

18th Annual Courageous Leadership Honoree: Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City

Showing leadership and dedication, he co-founded Mayors Against Illegal Guns



Women Against Gun Violence is pleased to announce Mayor Michael Bloomberg as the recipient of our Courageous Leadership Award to be presented in 2012.

Michael R. Bloomberg is the 108th Mayor of the City of New York. He was first elected in November 2001, two months after the terrorist attacks on 9/11, a time when many believed that crime would return, businesses would flee, and New York might never recover. Instead, through hundreds of innovative new policies and initiatives, Mayor Bloomberg has made New York City safer, stronger, and greener than ever.

Bloomberg's belief that America's mayors and business leaders can help effect change in Washington has led him to launch national bi-partisan coalitions to combat illegal guns, reform immigration, and invest in infrastructure.

In 2006, with an initial group of 15 mayors, Mayor Bloomberg co-founded Mayors Against Illegal Guns, dedicated to making America's cities safer by cracking down on illegal guns. The coalition's bipartisan ranks have grown to more than 500 mayors from more than 40 states embracing the principle that mayors have a responsibility to protect their communities by holding gun offenders and irresponsible gun dealers accountable, demanding access to trace data that is critical to law enforcement efforts to combat illegal gun trafficking, and working with legislators to fix gaps, weaknesses and loopholes in the law that make it far too easy for criminals and other prohibited purchasers to get guns.

We applaud Mayor Bloomberg for his nationwide leadership and commitment to keeping our communities safe!

We're Going ... Lime!

We're not quite green yet but we are taking steps in that direction. We're making an effort to reduce costs and protect the environment, and you can help. Please take a moment to complete and return the questionnaire on the reverse of our year end appeal form. Just use the enclosed envelope and let us know how we can work together to become more green. Consider receiving the newsletter only by email or by reviewing it on-line at our website. Consider receiving invitations to our events only by evite or by email! Saving resources

– both financial and environmental – is just another way to make our community a better place to live.

SUCCESS! AB 144 Signed by Governor Brown!

Beginning in 2012, California becomes the fifth state to make it illegal to openly tote handguns.

See **Legislative Update** on page 2 for details.

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LEGISLATIVE *UPDATE*

The fight for critical gun legislation in California has recently witnessed significant success with the adoption of three State bills signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. We are proud to see the passage of AB144, AB809, and SB819 as California positions itself as a state that is serious about effectuating policies that promote public safety and protect our communities from the dangers of gun violence.

We are grateful for the tenacious support of our partner organizations, our State legislators, Governor Jerry Brown and you, our activists, who have all enabled these legislative victories!

AB144, Prohibiting Open Carrying of Handguns in Public Places

California becomes the fifth state to make it illegal to openly tote handguns.

Beginning in 2012, the open carrying of unloaded handguns in public spaces will be treated as a misdemeanor, and violators of the law will accrue a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to six months in county jail. With this announcement, California became the fifth state to make it illegal to openly tote handguns.

Previously, California law allowed individuals the right to carry unloaded handguns openly and separately from their ammunition. Starting in early 2010, groups across the state aggressively asserted this right by informally gathering en masse at Starbucks coffee shops, and other public dining establishments while flaunting their unloaded weapons. The close collaborations between WAGV and other gun violence prevention organizations statewide means we can dine in public with our families without experiencing intimidation from gun-toting individuals carrying ammunition just inches from their unloaded weapons.

Deemed as dangerous by law enforcement officials statewide, the practice of open carry was regarded as a major hindrance to public safety because law enforcement personnel were faced with the formidable task of determining which individuals were packing loaded or unloaded heat.



Ann Reiss Lane at Open Carry protest with Assemblymember Anthony Portantino

the passing of AB809, we are afforded a comprehensive firearms records system and much needed uniformity to the reporting and retention of gun sale records.

