

Family Planning Advocates

of New York State

January 2007

www.fpaofnys.org

Memo

FPA's 30th Annual Conference

FPA's 30th Annual Conference is an event not to be missed! Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Cecile Richards and actress Cynthia Nixon will highlight this year's conference on March 26 in Albany.

Morning workshops will enable participants to discuss timely reproductive rights issues ranging from emergency contraception to the impact of the 2006 elections on women's health care.

The afternoon plenary session will explore lessons and challenges facing the women's health and reproductive justice movement. World-renowned reproductive rights leaders from three countries will discuss the tenuous state of women's health around the globe.

The Annual Conference Luncheon will feature celebrities, elected officials, entertainment and surprise guests. And the day would not be complete without a gala reception to celebrate 30 years of protecting and expanding reproductive rights.

For more information and to register, go to www.fpaofnys.org or mail in the form on the back panel of this newsletter.



Cecile Richards, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood Federation of America



Cynthia Nixon, Actress and Advocate, Former Star of Sex and the City



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FPA's 2007 Annual Conference

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007

Schedule of Events

9:00 - 10:00 am	REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
10:00 - 11:45 am	MORNING WORKSHOPS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan B: Does OTC Spell Relief?• Why it Makes Sense to Work Together: The Politics of Sexual Health• Political Landscape 2007
12:00 - 2:00 pm	ANNUAL CONFERENCE LUNCHEON
2:15 - 3:15 pm	LEGISLATIVE VISITS
3:30 - 5:00 pm	PLENARY SESSION <p>Challenges Facing the Women's Health and Reproductive Justice Movement: The Need for Global Connections and Strategies</p>
5:00 pm	GALA RECEPTION

Teens Invited to Participate in Youth Conference

FPA's "Get the Facts" Youth Conference will be held in Albany on March 26. Teens from across the state will have the opportunity to build their leadership skills by participating in interactive workshops on topics ranging from organizing community events to working with the media. More information is available by calling FPA at 518-436-8408 or online at www.getthefactsny.org

Start the New Year with a Day of Advocacy

FPA will kick off the 2007 Legislative Session with a Day of Advocacy on Tuesday, January 23 in the New York State Capitol. Reproductive rights advocates from around the state will meet with elected officials to establish our 2007 agenda.

To participate in the Day of Advocacy, contact your local Planned Parenthood or call FPA at 518-436-8408.



President's Column

Dear Friends,

FPA turns 30 this year!

To celebrate this landmark, we have developed a new logo, a new website and new ways to maximize the input of long-time supporters and new advocates.

A 30th Anniversary Honorary Committee has been formed and members are welcome. For information about joining the Honorary Committee, please contact FPA at info@fpaofnys.org or 518-436-8408 by January 25.

Reproductive rights advocates in their 20s and early 30s are also invited to join our Young Leaders Advisory Board. This board was formed to ensure that three decades of achievements are protected, and new challenges and opportunities are met with innovation and determination.

You will have the opportunity to meet these new leaders, as well as many of FPA's founders, at our 30th Annual Conference on March 26. We are so excited about the many celebrities, elected officials and long-time supporters who will be participating in this year's conference, which will include a gala reception that promises to be the toast of Albany.

Of course, the conference will also include diverse workshops, dynamic plenary speakers, and the chance to meet with your legislators about important legislation, starting with the Healthy Teens Act.

Get the new year started right: sign up for FPA's 30th Annual Conference today at www.fpaofnys.org.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Smith
President and CEO

Experts Attribute Decline In Teen Pregnancy to Improved Contraceptive Use

An article in the January edition of the *American Journal of Public Health* attributes 86% of the recent decline in teen pregnancy rates to adolescents' improved use of contraception. The remaining 14% was attributed to young people refraining from sexual activity. The report concludes that abstinence promotion alone is insufficient to impact teen pregnancy rates.



Governor Spitzer Takes Office

New York State's 2007 Legislative Session opens on January 3 with Governor Eliot Spitzer's presentation of his first State of the State address. FPA has already begun to work with the new administration on an action agenda that includes enhanced funding for family planning and comprehensive sex education.

