

Changing Hearts, Changing Lives

CWA's annual Leadership Conference gathers women from across country for state-of-the-art training in grassroots organization and activism

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes." Proverbs 21:1

The backbone of Concerned Women for America (CWA), our grassroots leaders around the country, once again assembled in Washington, D.C., in October for the 2007 Leadership Conference. "Changing Hearts" was the theme of this year's conference. We understand as Christians that the heart is the source of our actions and words, and as the Lord changes our hearts, He changes our minds and lives.

Specialized training by industry experts

The conference began with a powerful pre-conference bonus session on sex trafficking given by Dr. Janice Crouse, Senior Fellow of CWA's Beverly LaHaye Institute. Her purpose in presenting this issue was to highlight the mission of CWA in regard to sex trafficking, "affecting policy, changing perceptions and mobilizing public opinion" and to reveal how we all can make a difference in our communities. Later in the conference, Dr. Crouse brought home the theme of "changing hearts" in her presentation, "Women:



CWA Founder and Chairman Beverly LaHaye presents Illinois State Director Karen Hayes with an award for her many years of service.

The Heart of the Home ... and Nation." She emphasized the three functions of the heart: focus, flow and force, and she discussed how we can, "use these three factors in determining how effective we are in what we do."

Beverly LaHaye kicked off the conference; other speakers included Shari Rendall, Director of Legislation and Public Policy; Mike Mears, Director of State Legislative Relations of the CWA Legislative Action Committee; Matt Barber, Policy Director for Cultural Issues; and CWA President Wendy Wright. Their presentations on issues ranging from Biblical truth vs. sexual relativism to



The 2007 Leadership Conference was a time of worship and spiritual renewal, as well as training.

legislative relationships were followed by informative question and answer sessions.

We were also blessed to have several other noted speakers such as Shelley Lubben, whose heart was changed when she found Christ after a personal battle with involvement in the pornography industry, and Al Menconi, who spoke on how to train children to walk as Christ did in the face of temptation.

Honoring leaders in the fight for Biblical values

Several outstanding leaders and states were honored with awards during the conference. The honorees were as follows: Director of the Year — Linda Schauer, South Dakota; State Organization of the Year — California; Prayer Chapter Leader of the Year —

Tressa Fisher, Tennessee; Steering Committee Member of the Year — Cheryl Ryan, Kansas; Above and Beyond the Call of Duty — Lisa McCann, California; Encourager of the Year — Dorothy Samuelson, Maine. CWA also introduced a new category this year. Betty Lou Martin was honored for her many years of service to CWA and was named CWA's first Director Emeritus. Congratulations to all award winners. CWA thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

Leaders and organizers went away from the conference with a sense of renewed faith and purpose. Our reliance is on the Lord to change the hearts of our country's leaders, but we know He is using us as vessels to accomplish His work of changing hearts and changing lives. ■