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AFL-CIO Working Women's Conference 9/7/1997

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August 25, 1997

Ms. Mary Beth Cahill
Emily's List
805 15th Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Cahill:

Hyatt Regency
Capitol Hill
Ballroom Level

This past Spring, the AFL-CIO Working Women's Department initiated Ask a Working Woman, an unprecedented outreach program to find out what women want to change on the job. The Ask a Working Woman National Conference will be held in Washington, DC on September 5-7, where the results of the Ask a Working Woman survey will be reported and working women from all over the country will get together to map out an agenda for change.

More than 1,000 women are expected to attend the conference, and the speakers include Vice President Gore, Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, former Texas Governor Ann Richards, and Senator Barbara Mikulski. Workshop topics include organizing, political action, and issue advocacy. We are honored to invite you to serve as a panelist at a workshop on Electing Women to Public Office. We know about your impressive work in this area, and would love to have you come and share your experience and expertise with our workshop participants.

The organizing workshops will take place on Sunday, September 7, from 10:45 am to noon. Most workshops will have three speakers, and we ask that you prepare a talk for five to six minutes, in order to allow as much time as possible for discussion. We also ask that you bring along materials on your topic, for distribution to those who participate in the workshop and extras for others who are interested. Plan on approximately 50 participants.

Your participation as a panelist is crucial to the success of the conference, and we think you'll enjoy taking part in the conference as well. Suzanne Granville, from the Working Women's Department, will be contacting you shortly. We hope you'll say yes. We also hope others from your organization will plan to come. Please notify us as soon as possible.

~~Three Panelists at most~~
Bertha Louise Poe
SEC Treasurer of MI AFL-CIO
Charlie Carter WCF
Shelly Seaburg AFL-staff
Ann Rand, St. Sen from Maine,
KN/sb, opett#2, afl-cio
Anita Perez-Ferguson

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Nussbaum".
Karen Nussbaum, Director
Working Women's Department

A G E N D A

August 18, 1997

Draft

Ask A Working Woman Conference

Friday, September 5, 1997

- 12:00-6 p.m. Registration for Conference Attendees and Press
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. Opening Plenary (*Sumi Haru, Mistress of Ceremonies*)
Invocation and Color Guard
AFL-CIO President John Sweeney
Gloria Johnson, Vice President AFL-CIO, Chair of
the Committee on Women Workers
Dr. Dorothy Height
- 7-9:00 p.m. Reception Honoring CLUW
Jaleo

Saturday, September 6, 1997

- 9:00-10:30 a.m. Plenary
Dr. Julianne Malveaux
Charlie Kernaghan, National Labor Committee
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Karen Nussbaum
- 10:45-12:15 p.m. Issue Workshops:
Affirmative Action
AIDS and Women
Alternative Work Schedules: Flex-time/Flex hours
Bargaining for Work and Family Issues
Child/Elder Care
Common Sense Economics
Expanding the Family Medical Leave Act
Immigrant Workers
Living Wage Campaigns
Pay Equity
Retirement Security
Rights of Contingent Workers
Sexual Harrassment
Sweatshops Across Borders
Violence Against Women
Welfare Reform
Workers with Disabilities
Workplace Issues for Gay and Lesbian Workers
Workplace Safety and Health

12:30-2:15 p.m.

Lunch/Plenary

AFL-CIO Executive VP Linda Chavez-Thompson
Representative Richard Gephardt (video greetings)
Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton
Nancy Riche, Canadian Labor Council

2:45-4:15 p.m.

Organizing Workshops:

Building Community Support for the Right to Organize
Changing to Organize
Internal Organizing
Intro to Low Wage Worker Organizations
Organizing A Union In Your Workplace
Organizing Across Borders

Industry Breakouts:

Clerical
Food Processing
Food Services and Hospitality Industry
Globalization and Organizing: Practical Experiences
Health Care Providers
High Tech
Higher Education
Public Sector
Sales and Service
Temporary Workers
Women in the Trades
Workfare

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Action In Support of Organizing

7:30 p.m.

Reception at the The National Museum for Women in the Arts
Vice President Albert Gore
Rebel Voices
Elise Bryant

Sunday, September 7, 1997

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Plenary

Elise Bryant and Gospel Singers
Representative Maxine Waters
Governor Ann Richards

10:45-11:45 a.m.

Political Workshops:

Electing Women to Public Office
Getting the Policies We Want: Affecting Legislation
Grassroots Ballot Initiatives
Intro to Working Women Vote '98
Staging a Press Event

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Lunch/Closing Plenary

Secretary Alexis Herman
AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka

MEMO

To: Mary Beth Cahill
From: Emily Read
Subject: AFL-CIO Working Women's Conference
Date: September 5, 1997

AFL-CIO Working Women's Conference

What: Workshop entitled "Electing Women to Public Office"

When: Sunday, Sept 7 from 10:45-Noon

Where: At the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Ballroom Level

400 New Jersey Ave., NW. Valet parking only. Rates are: \$6/first 2 hours, \$1 each additional hour or \$16/day. AFL-CIO may be able to validate your parking.

Audience: The participants are rank and file union women. Plan on approximately 50-75 participants.

