

Executive Women in Government

SLATE ANNOUNCED FOR 2008-09 EWG LEADERSHIP

EWG announced its slate for the 2008-09 board of directors at the March 12th Annual Summit. The board consists of five positions and with the committee chairs and volunteers, appointed by the president, handles the governance and oversees the operations of the association. The slate will be presented for election by email on April 9, 2008.

This year's slate (see bios below) presented by Nominations Chair, Maria Parisi Vickers, Deputy Director, EPA, includes:

President: Katherine C. Gugulis (1-year term)

Deputy Chief for Management at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Vice President: Elizabeth Cotsworth (2-year term)

Director of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, Environmental Protection Agency

Secretary: Mary Josie Blanchard (1-year term)

Deputy Director, Environmental Policy & Compliance, Office of the Secretary, The Department of the Interior

Note: The Treasurer is a 2-year term so Carolyn Cole continues in that position and the past president will be Lynn Scarlet. To be eligible, candidates must be a member of EWG, and for the presidency, currently in the SES or serving in a political or elected position.

The Nominations Committee can accept additional nominees through April 7. In addition, she indicated the board is seeking interested volunteers for committee chairs and members. Please contact Maria Vickers at vickers.maria@epa.gov or 703-308-8895, or any board member for more information or to nominate yourself or another candidate. For a complete listing, visit http://www.execwomeningov.org/our_people/officers_and_committee_chairs.html.

KATHERINE C. GUGULIS

As Deputy Chief for Management for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Katherine Gugulis is responsible for administrative management in the Department of Agriculture's second largest agency with nearly 11,000 employees located in 2,500 field offices across the United States. She has been a member of the Senior Executive Service since 1995.

NRCS provides leadership in helping farmers, ranchers, and other landowners conserve, maintain, and improve soil, water and other natural resources through voluntary programs.

Ms. Gugulis currently provides leadership for human resources management and development, training, contracting, and information technology support. Prior to her current position, she served as Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning and Accountability between 1998 and 2007 with responsibility for developing the

agency's strategic, performance, and business plans; budget request; performance measurement system; and oversight and evaluation activities. The performance management system she implemented is recognized as one of the best among all federal natural resource agencies.

From March 1997 to February, 1998, Ms. Gugulis served as USDA's Acting Associate Assistant Secretary for Administration overseeing implementation of the 92 recommendations contained in the Secretary's civil rights action team report. She has also served NRCS's Director of the Operations Management and Oversight Division (1995-96) as well as Director of the Office of Public Affairs (1994-95).

She began her career as public affairs officer at the Maryland State Office of NRCS's predecessor agency, the Soil Conservation Service, from 1974-1986. A native of Maryland, Ms. Gugulis earned a bachelors of science degree in journalism from the University of Maryland with minors in economics and English. She has received several national awards for performance management, civil rights leadership, and communications, held various leadership positions in professional associations, and has been recognized by the agency for outstanding and superior service consistently throughout her career. She lives in Gaithersburg, Md., with her husband.

ELIZABETH A. COTSWORTH

Elizabeth is currently the Office Director of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA). Elizabeth provides national direction for protecting people and the environment from harmful and avoidable exposure to radiation, as well as protective measures and guidance for indoor air environments. Prior to joining ORIA, Elizabeth was the Office Director of the Office of Solid Waste (OSW) from 1997 to 2002, after holding a series of positions managing national hazardous and solid waste programs. She is a recipient of the President's Meritorious Service Rank Award. She entered the Agency as a Management Intern in 1973. She holds a B.A. from Chatham College in History and a M.A. from the University of Virginia in Government and Foreign Affairs.

MARY JOSIE BLANCHARD

Mary Josie currently serves as Deputy Director for Environmental Policy and Compliance in the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior. In this position, she oversees and coordinates DOI's compliance with environmental statutes, handling environmental matters that cut across the various bureaus in the Department (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.); provides environmental, technical and policy advice to the Assistant Secretary, Policy Management and Budget; and oversees the operations of 8 regional environmental offices.

She has held several positions with DOI starting in the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in 1978. She later became the Assistant Director responsible for development of regulations, policies, and technical guidance for active and abandoned mined land reclamation. Prior to that, Mary Josie worked in Texas State Government as Research Coordinator for the Texas General Land Office and Chief of the Permits and Research Section at the Texas Railroad Commission where she developed and implemented the permitting system for coal and uranium mining and reclamation in Texas.

Mary Josie has been awarded the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award, (DOI's highest award), Interior's Meritorious Service Award, and the Interior Women's Distinguished Leadership Award. She holds an AA from Stephens College, BA and MA from the University of Texas and was a Senior Executive Fellow at Harvard University.

Active in her alma mater Stephens College, Mary Josie is past president of the Alumnae Association Board, served on the College's Board of Trustees and received the Alumnae Achievement Award in 2007 and Alumnae Service Award in 2000. She has also been past president of Washington D.C. chapter of Women in Mining. Her community service embraces two other interests as well: gardening and music. She volunteers actively at Hillwood Museum and Gardens as a Master Gardener. As a flute teacher, she has been active in the D.C. Federation of Music Teachers.