

On the Observance of
International Women's Year

November 10, 1977

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D/IWY
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Dear Delegate:

On behalf of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, I am honored to convey to you this official and final announcement of the convening of the National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas, November 18-21, 1977.

The agenda for our meeting is enclosed and a fact sheet of other events. As you can see it promises to be a most exciting gathering, with a great variety of activities for both the observers and the delegated body.

We have also mailed you the revised rules of the Conference which will guide us in our deliberation on the draft Plan of Action which was mailed to you last week.

As a delegate, you have the responsibility for voting on the National Plan of Action which will be submitted to the President and the Congress. We know that you will give this material your serious and careful study because we will be acting on issues of great importance to all of us.

We all share the challenge of ensuring that our meeting is both positive and productive, so that we can develop the framework which will be used to move American women forward in their quest for equality.

We look forward to a creative and successful conference in Houston.

Sincerely,

Bella S. Abzug
Presiding Officer



National Women's Conference
November 18-21, Houston
Coliseum

Agenda of Official Conference Business

Saturday, November 19 - Opening Plenary Session, 9:30 am - 12:30

Commissioner Gloria Scott, Texas, Presiding at Opening Ceremonies

Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance -
San Jacinto Girl Scouts

National Anthem

Introduction of Bella Abzug, Presiding Officer of National
Commission

Bella Abzug: Chair of First Plenary Session
Vice Chair: Owanah Anderson, Texas

Greetings to Conference:

- First Lady Rosalynn Carter
- Former First Lady Betty Ford (Commissioner)
- Mayor Fred Hofheinz

Presentation of Platform Guests, National Commissioners, and
Members of Congress

Seneca Falls Torch presentation: Commissioner Maya Angelou,
California

Charge to the Conference: Bella Abzug, New York

Faces and Voices of American Women: Commissioner Liz Carpenter,
Texas

Lady Bird Johnson, Former First Lady: Introduction of
Keynote Speaker

Keynote Address: Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Texas

Saturday, November 19 - Second Plenary Session, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Chair: Commissioner Ruth Clusen, Wisconsin

Vice Chair: Senator Celeste Benitez de Rodriguez, Puerto Rico

Remarks: Jill Ruckelshaus, Washington State, former Presiding
Officer of the National Commission on the Observance of
International Women's Year

Judy Carter, Georgia

Saturday, November 19 - Second Plenary Session, continued

Credentials and Rules Committee Reports

Reading of Declaration of American Women - Commissioner
Jean Stapleton, California; Commissioner Coretta Scott King,
Georgia; Lupe Anguiano, Texas

Presentation of National Plan of Action

Beginning debate and voting

Saturday, November 19 - Third Plenary Session, 8:30 pm

Chair: Commissioner Mary Anne Krupsak, Lt. Governor of New York

Vice Chair: Esther Landa, Utah

Remarks: Commissioner Margaret Heckler, Congresswoman, Massachusetts
Patsy Mink, Hawaii, Assistant Secretary of State

Helvi Sipila, United Nations: International Perspective

Continued voting on National Plan of Action

Sunday, November 20 - Fourth Plenary Session, ~~12:00 pm~~ - 8:00 pm

Chair: Anne Saunier, Ohio

Vice Chair: Elizabeth Duncan Koontz, North Carolina

Dialogue: Commissioners Carmen Votaw, Maryland and
Cecilia Preciado Burciaga, California

Remarks: Margaret Mead, New York

Continued voting on National Plan of Action

9:30 pm - Music Hall - Entertainment for Delegates

Monday, November 21 - Fifth Plenary Session, 9:30 am - 12:30

Chair: Commissioner Addie Wyatt, Illinois

Vice Chair: Allie Hixson, Kentucky

Remarks: Commissioner LaDonna Harris, New Mexico
Brenda Parker, Texas
Midge Costanza, Assistant to the President, Washington, D.C.

Next Steps - Implementation of National Plan of Action

New Business

Closing Remarks - Presiding Officer Bella Abzug

12:30 pm - Conference Adjourns