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**I. Mission Statement**

The Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science is a regional caucus affiliated with the Women's Caucus for Political Science of the American Political Science Association. The Midwest Caucus promotes professional equity for women in the discipline of political science by sponsoring sessions at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, working with the Association to promote the interests of women political scientists, encouraging research that acknowledges and investigates the presence and activities of women in political life, and serving as a network for members between annual meetings.

We welcome your participation and membership. To join the Midwest Caucus or to renew your membership, please complete the form provided on the last page of the newsletter and return it to the Caucus Treasurer as indicated on the form.

**II. Message from the Caucus President Brigid C. Harrison**

Dear Caucus Members,

Spring is upon us, and that also means that the Midwest Political Science Association is just around the corner! I hope all of you will join us at the Chicago Palmer House April 2-5. Our **Annual Business Meeting** will take place on Thursday evening, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Honore Ballroom (Lobby Level). Our business meeting will be preceded by the MPSA Welcome Reception (6:30 p.m., Grand and State, 4th floor), and followed by the MPSA Minority Caucuses Reception (8:30-10 p.m., Empire, Lobby Level). Please plan to attend these events, and encourage your graduate students and colleagues to attend as well. We welcome all at our business meeting, we are a warm and inviting group, and there are ample networking opportunities.

This MPSA meeting promises to be a particularly interesting one. Over the course of the past several months, I have worked with **Christina Wolbrecht, Tracy Osborn, Jean Wahl Harris, and Candice Ortals**, to put together diverse group of **roundtables** for this year's conference. Descriptions of these roundtables are found in section IV of this newsletter. On behalf of the caucus, I would like to extend thanks both to those mentioned above who organized the roundtables, and also those who will be participating on them. The roundtables are a professional development service we provide to our members and to the broader profession. In order to reach an even larger audience, MPSA will create podcasts of the roundtables.

We will hold Caucus **elections** at the annual business meeting. At the business meeting, our President-Elect, Tracy Osborn, will assume the president, while Candice Ortals, who served the caucus so capably as newsletter editor will be nominated for President-Elect. Lori Poloni-Staudinger will continue in her second year of her two-year term as Treasurer, as will Valerie Hunt (secretary). More information about these nominees, including brief biographies, is located in section VIII of this newsletter.

This year, the Midwest Women's Caucus will honor **Kim Fridkin** as the recipient of the **Outstanding Professional Achievement Award**. A biography of this outstanding colleague is found in section V of this newsletter. A panel honoring Fridkin will be held on Thursday, April 2, at 4:45 p.m. Thanks to Kathleen Dolan for chairing the award committee, and to Lori Poloni-Staudinger, and Michele Swers for their service on the committee.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the officers of the Midwest Women's Caucus for making my year as caucus president an enjoyable one. They are an able and committed group of colleagues, and it has been both my honor and pleasure to serve with them.

With warm regards,

Brigid C. Harrison  
President, Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science  
harrisonb@mail.montclair.edu

### **III. Caucus Events at the 2009 Midwest Political Science Association Meeting**

#### **Thursday, April 2**

- 12:45 pm - 2:25 pm      58-101 Roundtable: Making the Jump From Faculty to Administration
- 4:45 pm - 6:25 pm      58-105 Roundtable: Honoring Kim Fridkin, Winner of the Women's Caucus Outstanding Professional Achievement Award
- 7:00 – 8:30 pm          Midwest Women’s Caucus for Political Science Business Meeting (Honore Lobby)
- 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm      Midwest Women’s Caucus for Political Science Reception (co-sponsored by the Latino/a and LGBT Caucuses and the National Conference of Black Political Scientists) (Empire, Lobby Level)

#### **Friday, April 3**

- 10:00 am - 11:40 am      58-100 Roundtable: How To Get Your Book Published: A Conversation with the Publishers
- 4:45 pm - 6:25 pm      58-103 Roundtable: Get a Life!: Strategies for Balancing Work and Life in Academia

#### **Saturday, April 4**

- 12:45 pm - 2:25 pm      58-104 Roundtable: What to Expect When You’re...Interviewing

#### **Sunday, April 5**

- 10:00 am - 11:40 am      58-102 Roundtable: Acclimating to the Classroom Environment: Excelling in Teaching While on the Tenure-Track

#### **IV. 2009 Roundtable Descriptions**

***How To Get Your Book Published: A Conversation with the Publishers:*** This roundtable will enable those interested in publishing their work the opportunity to speak directly with both academic and trade publishers. The publishers themselves will offer advice concerning developing a successful prospectus, negotiating contracts, and author rights and responsibilities.

