

Facing challenges Conference explores role in building community

The nonprofit sector's role in building and renewing communities is the theme of this year's annual meeting of Independent Sector, the trade group for U.S. nonprofits.

The Washington, D.C.-based organization will hold its annual meeting October 17-19 in San Francisco under the banner, "Community: Visions and Challenges."

Staff and volunteers of organizations ranging from Catholic Charities to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund will visit the Bay Area to discuss issues facing nonprofits.

WHO: Independent Sector

WHAT: Annual Meeting

THEME: Community and Vision and Challenges

WHERE: San Francisco

WHEN: October 17-19

INFO: (202) 233-8100

Events will include:

- An opening plenary in which Sandy Close, executive director of the Pacific News Service, will interview a group of young people about their sense of community;

- A town hall meeting on how media inquiries into fundraising scams and other abuses affect public confidence in nonprofits. Reporters from the Philadelphia Inquirer, which published a series on nonprofits, will attend.

- A session on Community Building Through Urban Initiatives that will look at how grantmaking organizations can help community redevelopment efforts;

- A range of smaller group discussions on the independent sector and the economy, the future of workplace giving, evaluating nonprofit employees and communications technologies.

For information about the conference, call Independent Sector at (202) 223-8100.

EQUITY

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a course for the future.

N.C. Equity focuses on work and family, a legislative agenda and women of color. Funding now is being sought for a report on women of color in North Carolina that would be produced within the next year.

This fall, N.C. Equity will issue a revised edition of its landmark 1991 report, "What is a Woman Worth?". That report found that, despite having entered the workforce in huge numbers, women in North Carolina still stand at the bottom in a "caste" system and have fewer chances for success than do men.

Another N.C. Equity report due this fall will cover health issues for women. While women live longer than men, the report found, women are sicker than men over the course of their lifetime.

And the organization is working to provide a clearinghouse for economic information on women and families. It also plans to strengthen its public relations and fundraising.

Charting the future

Public-private partners to assess coastal management

A Coastal Futures Committee will study the impact of two decades of a law to manage North Carolina's coastal areas. The committee will recommend how to strengthen that regulation.

Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the state legislature's passage of a law to regulate growth and development and protect natural resources in North Carolina's coastal areas.

Gov. Jim Hunt has established a Coastal Futures Committee to evaluate how well the state has managed its coast. The committee will begin

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work this fall, with the goal of making recommendations on strengthening the state's coastal regulation.

Former U.S. Rep. Richardson Preyer will chair the committee. Staffing will be provided by the North Carolina Coastal Federation, the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the state Division of Coastal Management. Milton Heath of the Institute of Government will serve as the committee's executive secretary.

Todd Miller, executive director of the Coastal Federation, says the coast faces two big challenges. The first is to ensure that, in those parts

of the coast with a rapidly expanding population, waste and pollution are managed carefully to prevent damage to fragile ecosystems. The second challenge is to ensure that, in areas with declining populations but increasing development of natural resources, those resources are used in a "sustainable" fashion.

"In the future, we're going to need a strategy to manage our resources in our [natural] coastal areas, and a much different strategy for the urbanizing areas of the coast," Miller says.

The General Assembly this year appropriated \$50,000 for the study, which will cost \$350,000. The rest will be raised privately.

Todd Cohen

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TODD MILLER
Executive Director
Coastal Federation

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