Content: Right now, your workshop has two panelists, yourself and Bertha Louise Poe, the Secretary Treasurer for the MI AFL-CIO. The conference organizer, Suzanne Granville, has asked that you each prepare a talk for 7-10 minutes, in order to allow as much time as possible for discussion. They have also asked that you bring along materials on your topic for distribution (we should talk about this). Areas Suzanne would like you to address include:

- how running different for women candidates
- how to build support among union women
- union women as potential candidates

Other presenters: Panelists for workshops other than your own include Charlie Carter of WCF, Shelly Seaburg of AFL-CIO, ME St Sen Ann Rand (not the novelist), and Anita Perez Ferguson

Contact: Suzanne Granville, AFL-CIO Working Women's Dept, 637-5064.

TO: Mary Beth

cc: ~~Ellen~~ Kevin

FR: Kim

RE: What voters think about women running for public office

DT: September 5, 1997

Following is the data I found about voter perception toward women running for public office. I hope it is useful in your presentation.

Gallup Surveys

- Since 1945, public perceptions about a woman as President has drastically changed. In 1945, only 33 percent of voters said they would vote for a qualified woman if she were nominated by her Party. By 1987, 82 percent of voters said they would vote for a qualified woman if she were nominated by the Party.

If your party nominated a woman for President, would you vote for her if she seemed qualified for the job?*

	11/45	9/49	2/55	9/58	12/59	8/63	4/67	3/69	7/71
Yes	33	48	52	54	57	55	57	53	66
No	55	48	44	41	39	41	39	40	29

	7/75	7/78	4/83	7/84	7/87
Yes	73	77	80	78	82
No	23	19	16	17	12

** Question wording varied slightly over time.

- The majority of voters (57%) believe that the country would be governed better if more women were in political office, only 18% claim that the country would be worse off if more women were in office. (September, 1995)
- Almost two thirds of voters (61%) personally hope that the United States has a woman president in their lifetime. (March, 1992)

- Just less than half of voters believe that the United States will have a woman president in their lifetime. (March, 1992)
- Only a third (30%) of voters would like to see their daughters go into politics as her life's work. (September, 1995)

Ladies' Home Journal Survey - February 1996 - Celinda Lake

- A majority of women say that it is at least somewhat important to them that more women be elected to public office (52%) -- including one in five who say it is very important (19%).
- 50% of women believe that a woman is likely to be President in the next twelve years. However, 62% believe that an African American is likely to be President in the next twelve years.

EMILY's List - Non-College Women Survey

- All other things being equal, five out of ten women (50%) are more likely to vote for a democratic woman, while only three in ten (30 %) are more likely to vote for a Republican man.
- Among non-college women, 45% are more likely to vote for a democratic woman, while 35% are more likely to vote for a Republican man.

Elizabeth Adell Cook -- The Year of the Woman: Myths and Realities - 1994

- Perhaps the most interesting finding in Elizabeth Adell Cook's research dealt with democratic primary voters. One of the difficulties analysts have with gender studies is figuring out whether the gap is a result of gender or party. Thus, Cook argues that primary elections provided us with an opportunity to examine whether there are differences in the propensity of male and female voters to vote for female candidates in a situation where there are no partisan cues.

The table below shows the percentage of male and female voters in 4 democratic primaries in which female candidates ultimately won their party's nomination. In each election, we see that female voters are more likely than their male counterparts to vote for the female candidate. Since women make up a larger percentage of the democratic primary electorate (usually around 57%), this can be significant.

Race	Women	Men	Gap
California: Feinstein	62%	58%	4%

California: Boxer	54%	44%	10%
Illinois: Moseley-Braun	42%	34%	8%
Pennsylvania: Yeakel	50%	38%	12%

Center for the American Woman and Politics - 1996

Following the election, CAWP did an analysis of the VNS exit polls and came to the conclusion that gender and party plays a role in voter's views about women candidates:

- By analyzing the VNS exit polls in all nine senate races involving women candidates, CAWP came to the conclusion that in three races where the Democratic candidates were women (KS and LA), women were more likely to vote for the Democratic woman candidate than men were. In three races where the Republican candidates were women (ME, MI, WV), women voters were more likely than men to support the Democratic male candidate. There were no gender gaps in the other three races, two with female democrats (AK and WY) and one with a female Republican (RI). The 1994 exit polls had similar findings.

Winning with Women Survey - January 1991

In October of 1991, EMILY's List in conjunction with the WCF and NWPC conducted a survey on public perceptions towards women. Although the data is somewhat old, I think it's still interesting and relevant.

- "The 1990's are a uniquely good time for women candidates. In an era when voters are strongly anti-incumbent and anti-political in their mood, women run as the ultimate political outsiders, turning what was once a disadvantage at the polls to a strong advantage." -- Celinda Lake
- As you can see from the table below, a Democratic woman running against a Republican man had a six point advantage over a Democratic man running against a Republican man.

<u>Type of Race</u>	<u>Result</u>
Republican Man versus Democratic Man	48 to 40
Republican Woman versus Democratic man	48 to 40
Republican Man versus Democratic woman	47 to 45

If you need anything else, let me know.

AFH - courage
thanks

9 - ~~3~~ 1 - 1 - 2nd best

5 incumbents - Tickwood

- Anti-incumbent, anti political mood & ultimate arbiters

- & for a/c - & support

majority 52% of & - inpt to

- & candidates
high elect &
work

- understanding peoples lives

- not part of business as usual

- caring about family issues - education

caring for elderly parents etc.

- problem crime, defense

- EL House Senate Gov.

- best candidates run before ^{McCarthy} exception

- many & candidates run because
of personal experience - ~~hooligan~~

- beginning locally moving up

- have to start

NWPC - all 50 states

WCF - Making it to the top
Denver, Atlanta Portland OR Josh