***What to Expect When You're...Interviewing:*** This roundtable, geared at those entering the academic workforce, is designed to be a primer on what to expect during the job interview. It will cover both phone interviews and campus visits. Included will be the kinds of questions to ask potential employers (and which questions you should avoid).

***Acclimating to the Classroom Environment: Excelling in Teaching while on the Tenure-Track:*** This roundtable is geared toward new professors and graduate students who will obtain jobs in the near future. The symposium participants will discuss the various components of successful teaching: assembling syllabi, class management (for small and large enrollments), learning from student evaluations, and utilizing one's research agenda as a teaching exercise.

***Get a Life!: Strategies for Balancing Work and Life in Academia:*** This roundtable will provide advice concerning balancing the demands of work in academe with the demands of family and personal life. Those approaching tenure and promotion decisions, or those concerned with achieving a better work/life balance will benefit from the practical advice offered by the Roundtable participants.

#### **V. Outstanding Professional Achievement Award: Kim Fridkin**

Kim Fridkin is Professor of Political Science at Arizona State University. She received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Her scholarship spans the fields of women and politics, media, campaigns, Congress and political behavior. Her pioneering book and journal articles on gender differences in media coverage of candidates are widely cited and have inspired numerous dissertations and follow-up research. Her research on negative campaigning is also seminal in the field, and is a must-cite for any new research in this area. In both areas, many of her co-authors have been graduate students. She has 27 articles in top-notch peer-reviewed journals, 3 books and numerous book chapters. In addition, her research has been funded by two National Science Foundation grants. She was also one of the original recipients of the Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for women and politics research from Iowa State University.

#### **VI. Roundtable Solicitations for the 2010 MPSA**

At each MPSA meeting, the Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science sponsors roundtables concerning professional development for graduate students, junior faculty, and senior faculty. Topics covered at recent conferences are listed below. If you are interested in proposing a roundtable topic for the 2010 MPSA Conference or serving on a roundtable chair, please contact incoming Caucus President Tracy Osborn @ [tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu](mailto:tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu).

## **2008 Meeting**

Women of Color: Experiences on Campus and in the Classroom

Getting the Interview, Getting the Job

Women Should Ask: Negotiation in the Academic Workplace

Sex, Gender, and Field Research: Tales and Advice

What to Expect as a New Faculty Member: Helpful Advice

Promoting a Healthy Work-Life Balance: Individual Needs, Family Needs, and Fairness

## **2007 Meeting**

Women Faculty in the Classroom: Strategies for Success

Having It All and Doing It All: Achieving a Work-Life Balance

Mentoring Roundtable on Publishing with Colleagues and Publishers

Navigating Professional Service: When to Say “Yes” and How to Say “No”

Survive and Thrive: Successful Strategies for Tenure

## **VII. 2008 Caucus Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 3, 2008

- I. Call to Order (Elizabeth Bennion)
  - a. Elizabeth Bennion welcomed meeting attendees and convened meeting with a call to order.
- II. Approval of Minutes (Celeste Montoya-Kirk)
  - a. Secretary Celeste Montoya-Kirk presented the minutes.
  - b. The minutes were approved without revision.
- III. Treasurer’s Report (Tracy Osborn)
  - a. *Financial Report*
  - b. *Membership Report* - Lori Poloni-Staudinger reported that fees are due. Membership is up to 73 members due to increase in graduate student membership.
  - c. Summary settling for past year. Biggest change is instead of breakfast meeting, business meeting held at 7pm before Minority Caucus reception.
- IV. Newsletter Editor’s Report (Candice Ortvals)
  - a. Update on Newsletter. The suggestion is to send newsletter at the end of August.
  - b. New website. The plan is to create a blog-like website.
- V. Old Business (Elizabeth Bennion)

- a. *Second annual evening meeting.* Elizabeth Bennion welcomed attendees to the second annual evening business meeting and commented that the food for the event is less expensive than the morning meetings. Elizabeth Bennion reported that caucus reception is from 8pm-9pm and was combined with other minority caucus groups. She urged present attendees to go to as many roundtable discussions as possible.
- b. *Tools of the Trade.* Information from roundtables sent out in newsletter and as podcast. The primary benefit of these media was to increase our visibility.

