-Revere) was recently named CAPIC Inc.'s Legislator of the Year for her ongoing dedication to the community organization. Representative Reinstein noted, "I am humbled by CAPIC's decision to grant me this honor. She continued, "I have always believed in the organization's mission and work to eliminate poverty in our communities and I am proud to remain a strong voice for CAPIC now and well into the future."

CAPIC, which is an acronym for Community Action Programs Intercity, is a community organization that is dedicated to eradicating the root causes of poverty in Revere, Chelsea, and Winthrop.



(l-r) Bob Repucci, Executive Director of CAPIC,; Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein (D-Revere); and Richelle Cromwell, President of the Board of Directors of CAPIC.

SENATOR CHANDLER RECEIVES MCCC LEGISLATIVE AWARD



(l-r) W. Brooks Smith, Cape Cod Community College faculty and MCCC Strategic/Political Action Activist; Joe LeBlanc, MCCC President; Senator Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester); and Donnie McGee, MCCC Vice President.

Senator Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester) received the Massachusetts Community College Council Legislative Award. The award celebrates Senator Chandler as a "Friend of the Community College".



SENATOR SONIA CHANG-DÍAZ RECEIVES TWO HONORS

Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz (D-Boston) is pictured receiving the Self-sufficiency Public Service Award from the Massachusetts Association for Community Action in October. She was also honored with the Justice in Action Award from the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund in December.

COLLEGE AWARDS REPRESENTATIVE CREEDON PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

Representative Geraldine Creedon (D-Brockton) was honored to receive the Presidential Medallion from Massasoit Community College in October. Medallion winners are also Honorary Degree Recipients at the 2012 commencement ceremony. Rep Creedon was chosen for the Presidential Medallion for her commitment and service to Massasoit Community College and the greater community of Southeastern Massachusetts.



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COMMUNITY PEACEMAKER AWARD PRESENTED TO REPRESENTATIVE MARTHA WALZ

Representative Martha Walz (D-Boston) received the Community Peacemaker Award, presented annually to individuals and organizations that have shown dedication in the field of mediation and dispute resolution, from the Community Dispute Settlement Center at its annual Spirit of Mediation Gala. The CDSC is a private, non-profit community center that offers mediation, training programs, and community education on dispute resolution. Representative Walz received the award in recognition of her work to prevent bullying in schools.



Senator Jennifer Flanagan at Toll Fellowship completion ceremony.

SENATOR FLANAGAN, REPRESENTATIVE WALZ NAMED TOLL FELLOWS

Senator Jennifer Flanagan (D-Leominster) and Representative Martha Walz (D-Boston) traveled to Kentucky this fall to participate in an intensive six-day leadership program. Senator Flanagan and Representative Walz were two of only forty state government officials from around the country selected to participate in the prestigious Toll Fellowship program. The program, named for Council of State Governments founder Henry Wolcott Toll, provides advanced training on communications and media, crisis management, adaptive leadership, and opportunities for networking and relationship building.

REPRESENTATIVE KHAN MASS. NOW 2011 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Representative Kay Khan was honored as the Mass.NOW 2011 Legislator of the Year at their annual meeting for her longstanding commitment to many of the issues that Mass. NOW supports including; paid sick days, access to safe and healthy birth options, reproductive rights, and transgender rights.



Founded in 1968, the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Organization for chapters across the state. Mass.NOW works to advance the equal status of women and girls in all aspects of their lives.



REPRESENTATIVE CARIDDI ON PANEL

Representative Gailanne Cariddi (D-North Adams) participated in a panel discussion following the screening of *Miss Representation* at the Images Theater in Williamstown. The documentary explores the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America and challenges the media's limited portrayal of what it means to be a powerful woman.