SB819, Authorizing Use of Fees for Enforcement of Firearms Prohibitions

Another important California measure WAGV is pleased to see pass is SB819. This bill will devote more funds and resources to keep guns out of the hands of prohibited owners. These firearms in question are guns that were purchased legally but whose owners are no longer allowed to have them due to criminal activity or mental illness. When you take into consideration that more than 18,000 Californians are registered gun owners, and that 15-20 names are added each day to the “prohibited owners” list, this new law will ensure that cross-checks between databases are conducted.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

HR822, National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act

With Brown's signature on AB144, AB809 and SB819, California's progress in gun legislation is proving to be a far digression from the grim trend toward lax gun regulations other states are following. Despite our recent triumphs, a new Federal bill under consideration, HR822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act, would force every state to honor and comply with every other state's permit to carry a concealed gun – no matter how lax the other state's standards. As a result, it would allow individuals to carry concealed, loaded weapons in public in states across America, even if the individuals do not meet the minimum public safety standards many states already have in place – such as safety training, age, or a clean arrest record.

In September, a broad coalition of mayors,

See UPDATE, page 3

AB809, Requiring Long Gun Record Retention

Also effective in January 2012, AB809 will help increase public safety and assist law enforcement in solving gun related crimes by requiring the Department of Justice to retain copies of sales records for rifles and shotguns, as it currently does for handgun records. This new requirement on long gun records keeping arrives as a welcome and necessary change to our state's books, as information of people purchasing long guns was previously required to be destroyed instead of being entered into the Automated Firearm System (AFS). With

With the passing of AB809, we are afforded a comprehensive firearms records system and much needed uniformity to the reporting and retention of gun sale records.



Billie P. Weiss, MPH
Department of Epidemiology
UCLA School of Public Health

The Public Health Approach to Firearms and Firearm Violence

Public Health is charged with protecting the community's health. Traditionally public health epidemiology has focused on the more familiar themes of protecting food, water, and people from infectious and chronic diseases. However, the leading causes of death and disability have shifted during the past three decades from the more traditional themes, to Injury and Violence. These have emerged as the leading causes of death and disability for the population less than 45 years of age. As in traditional public health investigations and prevention strategies, eliminating the disease vector, as in malaria, has proven to be the most efficacious strategy for reducing and controlling an epidemic. The vector of this epidemic is clear, it is the firearm and as in other public health epidemics where the vector is known, we must control the vector in order to prevent

the ongoing epidemic from continuing to spread.

Statistics confirm that gun violence is indeed the epidemic of our time. In the past ten years it has killed more young people than cancer, heart disease or AIDs. And what's more it does act like a contagious disease. In our neighborhoods, when a young person is shot it often prompts a retaliatory shooting, which then spreads to others. Gun violence is contagious, and the public health approach working with organizations like WAGV and other advocacy organizations is critical to controlling and eventually eliminating this epidemic. Prevention, before anything happens is our goal and educating the public, health care providers, and policy makers is critical if we are to win the battle against what I consider to be the greatest public health epidemic of our time.

UPDATE, continued from page 3

police organizations, domestic violence experts, prosecutors and 45,000 Americans, announced a national effort to defeat this Federal legislation. The campaign – www.OurLivesOurLaws – was launched by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bipartisan coalition of more than 600 Republican, Independent and Democratic mayors.

By overriding standards set by other states, this legislation creates a nationwide lowest-common-denominator approach to public safety laws. The bill also threatens the safety of police officers by making it far more difficult to distinguish between legal and illegal firearm possession. The bill fails to establish a national database that would make it possible for officers to verify an out-of-state permit, leaving them without any reliable way to be certain that someone with a loaded gun and one of dozens of types of out-of state permits is actually obeying the law.

As we go to print, HR822 passed out of the House Judiciary Committee on party lines except for Representative Dan Lungren, (R-CA) who voted "no". Thank you for all your

calls to his office asking for his no vote. It worked!

HR308/S32 –Stuck in Committee

Shortly after 19 people, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, were shot outside a Tucson, Arizona grocery store with a handgun equipped with a large capacity ammunition magazine, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy and Sen. Frank Lautenberg introduced HR308/S32, the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act, in the 112th Congress, to prohibit civilian possession of these military style magazines. The Act makes it unlawful for a person to possess a large capacity ammunition magazine unless it was lawfully possessed before the bill was enacted. It also prohibits the transfer or sale of large capacity ammunition magazines. Exemptions are made for active and retired law enforcement, for certain federal and state departments and agencies, and allows manufacture, transfer, or possession of large capacity magazines for authorized testing or experimentation.