VI. Election of New Officers (Elizabeth Bennion)

- a. Elizabeth Bennion submitted the following slate of officers:  
*President:* Brigid Harrison, Montclair State University, harrisonb@mail.montclair.edu  
*President-elect:* Tracy Osborn, University of Iowa, tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu  
*Treasurer:* Lori Poloni-Staudinger, Northern Arizona University, Imp75@nau.edu  
*Secretary:* Valerie F. Hunt, Southern Methodist University, vhunt@smu.edu
- b. Motion approved and seconded. Slate approved.
- c. Continuing /Appointed Officers  
*Newsletter Editor:* Candice Ortvals, Pepperdine University
- d. *Awards Chair:* (appointed)  
 Elizabeth Bennion discussed the need for a new Award Chair representative.

VII. Nominations to MPSA Council (Laurie Rhodebeck)

- a. Laurie Rhodebeck submitted the following slate of officers:  
 Elizabeth A. Bennion, Indiana University at South Bend  
 Judith A. Baer, Texas A&M University  
 No nominations from the floor.
- b. Question from the floor: "Does MPSA usually accept nominations from caucus?"  
 Elizabeth Bennion responded that there is no guarantee of acceptance.
- c. Motion to support Chair's slate seconded and approved. Slate of officers approved.

VIII. New President's Remarks (Brigid Harrison)

- a. Brigid Harrison thanked Elizabeth Bennion for her outstanding work as president. She also thanked and honored the "founding mothers of the Women's Caucus in their work nurturing women faculty. Spoke of honoring the past and bringing along what comes in behind us. "History is so important."

IX. New Business (Brigid Harrison)

- a. Brigid Harrison opened the floor to discussion of ideas for 2009 Caucus roundtables.
- b. Roundtable Suggestions:  
 Coping with Crisis on Campus  
 Moving into Academic Administration  
 Grooming Women Faculty as Media Experts  
 Strategic Choices in University Service  
 How Female Administrators Promote Family Friendly Work Environments  
 Promotion/Tenure Review
- c. *Announcements and comments from the floor.* Celeste Montoya-Kirk noted that the women of color roundtables do not get attended. Perhaps there is a need for better advertisement to get support. We need to do proactive work in getting the word out. We

need more outreach. Suggestion made to circulate notes from the roundtable sessions to the caucus members.

d. Other suggestions:

Presidents of caucuses co-met together as a coalition.

Cross list/co-sponsor with other caucuses like we do at APSA

Provide resources guides to administrator who want to recruit female faculty

Coalition of all regional women's caucuses

Coordinate with status committee

X. National Caucus Announcements (Barbara Burrell)

- a. Barbara Burrell announced that our allies in GLBTS had reported that the 2012 APSA schedule had included the states of Louisiana and Georgia as possible sites. These states have laws that outlaw same sex marriage. This is the time to exert pressure on APSA to move the site of 2012 meeting to a state that supports same sex marriage and civil unions.
- b. Barbara Burrell encouraged attendees to join the National Caucus. She also reported that there will no longer having breakfast meeting will have Thursday noon meeting and Friday night reception. Still co-sponsoring women of color reception. There will be a pre-conference and short courses all day.
- c. Jackie DeLaat (Marietta College) announced that she and her colleague are conducting a research study on women in academia past or present who had either run or are running for political office.

XI. Brigid Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

### VIII. Nominations for Caucus Officers

**President:** Tracy Osborn is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Iowa. Her work examines women's political behavior in the US state legislatures, women's participation in mass politics, and other issues of representation in state legislatures. Her work appears in *Politics & Gender*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*. She previously served as both treasurer and president-elect of the Midwest Women's Caucus. She teaches classes on women in American politics, legislative process, state politics, and representation.

