

Mack

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In June the Institute's annual membership meeting featured Marian Johnson, Senior Vice President-Political Operations, for the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

The Institute offered two workshops: "Politics 101 — Plan Now. Win Later," a half-day interactive session in April led by local professionals, and "Where the Votes Are — Basic Training for Campaign Teams and Their Candidates," an intensive full-day event in September featuring faculty from the Leadership Institute, Washington, DC.

Last year's education program also included a movie-and-popcorn night (November) to view the PBS documentary, "Makers: Women in Politics," and a members-only Christmas luncheon with former Pennsylvania Governor Mark Singel who talked about

the history of women in politics "Fighting the Good Fight."

We begin this year with a workshop on January 19 for members and the public, "Nailed It! How to Give Your Best Presentation Ever" with executive speaking coach Daniel Pennington (see iwps-florida.org for registration), and a February Key Connections "How to Be a Leader in Government without Running for Office."

We hope to see the year end with a historic first: Northwest Florida electing women to the Florida House seats for Districts 1 and 2. More to come on this issue.

Diane Mack is a former Pensacola City Council member and was the founding president of the Institute for Women in Politics of Northwest Florida, currently serving as secretary. This viewpoint is offered on behalf of the IWP Board of Directors. To inquire about membership in the Institute, email contact@iwnflorida.org.