Both these bills are in the first step of the legislative process; introduced bills and

IMPORTANT LINKS

Elected Officials

This website will help you locate and contact



your elected officials – federal, state, and local. It also helps you locate and contact government agencies.

<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Federal Legislation

To track federal legislation, check out this link: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>

Voting Records

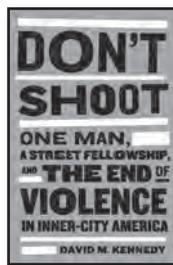
To track federal legislation and see how your representatives voted, use this site: <http://www.govtrack.us/>

resolutions first go to committees that deliberate, investigate and revise them before they go to general debate. On February 7, 2011 the House Committee on the Judiciary referred HR308 to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Don't Shoot

One Man, A Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America
 By David M. Kennedy
 (Bloomsbury USA, Hardcover, 9781608192649, 320pp.)

Gang and drug-related inner-city violence, with its attendant epidemic of incarceration, is the defining crime problem in our country. In some neighborhoods in America, one out of every two hundred young black men is shot to death every year, and few initiatives of government and law enforcement have made much difference. But when



Kennedy found that all parties misunderstood each other, caught in a spiral of racialized anger and distrust.

David Kennedy, a self-taught and then-unknown criminologist, engineered the “Boston Miracle” in the mid-1990s, he pointed the way toward what few had imagined: a solution.

Don't Shoot tells the story of Kennedy's long journey. Riding with beat cops, hanging with gang members, and stoop-sitting with grandmothers, Kennedy found that all parties misunderstood each other, caught

in a spiral of racialized anger and distrust. He envisioned an approach in which everyone – gang members, cops, and community members – comes together in what is essentially a huge intervention. Offenders are told that the violence must stop, that even the cops want them to

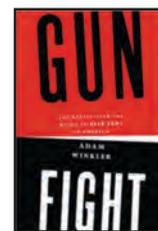
stay alive and out of prison, and that even their families support swift law enforcement if the violence continues. In city after city, the same miracle has followed: violence plummets, drug markets dry up, and the relationship between the police and the community is reset.

This book chronicles a paradigm shift in how we address one of America's most shameful social problems. A riveting, page-turning read, it combines the street vérité of *The Wire*, the social science of *Gang Leader for a Day*, and the moral urgency and personal journey of *Fist Stick Knife Gun*. But unlike anybody else, Kennedy shows that there could be an end in sight.

Gun Fight

The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America
 By Adam Winkler
 (W.W. Norton, Hardcover, 978-0-393-07741-4, 361pp.)

In *Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America*, Adam Winkler weaves together the dramatic story of a landmark Supreme Court case and the remarkable hidden history of guns in America. He shows how gun rights and gun control have coexisted since our earliest days – and how efforts to balance the two have profoundly shaped the nation in fascinating and unexpected ways.



Using the lessons of this history, *Gunfight* maps out a way to break the current political stalemate on guns and restore reason to the gun debate.

The Interrupters

A film by Steve James and Alex Kotlowitz
Directed and Photographed by Steve James
Produced by Alex Kotlowitz and Steve James
A Cinema Guild Release
KARTEMQUIN FILMS in association with RISE FILMS
125 minutes / 1.78:1 / Dolby Digital 2.0 / In English / Not Rated /

THE INTERRUPTERS tells the moving and surprising story of three dedicated individuals who try to protect their Chicago communities from the violence they themselves once employed. These “violence interrupters” (their job title) – who have credibility on the street because of their own personal histories – intervene in conflicts before the incidents explode into violence. Their work and their insights are informed by their own journeys, which, as each of them point out, defy easy characterization.

Their work is fraught with moral quandaries. They have to step between adversaries, often people they know. They need to acknowledge people's grievances while simultaneously pulling them back from acting on them. And on occasion, they find themselves using the very threat of violence to defuse an altercation. As they venture into their communities, they

confront the importance of family, the noxious nature of poverty, and the place of race. And they do it with incredible candor and directness.



