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and continuing action

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On November 11th, we pause to honor our veterans who chose to honor all of us with their willingness to serve. In California where close to 200,000 veterans are also women, we want to take a moment to recognize their individual contributions and sacrifice for us and our great state. The Statute of the CA Commission on the Status of Women and Girls calls on us to prioritize the needs of Women in the Military, Women Veterans and their families. We are committed to supporting these women and their loved ones through partnerships with Cal Vet Women. In 2015 the Commission partnered with CalVet to create the [Women Veterans Outreach Toolkit](#). We look forward to continuing this partnership in the upcoming years to serve our women in uniform. Each election cycle we see growing levels of diverse engagement, the CCSWG is proud to see the ever increasing presence of women of color, in local, state and federal office.

On December 5th, we will welcome eighteen women Assemblymembers to Sacramento, including ten Latinas, and in the State Senate up to total ten women. The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls looks forward to engaging these women leaders in our work. As an independent state agency, the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls strives to make an impact on the way laws are implemented while simultaneously identifying new ideas that can advance opportunity.

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Commission Advancing Policy

California Pay Equity Task Force



Task Force member Assemblymember Cristina Garcia addresses fellow members of the CA Pay Equity Task Force, joined by Task Force member Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, author of SB 358 California Fair Pay Act.

The California Pay Equity Task Force held its final convening for the 2016 year at the State Capitol in Room 125. Task Force members Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Cristina Garcia joined their fellow members to provide legislative insight. Senator Jackson, author of SB 358, the California Fair Pay Act, encouraged the members to think beyond the federal Equal Pay Act and to what the future of pay equity could be. The focus of this convening was to hold a robust discussion of the definitions in the California Equal Pay Act, as well as the many possibilities for Task Force deliverables. Commission Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá joined the Task Force Members during the working lunch to thank them for their continued commitment. The Task Force will convene again in 2017; a meeting calendar for the 2017 year will be made available soon. For more information visit the Task Force website at <http://www.women.ca.gov/CaliforniaPayEquityTaskForce.aspx>



Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Cristina Garcia addressing the group.



Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá joined Task Force members during the working lunch.

Women in the Military

November 11th is Veterans Day! The Commission is proud to be a long time supporter of women veterans in California. California is home to the largest population of women veterans in the country, many of whom are women of color. By 2034 in California, women may comprise up to 15% of the Veteran population. The needs of women veterans are addressed by CalVet Women Veterans Affairs that provides information, advocacy, outreach, and support to Women Veterans and their families. Despite their large numbers the public perception does not accurately reflect this reality due to the low level of engagement women have with veterans services. According to CalVet, many women do not self-identify as Veterans and have a lower rate of federal/state benefit utilization and participation in Veteran events/organizations. In 2015 we joined CalVet to provide [Women Veterans Outreach Toolkit](#) to educate government, business, education, healthcare, and community service organizations about the unique challenges facing women Veterans in California. We are proud to support women in uniform and will continue to demonstrate a commitment to the wellbeing of veterans in California.

For more information's on Veterans assistance visit the CalVet Women Veterans website at calvet.ca.gov/calvet-programs/women-veterans

Commission Executive Committee Meeting



From the right Commission Legal Counsel Marian Johnston, Executive Director Nancy Kirshner Rodriguez, Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá, 2nd Vice Chair Lauri Damrell, Member at Large Karen Nelson

The Commission held an Executive Committee Meeting on November 3rd in the California State Capitol. Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá, 2nd Vice Chair Lauri Damrell, Member at Large Karen Nelson participated in person and 1st Vice Chair Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and Member at Large Alisha Wilkins participated via teleconference. Commission staff presented an end of the year update to Commissioners including our budgeting and fundraising goals for 2017, policy subcommittee check in, communications and outreach plan for 2017, and a Commission Business and Executive Committee Meeting calendar for 2017. To view this documents and get more information about the Commission visit our website <http://www.women.ca.gov/NewsEvents/tabid/6159/ArticleID/139/Commission-Executive-Committee-Meeting.aspx>



Pictured: from left Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Major Ofelia Alvarez Willis, and Assembly-member Cristina Garcia

Major Ofelia Alvarez-Willis grew up in East Los Angeles and received her medical degree from Loma Linda University. For more than 32 years, Major Willis has treated our California Veterans at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Medical Center in Loma Linda, California. She currently serves as the chief medical doctor for the Department of Emergency Medicine and Ambulatory Care. Major Willis' work treating Veterans over the years inspired her to join the California National Guard in 2012, where she currently serves as brigade surgeon at the 224th Sustainment Brigade. In her role as a military medical officer, she also trains medics and soldiers and supports missions assisting the Santa Ynez and Round Valley Native American Medical Clinics. In 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed Major Willis to serve as a Commissioner on the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. She is the first Commissioner appointed

under new legislation that required that an appointee be a veteran or a member of the military. In her role as Commissioner, Major Willis works to ensure the full potential of the more than 19 million women and girls in California, with a special focus and understanding of women Veterans, women in the military and military families.

Announcements & Events

- **Million Women Mentors CA** is looking for mentors! MWM works to increase the number of women and girls in STEM through mentorships. All professionals are welcome! To register as a mentor visit their website mwm-ca.org
- **Women in the Workplace Conference** November 16, 2016 in San Francisco. Hosted by the National Council of Jewish Women San Francisco Section, Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest, Consulate General of Mexico in San Francisco, and Cosponsored by the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women. Representatives of government agencies, consulates, corporations and nonprofit organizations present on advanced policies of integrating women in the workforce.
Register at <http://tinyurl.com/qdy7ruj>
- **Women in Tech Festival 2017 Building the She-conomy** March 24-25, 2017 in Mountain View, CA. Presented by the Silicon Valley Forum. Two day event aims to inspire, engage and empower women in tech with inspiring talks, insights on how technology is powering change, and educational workshops. Follow the conversation with #SVFWomenTechFest Register at <http://tinyurl.com/hruxbfn>

Interested in sharing your news with our supporters? Send an email to stephanie.flores@women.ca.gov to have your message featured in our newsletter.

NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Latina Equal Pay Day Dia De Los Muertos	2	3 Executive Committee Meeting	4	5
6	7	8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16 <u>Women in the Workplace Conference</u>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Our Suffragettes pose next to a photo of The First Women to Vote in a General Election, San Francisco, 1920

Our Team!



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