



Windy City News

Volume 2, Issue 2

August 2008

FEW Windy City Chapter

Open Letter from Chapter President

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While attending a 2007 Women's History Month event featuring FEW Great Lakes Regional Manager, Rita Soper, I expressed interest in becoming a member. I was asked if I would consider being president. Although I was hesitant, I accepted the appointment. At that time there were only 5 members, 1 of which was a member at large and 4 lifetime members. I accepted the challenge of getting the Chapter up and running and to day we have over 40 members.

During the National Training program held July 13-18 in Anaheim, CA, Rhonda Trent outgoing National President and Sue Webster, newly elected National President, stood up and gave me a hug and a high five during my introduction. The support and encouragement was provided because the Windy City Chapter of FEW has been inactive for several years.

Becky Fasulo begged the National Board of Directors to grant the Chapter a wavier for one year. The motion was approved; and one year and three months later The Chapter has provided Becky and the National Board with membership and positive feedback to the challenging motion to disband the Windy City Chapter.

Before I became Chapter President, I was afraid to get up and talk in front of a crowd, I never thought that I could lead anything. The five things I have learned are: positive leadership skills, being a positive role model, tackling your fears of public speaking, working with a powerful group has it rewards and never give up.

As Chapter President, I challenge Chapter members to:

1. Provide help to needy families in the area.
2. Identify ways to support our local youth.
3. Increase the Chapters dedicated members; making sure each member understand the mission of the Chapter, Region and National FEW.
4. Help women in all work areas achieve their personal and professional goals.
5. Identify Chapter accomplishments so that our achievements receive regional and National FEW recognition.

I want to take this time to thank all the members that have shown me support this past year and I look forward to you support this next year.

Chapter Elections and New Committee Chair Appointments—come to the July 30 meeting and find out more...

Did you know that you can attend our monthly meetings via conference call?

See Meeting invitation for call-in information.





Federally Employed Women



The Foundation for Personal Financial Education

Proudly Present:

Getting Fiscally Fit and Managing Credit

The Windy City Chapter held two financial seminars during May and June 2008. The first, "Getting Fiscally Fit", was standing room only, and the second "Managing Credit" was filled to capacity. The speakers were Hank Tajkowski and Kelly Molchan from the Foundation for Personal Financial Education. They touched on several areas: seven roadblocks to financial success; managing cash; preserving your credit; making credit worthy decisions to protect your financial future and reading and understanding your credit report.

These workshops are FREE to Chapter members and any others who may be interested. Please contact Leslie Garcia at lgarcia@CFTEC.GOV to register for the August 20, 2008, Stress Management workshop.

Women's Equality Day -

August 26, 2008

The struggle to protect women's rights was culminated many year's ago when the 19th amendment was passed.

Voting is a privilege that should not be taken lightly.

With the U.S. Presidential and many local political elections, we are seeing the historic impact that the 15th, 19th and 26th amendments have made in the US. While FEW is a bi-partisan organization, we must remember to make our voices heard. Remember to vote on November 4 and remember the women who made it possible many years ago on Women's Equality Day.



Facing an Economic Burden?

If you are facing an economic burden, here are a couple resources that may be able to provide help:

www.lowermybills.com – compare mortgage rates

www.balancepro.net - Whether you're interested in developing a workable spending and savings plan, getting out of debt, understanding and improving your credit report, buying a home, or planning for your financial future, your credit union or employee assistance program wants to help. 888-456-2227.

<http://www.healthmad.com/Fitness/Easy-Exercises-to-Relieve-Stress.34273> - Quick and easy exercises; while you may be experiencing stress from debt or economic burden, remember to take care of your health. Take the time to do these easy exercises don't think about the time, many can be done while you are sitting at your desk. It will make your day a lot less hectic.

www.mint.com – Free budget and financial planning, online money management, personal finance software.

www.ebay.com – Sell your unwanted items and make a profit.
<http://business.illinois.gov/starting.cfm> - This website provides you with valuable information needed to start your own business in Illinois.

www.liveops.com – Become an At-Home Agent for a virtual call center and enjoy the benefits of working at home, part-time or full-time.

