

**From:** Indiana Commission for Women [icw@subscriptions.in.gov]

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## Indiana Commission for Women



*Moving Women Forward - May 2010*

### **Happy Mothers Day - A Very Short History of Mother's Day**

The modern *Mother's Day* was established by Anna Marie Jarvis, after the death of her mother Ann Jarvis. However, the first "official" observance was held on May 10, 1908 with services held in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Ms. Jarvis then campaigned to establish *Mother's Day* as a national holiday in the United States. The holiday was officially declared a state holiday by West Virginia in 1910 with the rest of states quickly following. Finally, on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as a recognized federal observance in honor of mothers, thus establishing it as a cherished holiday for families throughout the country.

For more information about Mother's Day, visit these websites:

- U.S. Census 2009 Fact Sheet: [http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/013412.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/013412.html)
- National Women's History Project: <http://www.nwhp.org/>

### **National Women's Health Week begins this week**

From the Office of Women's Health at the Indiana State Department of Health:

"[National Women's Health Week](#) is celebrated from May 9-15, 2010 with the purpose of empowering women to make their health a top priority and take simple steps for a happier life. During National Women's Health Week, communities, businesses, government, health organizations, and other groups work together to educate women about steps they can take to improve their physical and mental health and lower their risks of certain diseases."

For more information visit these websites:

- National Women's Health Information Center: <http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw/index.cfm>
- Indiana Office of Women's Health: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/18061.htm>

### **Inter-Agency Network for Women and Girls meets regularly**

Each quarter, the Indiana Commission for Women hosts an inter-agency meeting of individuals from state agencies focused either on outreach to women, have a program or service specifically geared toward women or have direct impact on women's lives. Currently there are approximately 45 members representing over 20 agencies throughout state government.

The purpose of these informal meetings is to share what each agency is doing to support women in Indiana and to discuss ways we might collaborate in order to build efficiency and effectiveness in our outreach to women. Each agency has the opportunity to tell the group about new or upcoming programs, successes and changes. At each meeting, a speaker from one of the agencies gives a short presentation on a topic in his/her area that would be of interest to the group.

Our last meeting was held on Monday, April 26, and featured an informative presentation from the Department of Workforce Development which provided valuable data on women in the labor force. Resources on women in the workforce can be found at:

- Women in the Labor Force: A Databook (2009 Edition): <http://www.bls.gov/cps/wlf-databook2009.htm>
- Institute for Women's Policy Research: <http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/C350a.pdf>

Additional information on this and other topics can also be found at ICW's website ([www.in.gov/icw](http://www.in.gov/icw)) under our [Resources](#) page.

If you are part of a state agency and would like to be notified of upcoming meetings, please contact our office at [icw@dwd.in.gov](mailto:icw@dwd.in.gov) and we will add you to our notification roster.

## Dates and locations announced for this year's *Advancing Women in Business Series*

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and the Indiana Small Business Development Center Network will host the 4th annual *Advancing Hoosier Women in Business* seminar series this July 2010. These one-day events focus on entrepreneurship and feature successful women business owners from the local community. Resource panels and networking opportunities educate interested women on growing or starting their own business. Series locations include:

- Terre Haute - July 8
- New Albany - July 9
- South Bend - July 15
- Richmond - July 23

Information about registration will be posted later at: <http://www.in.gov/ocra/2341.htm>

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## About the Indiana Commission for Women

The Indiana Commission for Women is committed to the full participation of women in all aspects of society in order to make Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family. Our mission is to understand the needs of Indiana women and their families, and to work strategically both within government and in our communities to help bring about positive change. We work to remove the barriers that hinder women's participation by:

- Increasing awareness of the state of women in Indiana and the issues they face
- Recognizing and promoting contributions that Hoosier women make to their community, state and nation

- Providing balanced analysis of public policy issues that impact women in Indiana.

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