



## WINTER POLICY FORUM AGENDA

**Wednesday, February 26, 2003**

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8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Yorktown

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Regency Foyer

**LUNCH**

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Ticonderoga Wall

**REGISTRATION**

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Yorktown

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, CONT.**

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Columbia A

**WELCOME TO WASHINGTON**

Reception hosted by the NASWA Executive Committee:

***President Catherine Leapheart**, Executive Director, Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations*

***Past-President Jon Brock**, Executive Director, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission*

***Secretary Fernando "Butch" Lecuona**, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Labor*  
***Treasurer Jeffrey M. Wells**, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment*

**Thursday, February 27, 2003**

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7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Ticonderoga Wall

**REGISTRATION**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Hall of Battles

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Yorktown/Valley Forge

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/NASWA BUSINESS SESSION – ELECTION OF  
PRESIDENT ELECT**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Yorktown/Valley Forge

**BUSH'S TWO WARS: IRAQ AND THE BUDGET**

*Dr. Allen Schick, Visiting Scholar, Brookings Institution*

With war clouds, a weak economy, a rapidly growing deficit, and numerous demands for financial help, this year's budget battle is very likely to be difficult. This session will review the condition of the budget, the rules and procedures that affect decisions, and the choices the President and Congress have in accommodating conflicting pressures. The session will identify the "ports of entry" for states interested in influencing federal budget policy.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**BREAK**

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Yorktown/Valley Forge

### **PERSONAL RE-EMPLOYMENT ACCOUNTS: QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND REACTIONS**

As part of his economic stimulus package, President Bush has proposed giving states \$3.6 billion to provide Personal Reemployment Accounts to Americans who need the most help getting back to work. These funds will enable states to offer accounts of up to \$3000 each to eligible individuals to purchase job training and key services, such as child care and transportation, to help them look for a job and get back to work quickly.

This session will provide participants with an opportunity to learn more about this proposal and ask federal officials questions about how this initiative would work. In addition, the principal author of many several research studies on this topic from the Upjohn Institute will highlight the findings of their research. Finally, some public policy groups and organizations have raised concerns with the President's proposal. Come and listen to what some of these concerns are.

*Moderator: **Melanie Arthur**, Greg Newton Associates*

*Panelists: **Grace Kilbane**, Administrator, Workforce Investment System,  
U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration  
**Dr. Chris O'Leary**, Senior Economist, W.E. Upjohn Institute  
**Wendell Primus**, Minority Staff Director, Joint Economic Committee*

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Bunker Hill/Lexington

### **REED ACT SUCCESS STORIES: HOW TO MAKE THE CASE TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

States have several choices on how to spend their share of the \$8 billion Reed Act distribution including improving UI trust fund solvency, reducing taxes, improving benefits and making capital investments or information technology improvements. This session will highlight the results of NASWA's survey on how states are spending their Reed Act funds and will provide tips from state officials who have been successful in educating their governors and state legislatures on allocating these funds for program improvements and enhancements.

*Moderator: **Jon Brock**, Executive Director, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission*

*Panelists: **Dawn Watson**, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Labor  
**Melissa DeLisio**, Assistant Director, Workforce Development, Ohio Department of  
Job and Family Services  
**Dolores Esser**, Commissioner, Virginia Employment Commission*

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Ticonderoga

**LUNCH**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: HONORABLE ELAINE L. CHAO, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Yorktown/Valley Forge

**THE ADMINISTRATION'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL**

*Honorable Emily Stover DeRocco, Assistant Secretary, USDOL/ETA*

*Mason Bishop, Deputy Assistant Secretary, USDOL/ETA*

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**BREAK**

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Yorktown/Valley Forge

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION: HOUSE AND SENATE PERSPECTIVES**

Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act is just one of several major programs that will be considered in 2003 by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the House Education and Workforce Committee. General Accounting Office (GAO) representatives will highlight several recently-released studies on the various workforce programs. Key Senate and House Committee staff will provide an overview of the potential changes that may be considered and their thoughts on the Administration's WIA Reauthorization proposal.

*Moderator: Fernando "Butch" Lecuona, III, Commissioner Nebraska Department of Labor*

*Panelists: Mr. Sigurd R. Nilsen, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, General Accounting Office*

*Stephanie Milburn, Professional Staff Member, Majority Staff House Education and the Workforce Committee*

*Michele Varnhagen, Labor Counsel/Coordinator House Education and the Workforce Committee*

*Ilyse Schuman, Staff Director, Senate Subcommittee on Employment Safety and Training*

*Jane Oates, Senior Education Advisor, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee*

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Columbia Foyer

## **MAKING PROGRAMS INVISIBLE TO CUSTOMERS AND VISIBLE TO FUNDERS**

The vision of the One-Stop System is to make it possible for both individual and business customers to access services without having to understand or experience “programs.” However, if those who authorize and fund the various partner programs do not understand the contribution each is making to the system; there is a risk that program funding will be inadequate and not supported by policy makers and legislatures.

