



COWL ELECTS NEW LEADERS AMONG RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF ILLINOIS WOMEN LEGISLATORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD March XX, 2023 The Conference of Women Legislative Women (COWL) has elected new executive committee members from a field of 72 women legislators. That number marks a record for the number of women in the Illinois General Assembly according to numbers compiled by the National Council on State Legislatures and the Center for American Women in Politics.

COWL raises funds for scholarships for non-traditionally aged women working on their bachelor's degrees, works with Girl Scouts to inspire the next generation of women, and forges collaboration between lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and every corner of Illinois.

The new leaders are delighted to be at the helm of COWL while so many legislative districts are represented by women.

Senate co-chair Sen. Mary Edly Allen (D-Grayslake) "I'm honored for this opportunity to build on the shoulders of the many female leaders before me. I look forward to

working together to use our collective platform to raise up and support our communities.”

Rep. Suzanne Ness (D-Carpentersville) is the new House co-chairman. “The mission of COWL, which is to work in a bipartisan way to advance the interests of women throughout Illinois, resonates with me. Collectively the voice of women legislators is a powerful one. Politically speaking, this is a difficult time to be in public office. It takes courage and grit to be in these roles. We can support each other as we look to improve our communities and represent our districts.”

Serving as treasurer will be Rep. Joyce Mason (D-Gurnee) “Since 1979, women of the Illinois General Assembly have exemplified bipartisan collaboration in COWL, working together to effect positive change through advocacy and legislation, lifting women up across the state. I am honored to have been elected to the executive board and eager to continue this important work.”

COWL member elect both a secretary and an assistant secretary.

Rep. Jackie Haas: (R-Kankakee) will be secretary. “This year we embark on a historic term with the first female House Republican leader heading our caucus and I am proud to not only serve on her leadership team, but also to be a part of the COWL leadership team, which to me represents amazing women leaders making a difference in our state. As female lawmakers we share common ground and to be a part of this organization is a priority for me to keep moving the ball forward for future female leaders.”

Taking on the role of assistant secretary is Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago). “I look forward to working collaboratively with amazing women legislators and harnessing our collective power to make space for future generations of women leaders to come.

The new executive committee members will each serve for two years and are excited to pursue cooperative efforts to benefit all women.

To learn more about COWL, go to www.cowlil.com.

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