



Policy Conference

Saturday, 2/1/20

8:30 AM

Speakers: Kathy Wilmot – Kathy Wilmot began her professional career as a certified public-school teacher in Nebraska. After spending a few years teaching in rural schools, she began employment with Bethpage Mission (now Mosaic) as a Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP). Primary responsibilities included evaluation of residential clients, chairing the Interdisciplinary Team, writing Individual Program Plans, and monitoring progress.

After working as Area Director for Mid-Nebraska Mental Retardation Services and Area Director of Bethpage Community Services in Texas, Kathy and her family returned to Nebraska. A change in professions occurred when Kathy was employed with the Kansas Department of Corrections at Norton Correctional Facility, a medium and minimum facility for 850 male offenders. As Staff Development Specialist, Wilmot developed the Orientation, Basic and Annual training for all staff employed at the facility. After serving in that capacity for 11 years, she was employed at the Accreditation Manager for the Stockton and Norton Correctional Facilities. In that capacity, she monitored compliance with federal and state statutes, compliance with Fire, Safety, Health and Environmental regulation and assisted the facility in achieving National Accreditation with the American Correctional Association.

In the late 1980's, Kathy became concerned about changes she observed in the educational system and placed a call for assistance – and the person who answered was Phyllis Schlafly! Upon Phyllis' insistence, Kathy attended her first Educational Policy Conference held by Donna Hearne in St. Louis, Missouri, which has led to many years of political involvement, lobbying and speaking.

In an attempt to make a difference for Nebraska's school children, Wilmot ran for and was elected to the Nebraska State Board of Education where she served two terms. In recent years, Kathy has been lobbying and educating individuals and Legislators on proposed legislation and issues of concern at the state and federal level.

Kathy and her husband Wes reside on a small farm in Nebraska. They enjoy their three children – and their spouses – who have “given” them 10 grandchildren. God has truly blessed their family!

Title: *School Boards, Curriculum – Local Level – WHAT I DID and SO CAN YOU!*

Overview:

Local school board (and city councils) are elected while members of the State Board of Education may be appointed or elected. Board members receive new member training where they are told their duty is to support and assist the Commissioner or Superintendent in advancing their agenda(s). As a result, constituents are often ignored. It is imperative that constituents take action to ensure “our concerns” are heard.

Action Items:

- Educate: Your Representative(s) – Remember they receive ‘one-sided’ information from Administration and professional organizations; Your community/State – No doubt they only know what the media reports.
- Establish relationships: Build a working group within your circle of friends; Through your Eagle Forum chapter, enable others to be actively involved; Attend/monitor/take advantage of public comment opportunities and hearings.
- Communicate: Social media, letters to the editor, in both local and national papers, radio opportunities (and place those files on your FB page so others can listen and forward). Even though your representative may not agree with your position – continue to communicate.
- Actively support “friendly” board members – Attend meetings. Seeing a “prayer warrior” in the room is very encouraging. Provide research materials to assist them in advocating their position; Help read board materials.
- Find an appointee or candidate who understands the issues – Schedule meet & greets, organize door knocking, help with fund raising.