Shot over the course of a year, THE INTERRUPTERS captures a period in Chicago when it became a national symbol for the violence in our cities. During that period, the city was besieged by high-profile incidents, most notably the brutal beating death of Derrion Albert.

The “violence interrupters” work for an innovative organization, CeaseFire, which is the brainchild of epidemiologist Gary Slutkin who for ten years battled the spread of cholera and AIDS in Africa. Slutkin believes that the spread of violence mimics that of infectious diseases, and so the treatment should be similar: go after the most infected, and stop the infection at its source.

Guns in Mainstream Media – WAGV Fights Normalization with your HELP!

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Action Alert regarding Chanel's fall/winter advertising campaign using a photo of a model with a gun tattooed on her arm. The following exchange between Ann Reiss Lane, founder of WAGV, and Chanel is reprinted in its entirety.



FROM: Ann Reiss Lane (to Chanel regarding their advertisement where model has gun tattoo)

I was staggered to see your ad in the Sunday Los Angeles Times. I have no idea what you thought your message was, but all I saw was a woman with a hostile look on her face and a gun tattooed on the inner arm. In the name of all the gun victims and surviving family members I ask that you find another way to express your fashion statement.

Sincerely,
Ann R. Lane
Los Angeles

TO: Ann Reiss Lane (from Chanel in response to her email)

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your e-mail regarding your concern over the photograph used in the CHANEL 2011 Fall Winter advertisement.

CHANEL is a company that prides itself on providing superior quality products and exemplary service. We sincerely apologize for the delay in your response, as your query was not answered within 24 to 48 hours.

Throughout history, the pursuit of artistic expression has met with varying degrees of public acceptance. We have found this is true even in the world of advertising. While the CHANEL 2011 Fall Winter advertisement has received positive feedback from many consumers, we know that while we try, we cannot please everyone. It was certainly not our intent to portray the imagery that you suggest in your critique.

CHANEL has always used responsible and creative advertising techniques to communicate our message to as many people as possible, in the most compelling, informative and involving fashion possible.

I am sorry that you were offended by the advertising. Please know that we appreciate your comments and will take them into consideration for our future creative work.

Thank you for your interest in CHANEL.

Warm Regards,
Megan
Consumer Relations
CHANEL Inc. USA

TO: Chanel (from Ann Reiss Lane in response to their response to her original email)

Thank you for your b.s. response. Paragraphs saying nothing about the use of a gun tattoo as part of your ad. Surely you do not think that people who buy Chanel will be enticed because of the gun symbolism. For years gun manufacturers have advertised their wares in high fashion ads--furs and silks--directed at high end women buyers. Implicit was the idea of the need to protect oneself from "the other", and we all know who and what color those are.

Surely you can show a little more sensitivity.

ARL

Ways You Can Help WAGV

RESPOND TO WAGV'S YEAR-END APPEAL

Each year, Women Against Gun Violence, asks you to make a year-end donation. We hope, even with these difficult economic times, you will send in your donation using the envelope and form included with this newsletter. Please consider the new categories and benefits for our 2011-2012 fiscal year. Your support makes our work possible!

Re-Register or Register for the First Time for Ralph's Community Contribution Program

WAGV is a member of Ralph's Community Contribution Program. Even if you have previously registered, you have to re-register each year. The new registration period started September 1, 2011.

1. Pick up a Ralphs Reward card at any participating Ralphs store (or use your existing card).
2. Register your card online at www.ralphs.com (use the Ralphs reward button at the top). If you use your phone number at the register, call 1-800-660-9003 to get your REWARDS card number.
3. After you register your card, you will get a confirmation email. Click on the link in the email and then click on "Community Rewards". You will be asked to select an organization to sponsor.

That's it! Swipe your registered card (or use your phone number) every time you shop at Ralphs! Your purchases will not count for WAGV until after you register your card! If you have any questions or have trouble registering, please call Ralphs at 1-800-443-4438 for assistance.