FPA President JoAnn M. Smith congratulates Governor Eliot Spitzer

Education Fund's Work on Cultural Competency Featured at Conferences

Education Fund staff presented their work on the Immigrant Health Initiative's cultural competency project at three key meetings this fall. Presentations were made at the National Conference on Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations in Seattle, the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting in Boston, and the Women's Studies Student Conference at the University at Albany.

Meghan Ochal (pictured at right), who worked on the Education Fund's cultural competency project, presented "Increasing Immigrant Women's Access to Reproductive Health Care" at a conference celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Women's Studies Department at the University at Albany.



Advocates Look Back, Move Forward at FPA's Annual Meeting



FPA Board Members Sepia Owens-Villas and Marcia Allina spoke with political strategist Howard Wolfson about new opportunities for reproductive rights advocates before he presented the keynote address at FPA's Annual Meeting in Albany.



Awards were presented to three outstanding individuals at FPA's Annual Meeting: Kirsten Moore, president and CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, Alwyn Cohall, MD, principal investigator and project director of the Harlem Health Promotion Center, and Lisa Landau, Esq., for her work as director of the Reproductive Rights Unit in the New York State Attorney General's Office.



FPA's Young Leaders networked with experienced FPA board members at a luncheon at the Annual Meeting. Esther Lewis, Sandra Rivera, Lisa Anchin, Dana Gallagher and Mary Kahl shared their past experiences and future plans.



FPA's Young Leaders Advisory Board met for the first time on the morning of FPA's Annual Meeting. Joanna Kreil, Julia Rowe and Lindsay Friberg are among those charting the course for reproductive health and rights in New York.

Around New York

A New Planned Parenthood for Western New York

Planned Parenthood of Western New York became a reality after over two years of collaboration by Planned Parenthood of Buffalo & Erie County and Planned Parenthood of Niagara County. Laura Meyers, CEO of the new affiliate, praised the leadership demonstrated by the volunteer boards of the two Planned Parenthoods to ensure a successful merger. Planned Parenthood of Western New York serves five counties: Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, and Wyoming, offering the best possible service with consolidated administrative staffing that contributes to immediate cost-saving and efficiency.

FPA Fights to Protect Women's Health Services as Berger Commission Recommends Hospital Consolidations

A report recommending hospital closures and consolidations in New York stated that reproductive health services could be provided at a "location proximate to" merged sectarian and non-sectarian hospitals. FPA testified at Legislative hearings around the state that religious dictates cannot be permitted to restrict the availability of medical services that women need and deserve in their community hospitals.

Women's Health and Wellness Decision Appealed

After the highest court in New York State upheld the Women's Health and Wellness Act with a 6-0 decision, Catholic Charities appealed to the court to reconsider its decision. The New York Court of Appeals clearly and judiciously considered its well-reasoned decision on this case and FPA is confident that it will stand by its ruling.

Planned Parenthood Welcomes New Staff

Siobhan Cornwell, Director of Development, and Louise Richardson, Vice President for External Affairs, at Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes

Kendrea Griffiths, Community Based Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator; Megan Holbrook, LPN; Jennifer Mason, Nurse Practitioner; Meg Nowak, Physician Assistant; Carly Woodcock, Benefits Specialist; and Susan Carimando, Community Educator, with Planned Parenthood of South Central New York

Christy O'Callaghan-Leue, Community Educator, at Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson

Gina D'Andrea Weatherup, Community Affairs and Advocacy Manager, at Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic

Campus Connection

Adelphi University, Hofstra University, Long Island University-C.W. Post College and Nassau Community College students observed World AIDS Day on December 1, 2006, with a cross-campus effort to raise awareness about the devastating impact HIV/AIDS has had across the globe. Planned Parenthood of Nassau County's public affairs interns spearheaded this effort, offering students an opportunity to create a Long Island student-designed panel for the National AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Students from SUNY Brockport, Buffalo State, University at Buffalo, SUNY Geneseo, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, SUNY Oswego, University of Rochester, and Syracuse University participated in the 4th Vox Pro-Choice Conference in Waterloo. Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Jamia Wilson and FPA's Alisa Costa spoke at the conference, which was hosted by Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region in collaboration with Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes and Planned Parenthood of Western New York.