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REPRESENTATIVE WOLF RECEIVES ACCOLADES FOR HER WORK ON BEHALF OF ELDERS



Representative Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge) received the 2011 John Phillip Sousa Award from the Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services for “outstanding advocacy efforts on behalf of

Cambridge and Somerville Elders”. The award is given in memory of a long time Cambridge resident, John Phillip Sousa, who served on the Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Board of Directors. He was an outspoken and tireless advocate for elders, especially the poor and frail.

Representative Wolf also received the 2011 Legislator of Year Award from the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys for her outstanding work on the Elder Affairs Committee and particularly her work to save the nursing home bed hold and adult day health benefits.

REPRESENTATIVE DORCENA FORRY PRESENTED HUMANITARIAN AWARD



The Motion Picture Association of Haiti, Inc. presented State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry (D-Dorchester) with a 2011 MPAH Humanitarian Award. The Award was in recognition of her meaningful contribution to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Efforts.

DORCENA FORRY WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Representative Linda Dorcena Forry was honored with the “Woman of the Year” award at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 17 Annual Friends For Children Celebration. Friends for Children is a local nonprofit founded more than thirty years ago by the past President, Lee Wordsworth. The organization began as Wordsworth’s personal mission and has since expanded to raise thousands of dollars for children’s charities throughout the Boston area and particularly during the holiday season.



Representative Linda Dorcena Forry with Festus Joyce, the Financial-Secretary and Treasurer of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 17 in Dorchester .

REPRESENTATIVE COAKLEY-RIVERA HONORED BY TWO GROUPS

For more than three decades, the Stavros Center for Independent Living has been working for justice and access for people with disabilities in western Massachusetts. Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera (D-Springfield) was honored at their annual Access Award Luncheon. She received the Bill McCarthy Award for her commitment to create legislation and policies that improve access for people who have disabilities. The Stavros Center for Independent Living serves more than 6,000 individuals in Hampden Hampshire, and Franklin Counties.

Representative Coakley-Rivera was also recognized by the Dakin Humane Society. They presented her with the Dakin Champion Award for her tireless advocacy as a public servant on behalf of those most in need of a strong voice in Boston including animals. Representative Coakley-Rivera passionately and convincingly led the fight to prevent the unnecessary devocalization of dogs and cats, has argued against legislation that calls for breed specific bans, and has been recognized for her efforts to help end greyhound racing in Massachusetts.



Shown (l-r) at the Dakin Humane Society Awards dinner are: Judy Smith, Lifetime Achievement Award; Colin Scully, Youth Award; Dakota, Animal Hero Award; Vicki Alfano-Friberg; Leslie Harris, Executive Director; and Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera (D-Springfield). The event was held at the Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke.

Photo by Neil A. Hawley

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators



*Representative Lori Ehrlich (D-Marblehead)
Photo courtesy of Martha Stewart*

REPRESENTATIVE EHRLICH SPEAKER AT HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

Representative Lori Ehrlich (D-Marblehead) recently spoke at the Harvard Kennedy School's Women and Public Policy Program "From Harvard Square to the Oval Office: A Political Campaign Practicum." The Oval Office program is designed to teach students to run for office through hands-on training by growing their professional and personal networks and connecting them with women leaders in the public sector.

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE HADDAD ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECOGNIZED

Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset) was recognized with the Abigail Adams Award. The first woman to hold the position of Speaker Pro Tempore, she is the highest ranking woman in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus introduced the Tribute to Abigail Adams in 1988 to recognize Massachusetts women leaders. Award recipients are women who have demonstrated through their work and their community activism an outstanding commitment to the realization of equal political, economic, and social rights for women.

This fall, Speaker Pro Tempore Haddad also received the 2011 Legislator of the Year Award from SEIU Local 509. This award is presented to legislators who acknowledge and support the dedicated efforts of the human service workers in Massachusetts. The Equal Justice Coalition awarded her a Beacon of Justice Award, which is presented to legislators who work with civil legal assistance for the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents.



*Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset) at Abigail Adams Awards.
Photo courtesy of Mass. Women's Political Caucus*



The Caucus sponsored a successful clothing drive for the Middlesex District Attorney's Cut-It-Out Program.