Donate Your Car or Other Motor Vehicle to Cars For Causes

WAGV has registered with Cars for Causes to accept your donated automobile, boat or motorcycle. Check our website to click on the direct link to Cars for Causes or type the link below into your browser. http://www.cars4causes.net/charity-car-donation/women-against-gun-violence?_vsrefdom=charity_pages

Ebay

From time to time WAGV places items on EBAY. Please check out our EBAY site by going to our website at www.wagv.org and clicking on our EBAY link to see if we have any items up for auction.

Consider Including Women Against Gun Violence in Your Will

The federal government encourages these gifts or bequests by allowing an estate tax charitable deduction. In addition, a charitable bequest may place your estate in a lower estate tax bracket. Check with your tax and/or estate planner for more information.

Turning Grief into Action: Speakers Bureau Meeting

WAGV conducted its first Speakers Bureau Training session of its new fiscal year on Thursday evening, September 15. Held at WAGV offices in West Los Angeles, the training was attended by over 10 survivors of gun violence. Survivors spent the evening sharing their stories, reconnecting with friends they hadn't seen in some time, and meeting WAGV's new staff.



Working with our speakers on storytelling skills was Margarita Medina, a professional storyteller who teaches and also has her own one-person show called *Margarita On The Rocks*. Each speaker also received a WAGV duffel bag filled with brochures, handouts, and other materials necessary to conduct a workshop for both teens and parents.

Future Speakers Bureau trainings are in the works. During our last fiscal year, WAGV speakers reached over 2,500 youth and parents with their stories and our anti-gun violence message!

Interns Wanted and Needed

Women Against Gun Violence is seeking two interns to focus on both tracking and participating in Los Angeles County community and neighborhood events.

Los Angeles County is home to many community events and it is a significant responsibility to track, calendar, and register WAGV for participation. Additionally, the interns will be responsible for staffing WAGV's display and building a grassroots movement by "clipboarding" the event.

Bachelors Degree required. Spanish speaking required. Some weekend and evening work.

This is a great opportunity to get involved with the anti-gun violence movement in our community and work alongside policymakers, community members and survivors of gun violence to bring about change!

For more information or to apply, contact Margot Bennett at wagv@wagv.org or call 310-204-2348.

WAGV CALENDAR

**NOV
2**

Speakers Series

First in a quarterly series is guest author Adam Winkler in conversation with Judith Palartz, Book Club Facilitator, discussing his book *Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America* (W.W. Norton). In this provocative and controversial history, Winkler, a constitutional lawyer and Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law, argues that guns – not abortion, race, or religion – are at the heart of America’s cultural divide.

**NOV
16**

Young Professionals Series

First in a quarterly series, this Girls Night Out presents *That Takes Ovaries: Bold Women, Brazen Acts*. This staged reading of the play by Rivka Solomon and Bobbi Ausubel is directed by Vesna Hocevar. Performed at the Ivy Substation in Culver City, the reading will be preceded by a wine reception at 6 pm. Tickets are \$50 and include the reception, the performance, and a signed copy of the book. *That Takes Ovaries* is a book, a play, and an open mike movement! For more information, contact WAGV at 310-204-2348 or email us at wagv@wagv.org

**MAR
27**

Education for Action

Co-sponsored by Women Against Gun Violence, the ATF, and the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, this year’s full-day Education for Action Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2012 and will be held at the California Endowment in Downtown Los Angeles. The conference theme is “*The Frontline Against Violent Crime: Policy; Intervention; and Community and Law Enforcement Response.*” A variety of conference sessions will appeal to law enforcement, social workers, and community activists alike! For more information email us at wagv@wagv.org

**MAY
20**

18th Annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch

WAGV’s 18th Annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch will present its award to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, co-founder of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Additional honorees will be announced in the near future.



**EVERY
WEEK**

Outreach and Education

Each and every week, WAGV reaches out to the Los Angeles Community through schools, community events, and public gatherings to deliver its message of anti-gun violence. In 2010-11, over 2,500 youth and parents received our message delivered by gun violence survivors and WAGV staff and board members.



