



Great Lakes Region Federally Employed Women



FEW NEWS

August 2007



RTP a Great Success!

Moving ahead in the Motor City!

Spring Regional Training Program (RTP) presented by our newest chapter The Motor City Chapter was a great success and was filled with dynamic speakers and workshops.

Two Great Lakes Region members were among the workshop presenters. Yolanda Brown-Harris, Legislative Chair for the Equalitarian Chapter, presented roles that FEW plays to address the concerns and interests of women in the federal service. Arlena Fitch-Gordon, Equalitarian Chapter member, presented how women can enhance their professional development by realizing the important a successful interview can have on their career.



Yolanda Brown-Harris and Arlena Fitch-Gordon

Welcome New Members 2007

Betty Antal
Kathy Campbell
Leah Clinton
Sonya Hansel
Mildred Hearn
John Hickman
Lana Kemp
Grant Riggins
Connie Smith
Rebecca Sparks
Delores Strieby
Mary Weber

Janet Brown
Dorothy Clary
Pamela Freeman
Courtney Hasler
Jill Heinzen
Tyra Holt
Deborah Lane
Michelle Rouland
Debbie Smith
Debbie Streepy
Leslie Thompson
Rachel Wiseman



▲ WORD FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGER, RITA JOPER

WINDY CITY TO HOLD REGIONAL TRAINING/MEETING, 18-20 OCTOBER

Mark your calendars to attend the fantastic Great Lakes Regional Training and Board Meeting, 18-20 October in Chicago. The Windy City Chapter is making plans to host this regional training. Windy City Chapter has been revitalized and is growing rapidly. Please join this fine Chapter for training in the great city of Chicago.

WINDY CITY CHAPTER GETS A NEW BREATH OF LIFE

38th National Training Program

Training Today, Leaders Tomorrow

A Great Success with Great Speakers



JAMES BRADLEY

"Doing the Impossible" draws upon Bradley's vast research into the Pacific War and addresses the mindset it takes to achieve success—both in combat and in life.



KIM OLSON

Colonel Kim Olson, USAF (Ret) reveals life on the edge in the military. She will share some of her strategies for success and her lessons learned as she balanced conflicting roles as a senior officer, pilot, wife, and mother



DESI WILLIAMSON

Desi Williamson has made a habit of overcoming obstacles in his life and winning! Williamson learned at a young age how to achieve goals academically, athletically, professionally, and on a personal level. He has become one of the top speakers in America by giving his audiences not only the "why," but the "how to," as well as enabling them to succeed in the complex world.

The Windy City Chapter of FEW has been reorganized and is meeting again after several years of inactivity. With members from various federal organizations in the Chicago area, the group has met several times to organize, elect officers and begin setting goals.

With the help of Rita Soper (Regional Manager, Great Lakes Region) and Melody Bigi (Reg Rep), Windy City members learned about the history of the organization and the many efforts FEW is highlighting presently. The local chapter is currently focusing on membership-building and will soon begin identifying the needs of federally employed women in Chicago.

Newly elected officers are President Lashana Sims (US Environmental Protection Agency), Vice President Barb Hunt (Department of Veterans Affairs), Secretary Shari Holloway (US Environmental Protection Agency) and Treasurer Adrienne Callahan (US Environmental Protection Agency). For information contact Lashana Sims at (312) 886-3625 or sims.lashana@epa.gov.

Miami Valley Chapter Awards Scholarships for Higher Education

On Thursday, June 21, 2007, the Miami Valley Chapter presented the 7th Annual Roberta A. Anderson Scholarships for Higher Education. The 2007 recipients are Ms. Jane Leach, Ms. Dianna Hopkins and Ms. Heather Taylor. Ms. Leach and Hopkins are active FEW members of the Miami Valley Chapter, and Ms. Taylor is the daughter of Ms. Kathy Taylor, FEW Member and Chapter Fundraising Chair. Each received a scholarship in the amount of \$500.

The Roberta A. Anderson Scholarship for Higher Education was established in the spring of 2000 to honor deceased FEW member Roberta A. Anderson. Prior to her death, she was an active member of FEW and a great proponent of education. The Miami Valley Chapter has awarded fourteen scholarships to FEW members or their dependents. Scholarship applications are judged by the Federal Employees Education Assistance Fund. All profits from chapter fundraising activities go into this program.

FEW's 2007 AWARD WINNERS

[Washington, D.C., June 4, 2007] – The Federally Employed Women's (FEW) National Board of Directors for recently announced the 2007 winners of FEW's National Awards. Award recipients will be honored at a special awards ceremony in conjunction with the 38th National Training Program (NTP), "Training Today, Leaders Tomorrow," being held at the Hilton Washington Hotel, July 16 – 20, 2007.