The program assists victims of domestic violence in preparation for job interviews, as they transition from emergency shelter to independent living. Thank you to Legislators and staff for your generosity.

BEACON OF JUSTICE AWARDS

The Equal Justice Coalition honored Senator Cynthia Stone Creem (D-Newton), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, with the Beacon of Justice Award. She was selected for her outstanding support in providing access to justice for low-income Massachusetts residents with critical civil legal problems this past year.

The Equal Justice Coalition also presented a Beacon of Justice award to Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia A. Haddad (D-Somerset).



(l-r) Lonnie Powers, Lisa Goodheart, Senator Cynthia Stone Creem (D-Newton) at the Beacon of Justice Award ceremony.

SENATE PRESIDENT HONORED



Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) was named Legislator of the Year by Voices of Recovery and Rehabilitation. She was also honored to receive one of the “Women of Excellence” awards from the Germaine Lawrence Treatment Center.

She is pictured with members of by Voices of Recovery and Rehabilitation in the Senate Chamber.



BE THE CHANGE

Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville) received a Be the Change Award from Community Family for her work on adult day health.



SENATOR KATHERINE CLARK RECEIVES AWARDS

Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose) was presented an Advocacy in Action “Be the Change” award “for successfully keeping adult day health services alive in the state budget” by The Community Family.

She was also recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

UPCOMING CAUCUS EVENTS

January 26

STEM Update

Joyce L. Plotkin

Chair, The DIGITS Project and

President Emerita, Mass Tech Leadership Council

February 1

Go Red for Women

February 7

Caucus Annual Meeting

February 15

**Domestic and Sexual Violence
Prevention Informational Session**

*New Hope, Inc., Pathways for Change, and the
Boston Area Rape Crisis*

February 29

Women's Health

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH

*Executive Director of the Connors Center for
Women's Health and Gender Biology and Chief of
the Division of Women's Health at Brigham and
Women's Hospital; and Associate Professor of
Medicine at Harvard Medical School.*

For additional information, please contact
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susan.wojtas@mahouse.gov

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

REPRESENTATIVE LIZ MALIA HONORED

Representative Elizabeth Malia (D-Jamaica Plain) received an award from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recognizing her for her “longstanding and tireless leadership in substance abuse and HIV and her dedication to prevention, treatment and intervention needs of injection drug users and others suffering from addiction. The DPH said her efforts on behalf of Commonwealth residents have contribute enormously to support public health in Massachusetts.



(l-r) State Auditor Suzanne Bump, Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral and Representative Shaunna O'Connell (R-Taunton).

REPRESENTATIVE O'CONNELL PANELIST AT COMMONWEALTH COMMENTARY- KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT AAUW

Representative Shaunna O'Connell (R-Taunton) was a panelist at the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus' Commonwealth Commentary breakfast. She joined Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral and State Auditor Suzanne Bump in a discussion of women in politics.

Representative O'Connell was also the keynote speaker at the Taunton Area Branch American Association of University Women Opening Meeting. The AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

REPRESENTATIVE BENSON NAMED EMERGING LEADER

Representative Jennifer Benson (D-Lunenburg) was named an Emerging Leader to represent Massachusetts at the National Conference of State Legislatures Conference for Emerging Leaders. During the three-day conference she met with legislators from all over the United States. Speakers and Senate Presidents from numerous states spoke about their terms as leaders, what qualities they looked for in new leaders and ways to address conflicts and difficult issues within their legislative bodies. They also discussed the importance of good communication both within State Houses and with the public.



SENATOR KAREN SPILKA RECEIVES METROWEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ATHENA AWARD

The MetroWest Chamber of Commerce presented its ATHENA Leadership Award to Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) for being a consistent champion for education, transportation, working families, government reform, and taxpayers.

The award recognizes women for professional excellence, community service, leadership skills, and actively assisting other women.