**President-Elect:** Candice D. Ortvals is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Pepperdine University. Her publications pertain to state feminism in the Spanish regions of Andalusia and Galicia and include a co-authored chapter in *Changing State Feminism*, a RINGS book (Research Network on Gender Politics and the State), and articles in the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Politics and Gender*, and *Democratization*. Ortvals recently published as part of two *PS: Political Science and Politics* symposiums, one on teaching Iberian politics and the other on intersectionality and fieldwork. She is currently researching municipal women's centers in Spain and women's representation in regional women's policy agencies. Her teaching interests include European politics, Latin American politics, and women and politics.

**Secretary:** Valerie Hunt is currently the fund raising chairperson (communities and small businesses) for the Seattle/Puget Sound branch of the Alliance for Lupus Research (ALR). The ALR is the ONLY voluntary health organization solely dedicated to funding lupus research, raising 26 million dollars for the cause since its inception in 1999. She also volunteers for local community organizations in the Seattle and Dallas areas fundraising and grant writing for organizations that provide services to women and their families.

**Treasurer:** Lori Poloni-Staudinger is currently an Assistant Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Politics and International Affairs at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. She specializes in West European Politics, with a particular emphasis on social movements. Her current research looks at the way in which women's movements differentially react to changes in political opportunity structures. Her research has also focused on environmental movements in the UK, France and Germany. She is particularly interested in the activity choices of social movements when confronted with differing institutional configurations. She has published in journals such as *Environmental Politics*, *European Union Politics*, and *Mobilization* as well as various book chapters related to her research. She teaches courses on environmental politics, methods, social movements, and West European politics. She will be a Fulbright Scholar at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, Austria for the spring 2010 semester.

**Newsletter Editor:** Meg E. Rincker is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Purdue University Calumet. Her research and teaching interests include comparative politics, gender and politics, public policy and administration, and qualitative methods. Her fieldwork specialty is Polish politics. Rincker's work on decentralization and gender politics can be found in *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*, and *Democratization*. Her research on a book project entitled *Politics Closer to Home*, co-authored with Candice D. Ortvals, was funded by the American Political Science Association Special Fund for the Study of Women and Politics, the Rita Mae Kelly Award, and won the 2007 Carrie Chapman Catt Award for the Study of Women and Politics.

## **IX. Officer Names and Contact Information**

**President:** Brigid Harrison, Montclair State University, harrisonb@mail.montclair.edu

**President-Elect:** Tracy Osborn, University of Iowa, tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu

**Secretary:** Valerie Hunt, vfhunt@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Lori Poloni-Staudinger, Northern Arizona University, Lori.Poloni-Staudinger@nau.edu

**Newsletter Editor:** Candice Ortvals, Pepperdine University, candice.ortvals@pepperdine.edu

## **Membership Form 2009-2010**

We invite you to join the Women's Caucus. Please complete the form on the following page and return it to treasurer Lori Poloni-Staudinger.

## MEMBERSHIP IN MIDWEST WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE

If you would like to renew your membership or become a member, please complete this form and return it with your payment to: Lori Poloni-Staudinger, Northern Arizona University, Department of Political Science, P.O. Box 15036, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5036\*

***\*Make checks payable to "Midwest Women's Caucus"***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ University Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this a new address within the last 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing member \_\_\_\_\_

### MIDWEST WOMEN'S CAUCUS DUES:

Student/Unemployed Free \_\_\_\_\_

Low Income \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_

One-Year Membership \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Two-Year Membership \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

You also have the option of joining and paying your

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS DUES:

(These dues will be forwarded to the Treasurer of the APSA Women's Caucus)

Student/Unemployed/Retired Free \_\_\_\_\_

Salary under \$15,000 \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Salary \$15,000 - \$40,000 \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Salary over \$40,000 \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Midwest Women's Caucus: \_\_\_\_\_ (Enter the amount you would like to contribute)

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to "Midwest Women's Caucus."**