WAGV is continually reaching out to the community. Clockwise from top: Board Member Rhonda Foster represented WAGV at an outreach on Saturday, September 10, at the Pacific Area Community Police Station Open House; WAGV Representatives and Board Members with Councilmember Paul Krekorian celebrating Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence; Sarah Mallory of WAGV with Guillermo Cespedes, Deputy Mayor and others at Mayor’s Gun Buyback Event; Northridge Hospital Run/Walk.

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**WOMEN
AGAINST
GUN
VIOLENCE**

The Activist

Winter 2011-2012

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Women Against Gun Violence

Mission Statement

To prevent gun violence by educating the public, policymakers and the media about the human, financial and public health consequences of this epidemic and to mobilize communities to take decisive action against the dangers of firearms.

in the U.S. :

40% of households with children have guns
46 Suicides a day are committed with guns
34 People a day are **murdered** with guns

9 kids a day are **killed by gunfire** in the United States...
....our goal is **0**



**WOMEN
AGAINST
GUN
VIOLENCE**





WOMEN
AGAINST
GUN
VIOLENCE

**Yes! I want to support
Women Against Gun Violence!**

I want to be a **SUSTAINING PARTNER**. Please charge my credit card \$100.00 each month for 12 months!

SUSTAINING PARTNERS receive:

- 1 free ticket to WAGV's 18th annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch honoring NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg
- 1 free ticket to WAGV's "Young Professionals" event of your choice
- 1 free ticket to WAGV's "Speakers Series" event of your choice
- A WAGV coffee mug
- Recognition in WAGV's Spring 2012 newsletter, *The Activist*

I want to be a **SPONSOR**. Please charge my credit card \$50.00 each month for 12 months!

SPONSORS receive:

- 1 free ticket to WAGV's "Young Professionals" event of your choice
- 1 free ticket to WAGV's "Speakers Series" event of your choice
- A WAGV coffee mug
- Recognition in WAGV's Spring 2012 newsletter, *The Activist*

I want to be an **ADVOCATE** by making a one-time donation of \$365 – just \$1.00 a day

ADVOCATES receive:

- 1 free ticket to WAGV's "Speakers Series" event of your choice
- A WAGV coffee mug
- Recognition in WAGV's Spring 2012 newsletter, *The Activist*

I want to be a **CONTRIBUTOR** by making a one-time donation of \$100

CONTRIBUTORS receive:

- A WAGV coffee mug
- Recognition in WAGV's Spring 2012 newsletter, *The Activist*

I want to be a **FRIEND** by making any **one-time** donation of \$_____

FRIENDS receive:

- Recognition in WAGV's Spring 2012 newsletter, *The Activist*

Enclosed is my check made payable to **Women Against Gun Violence**

OR

Please charge my credit card Visa/MC/Amex as indicated in the form above.

Credit Card No.: _____ Security No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Address / City / State / Zip: _____

Name as you would like to be recognized (Please Print): _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

WAGV is a 501 (c)(3). Our taxpayer id is: 95-4738754. Your donation is deductible to the extent allowed by law.



***Yes, I want to help
Women Against Gun Violence
Go Green!***

We're not quite green yet but we are taking steps in that direction. Please take a moment to complete and return the questionnaire below and return it in the enclosed envelope. Let us know how we can work together to become more green! Consider receiving the newsletter only by email or by reviewing it on-line at our website. Consider receiving invitations to our events only by evite or by email! Helping our environment is just another way to make our community a better place to live.

NEWSLETTER

- I prefer to receive the WAGV newsletter only by email.
- I prefer to view the WAGV newsletter on WAGV's website at www.wagv.org
Please let me know by email when the new issue is available!
- I prefer to continue receiving the WAGV newsletter by regular mail.

INVITATIONS

- I prefer to receive invitations to WAGV events only by evite or email.
- I prefer to continue receiving WAGV event invitations by regular mail.

ACTION ALERTS

- Please include me on your action alert email list! I want to hear about opportunities where I can make a difference!
- Please remove me from your action alert list.

MAILING LIST

- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Name: _____
Email Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____