Awardees are:

FEW's National President's Award---**Shoron Roydes** (Treasurer), Great Lakes Region and **Carolyn Malone** (Communications Chair), North Coast Chapter, Great Lakes Region.

Private Sector Award---Crane Operations, **Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)**, Bloomfield, Indiana

Federal Department/Agency Award---The Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service

Barbara Boardman Tennant Award---Recipient, Karin Biega, Space Coast Chapter, Orlando, FL

Champion of Diversity Award---Recipient, Carlos Deno, Jr., Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia, PA

Allie Latimer Award---Recipient, **Arlena Fitch-Gordon**, Equalitarian Chapter, Columbus, OH

Regional Achievement Award --- Mid-Continent Region Chapter Achievement Awards---First place Winners

Newsletter: Nebraska Heartland Chapter, Mid-Continent Region, Lincoln, NB

Best Program: Derby City Chapter, Southeast Region, Louisville, KY

Fundraiser: Derby City Chapter, Southeast Region, Louisville, KY

Membership: Nebraska Heartland Chapter, Mid-Continent Region, Lincoln, NB

Special Emphasis Project: Derby City Chapter, Southeast Region, Louisville, KY

Special Project: Oak Ridge Chapter, Southeast Region, Oak Ridge, TN

Helen R. Dudley Overall Chapter Achievement Award---Derby City Chapter, Southeast Region, Louisville, KY

Additionally, FEW is proud to announce the 2007 winners of its scholarship program:

National Training Program Scholarships

Sandra J. Johnson, East Bay Chapter, Western Region

Rita Harder, Fall Creek Chapter, Great Lakes Region

Katherine Astleford, Steel City Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Region

Evagelina Anderson, Central Coast of California Chapter, Western Region

Collegiate Scholarships –

Rita Harder, Fall Creek Chapter, Great Lakes Region

Rhonda Smith, Derby City Chapter, Southeast Region

FEW President Rhonda Trent said, "It is a pleasure to recognize those who have worked so hard for FEW and in our four emphasis programs, training, diversity, compliance, and legislative. Our chapters, officers, individual members, and partners in the private sector are to be commended for their support and commitment to FEW. It is always a great event when our annual awards are presented in front of our members and peers."

FEW Washington Update June 15, 2007

A House subcommittee has voted to strip funding for the Homeland Security Department's personnel system from the fiscal year 2008 budget. Previously, the House approved an authorization bill that would repeal the department's authority to enact a new human resources management system, although the White House has threatened to veto that bill. If either of those measures becomes law, the personnel program effectively would be killed.

Meanwhile, Sen. John McCain (AZ-R) and presidential hopeful recently said that as President he would push to overhaul the Civil Service System. "The civil service has strayed from its reformist roots and mutated into a no-accountability zone, where employment is treated as an entitlement," McCain said in a speech.

Arguing the system is unfair to high performers, McCain said, "The failings in our civil service are encouraged by a system that makes it very difficult to fire someone, even for gross misconduct....We must do away with the current system."

He added that he would push for firings of federal employees to be reviewed by an independent board and over-turned only when "motivated by political or personal animus."

The Senator concluded that he would use the expected retirement of 40% of government employees over the next 10 years to "reorganize the federal work force."

• Privatization/Outsourcing:

A provision in the 2008 Defense authorization bill would allow federal employees to compete for work performed by contractors. Defense would be unable to hold job competitions until the so-called "in-sourcing" guidelines are in place.

The guidelines would apply to any job held by a federal worker at any point since October 1980, to any contract awarded without competition and to any contract where the contractor performed poorly.

The provision will "Ensure that civilian employees have ample opportunities to perform outsourced work," the American Federation of Government Employees stated.

Federal workers will also get the right to appeal when they lose a competition, a right they do not currently have. In addition, the bill would eliminate the costs of employee health and retirement benefits from cost evaluations during a public-private jobs competition so that companies would not have a competitive edge by providing their employees with fewer benefits than federal employees receive. Federal workers already win the bulk of A-76 competitions, capturing 83% of all jobs competed since 2003.

Meanwhile language included in the newly enacted emergency appropriations bill will rope off almost 3,000 federal jobs from possible outsourcing. The measure deems those jobs – 2,240 positions at the Mine Safety and Health Administration and 600 at the Energy Department's National Energy Technology Laboratory – as being "inherently governmental," meaning they cannot be opened to competition from contractors under the A-76 process.

Sen. Robert Byrd (WV-D) authored the measure which is part of the emergency appropriations bill that will provide funds for the Iraq war and other purposes. President Bush signed the bill on May 25th.

