

National USA Week Roundup

National Unmarried and Single Americans Week, commemorated during September 16-22, 2002, was a terrific success. AASP took the opportunity to launch a public awareness campaign during National USA Week to bring public attention to the large and growing number of single and unmarried Americans and to acknowledge their contributions to society.

We invited mayors and governors throughout the nation to issue proclamations to acknowledge the occasion. In the final count, proclamations were issued in 33 states by Republican, Democratic, and Independent governors and mayors.

During National USA Week, AASP issued awards to acknowledge the leadership, contributions, and excellence of several organizations and individuals. Photographs of some of the awards presentations appear to the right.

Staff and members from Los Angeles traveled to the nation's Capitol where they were joined by some East Coast members to make our presence known in Washington. During that week we presented three of the National USA Week Awards. AASP member Perry Heath also presented poems he had especially written for these three award recipients.

We also visited the offices of all 535 members of Congress, a daunting task to say the least. AASP literature was delivered to each Representative and Senator. A news story about singles in the workplace was also given to single staff members.

The reception we received during USA Week was much different than what we experienced in May 2001 when some staffers were hostile or rude to us. This time we were treated respectfully by everyone we met.

Media attention during National USA Week was encouraging. Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman kicked off the week with an interview on New York city's most popular morning talk show. Later in the week stories were published in newspapers in California, Florida, and North Carolina.

We were delighted when The Hill, a newspaper read by members of Congress and their staffers, carried a special story about AASP a few weeks later. This story helped reinforce our message in the halls of power.

The Board of Directors and staff of AASP are grateful for the help we received from members in obtaining proclamations from their mayors and governors. We are also pleased that members such as Michael Patino and Perry Heath took the entire week off from work to volunteer their time and services to AASP during National USA Week.

With additional help from AASP members Dr. Karen Gail Lewis and L. Joan Allen, we were able to show elected officials and members of the media that single people can have a good time and enjoy themselves as we educate society about serious issues affecting the lives of 82 million unmarried Americans.

Congratulations to all for a job well done! Now it's time to make plans for National USA Week in September 2003. MM



A Political Leadership Award to New York Governor George Pataki is presented by Tom Coleman and AASP member L. Joan Allen. Receiving the award on Pataki's behalf is his federal affairs representative James A. Mazarrella.



Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton receives a Political Leadership Award from AASP members (left to right) Michael Patino, Dr. Karen Gail Lewis, Tom Coleman, Perry Heath, and Michael Vasquez.



Tom Coleman and Perry Heath present an Excellence in Media Award to CBS Radio News. Washington D.C. correspondents Howard Arenstein and Dan Ravigo received the award for CBS News General Manager Constance Lloyd.