So, the question is: How do you serve your customers as a seamless system, while maintaining legislative support for the program components of the system? Discovering the best answers to this question is important in what is going to be a challenging year for the workforce system with fiscal restraints at both the State and Federal levels, the reauthorization of most system partner programs, and the potential for block grants and further delegation to states of decision making on system design and funding.

*Discussant Leader: **Greg Newton**, Greg Newton Associates*

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Congressional A/B

## **RECEPTION**

**Friday, February 28, 2003**

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8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Columbia A

**NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Columbia B

**DISCUSSION FORUM: DEVELOPING PRO-ACTIVE RESPONSES TO PROPOSED CHANGES**

The Administration has proposed multiple changes affecting the publicly funded Workforce Investment system including consolidation of funding streams, changes in the roles and membership of the State and Local Workforce Boards, new ways of funding the cost of the One-Stop system, common performance measures across all programs, targeted services for youth, and the establishment of Personal Reemployment Accounts. Come share ideas and develop strategies to define the issues and formulate the processes to effectively respond to the challenges and potential changes on the horizon.

*Discussant Leader: **Greg Newton**, Greg Newton Associates*

**ADJOURN**

## Keynote/Plenary Speaker Biographies

### **The Honorable Elaine L. Chao United States Secretary of Labor**

Elaine L. Chao is the nation's 24<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Labor, representing a new generation of American leadership. She was confirmed by the United States Senate on January 29, 2001.

When President George W. Bush nominated Elaine L. Chao, the first Asian-American woman appointed to a President's cabinet in U.S. history, he described her as an individual with "strong executive talent, compassion, and commitment to helping people build their lives." Her experience and skills as an executive and leader in the private public and nonprofit sectors uniquely qualify her to head the U.S. Department of Labor.

Before coming to the Labor Department, Secretary Chao was a Distinguished Fellow at The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research and educational institute. Previously she served as President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of America (UWA). Prior to joining UWA, she was Director of the Peace Corps, the world's largest international volunteer organization.

Secretary Chao's previous government career includes serving as the Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation. She also served as Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission and Deputy Maritime Administrator in the U.S. Department of Transportation. She brings a wealth of private sector experience to the post, having worked as Vice President of syndications at BankAmerica Capital Markets Group in San Francisco. She was selected as a White House Fellow in 1983 and, prior to that, was a transportation banker with Citicorp in New York.

Secretary Chao received her M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School and her undergraduate degree in economics from Mount Holyoke College. She also studied at M.I.T. Dartmouth College, and Columbia University.

Secretary Chao is married to United States Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

**The Honorable Emily Stover DeRocco**  
**Assistant Secretary, Employment & Training Administration**  
**United States Department of Labor**

Emily Stover DeRocco is the Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, where she is responsible for managing a \$10.5 billion budget that funds the country's public workforce investment system. This includes a number of important programs to American businesses and workers including the employment service system, unemployment insurance program, job training services under the Workforce Investment Act, impacted worker Trade programs, Job Corps, services to Older American workers and youth employment and training programs. The focus of Ms. DeRocco's tenure will be administering these programs in a way that meets business needs for a skilled workforce in the 21st Century.

Ms. DeRocco brings a wealth of experience to her position. In addition to high level federal positions serving the Cabinet officers at the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Energy during the Reagan Administration, Ms. DeRocco spent over ten years as the Executive Director of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. At the National Association, Ms. DeRocco represented the state officials responsible for administering employment and training programs funded by the federal government and created the Center for Employment Security Education and Research, a non-profit company dedicated to enhancing the capacity of front-line state and local workforce staff in serving business and worker customers.

Ms. DeRocco received her Juris Doctorate degree from the Georgetown Law Center in 1982 and was admitted to the Bar of the District of Columbia in 1983. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism.

**Dr. Allen Schick**  
**Professor of Public Policy, University of Maryland**  
**Visiting Fellow, Brookings Institution**

Allen Schick is a professor of public policy in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland. He also serves as a visiting fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution.

Before joining the University of Maryland, Schick was a senior specialist in American national government at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. He assisted the U.S. Congress with the development and implementation of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and continues to advise members of Congress and congressional committees on topical budget issues. He consults with many organizations at the federal, state and local levels and has assisted more than 20 states in developing budget and financial management systems.

Schick is the author of numerous studies dealing with budget systems and policies, public management, and finance at all levels of government. His books include *The Federal Budget Process: Politics, Policy, Process*; *The Budget Puzzle*; *The Capacity to Budget*; and *Congress and Money*. He is the founding editor of the professional journal, *Public Budgeting and Finance*, and contributes often to other publications.

Schick has been a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a research associate at the Urban Institute and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He has taught at Tufts University and Syracuse University. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. from Yale University and his B.A. from Brooklyn College.