Vassar VOX and VOX at SUNY New Paltz distributed fliers and spoke to students to advertise Free EC Day on December 6 at Planned Parenthood of the Mid-Hudson Valley clinics.

Vassar VOX members have just completed the final process for campus certification as a recognized student organization.

From the Hill and Beyond

FPA Gets Out the Vote in Ohio

More than a dozen FPA and Planned Parenthood staffers spent the week before Election Day in Dayton, Ohio volunteering to help organize Planned Parenthood's get out the vote (GOTV) efforts. Planned Parenthood volunteers knocked on more than 6,000 doors and made more than 7,000 phone calls to Dayton voters.

Fetal Anesthesia Bill Defeated in the House

The "Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act" was defeated on December 6 when House Republicans held a vote on HR 6099 during their final hours in control of the U.S. House of Representatives. Nearly all major national women's and medical organizations opposed the bill, which contained language intended to frighten women and infantilize the fetus by mandating that providers offer patients biased counseling. FPA worked with Planned Parenthood to ensure that New York Congressmembers took a stand against this inflammatory legislation based on highly controversial science. Unfortunately, New York Congressmembers Walsh, Kuhl, McNulty, McHugh and Boehlert supported this flawed legislation.

EC Goes OTC, von Eschenbach Confirmed as FDA Commissioner

The U.S. Senate confirmed Andrew C. von Eschenbach, MD, as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by a vote of 80-11. Senators Clinton and Murray lifted their hold on von Eschenbach's confirmation after the FDA granted Plan B emergency contraception (EC) over-the-counter status for women aged 18 and older in August.

FPA Albany Memo

Published by Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Inc.



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Concerned Clergy for Choice

Rabbi Dennis Ross
Director

Register Today for FPA's 2007 Conference

Monday March 26, 9 am – 7 pm
Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Albany, New York

Completed registration form and payment
must be received by March 9, 2007.

Checks should be made payable to
Family Planning Advocates, or payment
may be made using MasterCard or Visa by
registering on-line at www.fpaofnys.org.
Registration applications with incomplete
information will be returned, unprocessed.

Please mail this form with your payment to
FPA's conference coordinator:

Debbie Radzyminski
Vice President, Meeting Operations
Plaza Meetings, Inc.
3 School Street
Latham, NY 12110
877-666-3404 (PHONE)
518-785-7146 (FAX)

Contact Plaza Meetings with questions
or if you would like to be considered for
late registration. A full refund may be
obtained for cancellations received by
Debbie Radzyminski by March 9, 2007.

FPA Mission Statement

To advance public policies that fulfill
the rights of individuals to comprehensive
sexual and reproductive health services
and education that are consistent with
principles of justice and fairness and respect
diversity, personal dignity and privacy.

Please print clearly

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE) _____

PHONE 1 _____

PHONE 2 _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Registration Fees FPA Annual Conference

*FPA Member \$80.00 Non-Member \$150.00 Special Rate for College Students \$25.00

*Membership: become a member of FPA and take advantage of our discounted rate. Just add \$25.00 for Basic Membership or \$50.00 for Subscribing Membership to your FPA Conference registration fee and SAVE!

Registration Fee (from above) \$ _____

Parking: Add \$10.00 (this fee is non-refundable) \$ _____

Check if you need handicapped parking

Additional Contributions

Contribution to subsidize low-income attendees
(\$80.00 Registration/\$163.00 Registration and accommodations) \$ _____

Contribution to subsidize youth attendees
(\$25.00 Registration/\$108.00 Registration and accommodations) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Yes, I support FPA's mission.

Signature (ALL APPLICANTS MUST SIGN TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION) _____

For a complete
conference schedule
and to register
online, go to:
www.fpaofnys.org



Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Inc.

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