Windy City Training

- * **August 20** —*Stress Management*, 11:30am-12:30PM, 77 West Jackson Blvd, RM 331
- * **October 15** —*Home Ownership*, 11:30am-12:30PM, 77 West Jackson Blvd, 12th floor

Chapter Meetings

- * **July 30**—Regular FEW Mtg
- * **Sept. 17**—Regular FEW Mtg
- * **Nov. 12**—Regular FEW Mtg
- * **Dec. 17**—Regular FEW Mtg

FEW Chapter Member Clips

A Couple FEW facts

- FEW has four focus areas: diversity, legislative, compliance and training
- FEW is not FWP; FEW is non-profit, FWP is sponsored by government agency
- FEW has over 100 chapters; 10 in the Great Lakes Region.
- FEW has male members
- The Windy City Chapter is growing rapidly with your support!

Committees

If you are interested in serving on any of Chapter committees, please email lashanasims@yahoo.com

Membership * Co-Chairs

Leslie Garcia/ Jacqueline Wasik

Finance

Public Relations/Newsletter *

Adrienne Callahan, Chair

Programs/Community Outreach *

Kesha Watson/Brenita Betts, Chairs

Diversity * Lequita Mayhew

Legislative * Sheree Haywood



Chapter Members Share their First NTP Experiences

“I had a wonderful time at the 39th FEW National Training Program.

My experiences were great, from

the time that I checked into my hotel room to the time that I checked out. One of the first events that I went to was a meet and greet event. The food was nice, the weather was great. I liked the introductions of the armed forces to the passing of the torches with the women. My classes were very interesting, I has something to say in everyone that I attended. There were lively exchanges between the teachers and the FEW members. I liked my room, I liked the room service. The employees were very friendly and attentive. I liked Ms. Eleanor Clift, opening key note speaker, I could identify with her loss and some of her career successes. I also liked Vernice Armour, African American fighter pilot, she was a great key note speaker. I liked the vendors, they had a large variety of wares and goods. I collected pens and literature from the tables of other government agencies, they answered my questions and concerns.

All in all, I had a wonderful fantastic time.”

Diane Wade

“My first attendance at a national training conference sponsored by Federally Employed Women was this July. Two things struck me. First, the variety in the women who attended the conference. They came from all parts of the country, worked for many different agencies, were at all stages of their careers, from newly hired to eligible to retire and still going strong, and from entry level to senior responsibilities. The women were uniformly welcoming. Second, the variety in the training workshops. The sessions included skills development, career preparation and EEO.

The conference was well organized. There were plenty of volunteers available to direct me to registration and the conference rooms and to provide information about local restaurants, activities and transportation. Even on the last day several volunteers were available to answer questions.

The training sessions that I selected were presentations on Special Emphasis Programs (SEPs), federal applications and engaging support for an SEP. In short, this was a lively, rewarding conference.”

Margaret Herring



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

If you have fundraising ideas or are willing to seek sponsorships for the Chapter, we need your help!

Fundraisers will support the Chapter's annual budget and fund items such as:

- Academic Scholarships
- NTP/RTP Scholarships
- Awards and Gifts
- Postage
- Offset Membership Dues
- Honorariums for Speakers/Trainers
- Travel for Regional Board Meetings
- Catering/Decorations/Room Rental

FEW is a private non-profit organization founded in 1968 to support the full implementation of the Federal Women's Program (FWP), a government program to enhance the employment opportunities and advancement of women. FEW is the only national organization that works as an advocacy group dedicated to furthering the advancement of women in government. Moreover, FEW advocates promoting women's equality, eliminating sex discrimination in the federal service, and providing quality training opportunities to enhance their skills and abilities.

Chapter Announcements and Other Information



**July 31 -
Happy Birthday
Diane Wade!**

Welcome New members who have joined since June 2008:

Margarita Castillo, RRB

Federally Employed Women's Legal and Education Fund, Inc.

Legal and job-related counseling (usually by telephone)

Nationwide lawyer referral service for employment issues

Establishing legal defense matching funds when certain standards are met

Involvement as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in cases of nationwide significance

Submission of comments and testimony on proposed legislation which affects the rights of women, federally employed women and federal employees

For more information, contact the FEW LEF General Counsel (202) 429-0707, 3

FEW Windy City Chapter

**Lashana Sims-Johnson,
President**

Phone: 312-886-3625

Fax: 312-886-7514

Email:

lashanasims@yahoo.com

Chapter Officers

vacant-V. President

Adrienne Callahan-

Treasurer

Shari Holloway-Secretary

FEW Windy City Chapter

P.O.Box 1484

Chicago, IL 60690

Did you remember to complete the Chapter Topic of Interest Survey?

Please complete and submit to Chapter President.

