



Windy City News

Volume 2, Issue 4

October 2008

FEW
Winy City Chapter

Membership and Fundraising

Inside this issue:

Jacqueline Wasik	1
Happy New Year!	2
Important Dates	2
Legislative Update	2
Puzzle for Fun	3
Breast Cancer Awareness	3
Announcements	4
Compliance	4
Fundraiser Update	4
Member Application	5

Jacqueline Wasik is the Fundraising and Membership Chair for the Windy City Chapter. Jacqueline (Jackie) Wasik joined Federally Employed Women in 2007.

Jackie started her Federal government service in April 1987 with the United States Department of Agriculture. She transferred to ACTION Agency in 1989, which then changed their name in 1994 to the Corporation for National & Community Service. Jackie has held positions using her expertise in fiscal, budget, accounting and program development and management.

Jackie has jumped “full speed ahead” into her Windy City Chapter leadership responsibilities. The most recent fundraiser “That’s My Pan” has been a huge success for the chapter. Jackie suggested the fundraiser at a meeting and all members, including our remote suburban members have sup-

ported the fundraiser. Jackie is currently researching other suggested fundraisers for the Chapter.

Jackie has made progress in our membership activities as well. Jackie recently provided members with a directory, participated in the July membership drive and prepared a introductory letter which is a valuable tool for recruiting new members via email and snail mail.

Jackie is also an active member of the EPA Toastmasters where she holds an officer position, Sergeant At Arms. She feels this is a very rewarding organization to bring out any inner voice, which may be struggling to be heard.

Jackie’s biggest reward is her seven year old son, Carter. His bright smile and red hair brightens up each of her days. She is married and resides in Joliet, IL. Even with her long commutes and busy days, Jackie still finds time to attend night school at Joliet Junior College.

Chapter Trivia: How many agencies are represented in our Chapter membership?
No one provided answers—try guessing at our November meeting

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

See Meeting invitation for call-in information.



Happy New Year!

By Kesha Watson

Many of us have positions that faced critical deadlines, mandatory overtime and stressful projects over the last couple weeks in September due to the end of the fiscal year. Why is the end of the fiscal year so important? It represents close outs, new budget appropriations and for some agencies, performance reviews. Many wonder why the Federal fiscal year does not close on Dec 31, it is due to the Federal appropriation process. The appropriations process determines the budget for Federal agencies. The process must occur and be approved by both the House and the Senate in order for government to continue operating.

The appropriation process is not always completed by October 1, 2008 but a percentage of that budget is usually provided in order for government agencies to continue operating. While many Federal employees do not follow the appropriation process, it is an important timeline to be aware of as we plan for various mission/work related activities and projects which may require funding.

Legislative Updates

By Sheree Haywood

FEW's most important advocacy tool is its Grassroots network; specifically its letter-writing campaigns. Because most federal workers cannot come to Washington, DC often to meet in person with their legislators, the primary means of communication between FEW members and their elected officials is through email letters or regular letters.

These letter-writing campaigns are crucial to the achievement of FEW legislative goals. The Executive Leadership team of FEW is asking members to participate. These letters alert the legislators about the issues of most importance to their constituents and federal workers. They also allow FEW's Washington Representatives to use them when they visit staffers on the Hill. These letters have helped FEW achieve our legislative goals!

To make it easy for members to have their voices heard, FEW has a Grassroots Advocacy on-line tool through the website (www.capwiz.com/few). This website allows visitors to send letters virtually by just tapping a few keys on their computers. The letters are basically written - advocates just need to fill out their zip code and address and then the correspondence is sent automatically to their elected Senators and/or House of Representatives member. Please consider participating in this Grassroots network and encourage others to do so as well. If you participate, please let inform our Legislative Chair, Sheree Haywood at: shaywood@fdic.gov



Mark Your Calendar

* **October 15**—*Home Ownership*, 11:30am-12:30PM, 77 West Jackson Blvd, 12th floor

Chapter Meetings

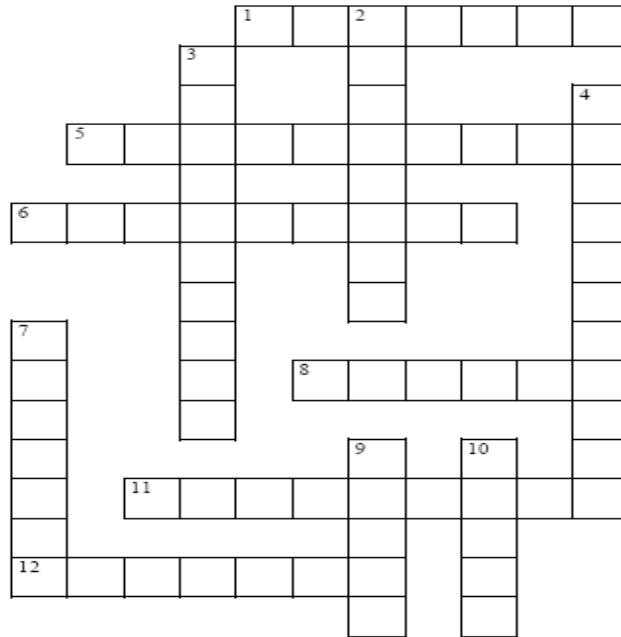
- * **Oct. 22** Regular FEW Mtg (CANCELLED)
- * **Nov. 12**—Regular FEW Mtg
- * **Dec. 17**—Regular FEW Mtg

XTRAs

- * **Oct. 16-18** - Great Lakes RTP, Bloomington, IN
- * **Sunday, October 19** - "Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk", Orland Park, IL



Windy City October Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Halloween
- 5 In accord with another's request
- 6 Gender
- 8 Plan finances
- 11 Cost of membership
- 12 Chapter President

DOWN

- 2 Opportunity to Learn
- 3 To be a part of
- 4 Sheree Haywood is the Chair
- 7 Form of government
- 9 Current Chapter Fundraiser
- 10 Chicago nickname

October—Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Windy City Chapter will participate in two activities during the month of October to raise awareness for Breast Cancer. The first activity is the distribution of breast cancer awareness pins to members and other employees. Members distributed pink ribbon pins to those interested and also informed employees, friends and family members about the upcoming “Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk.” The walk will take place Sunday, October 19 and thus far the FEW Windy City Chapter has several family members and friends participating in the walk.



Things you can do to help fight breast cancer:

- If you are a woman age 40 or older, get a mammogram and breast exam by a doctor or nurse every year. If you are under 40, with a family history of breast cancer consult a physician regarding your risk.
- Call 1800ACS2345 for 24 hour cancer information hotline
- Eat Right and Exercise!
- Don't be Afraid to conduct your own monthly self-examination. Visit <http://cms.komen.org/komen/AboutBreastCancer/Resources/DownloadBSECards?ssSourceNodeId=99&ssSourceSiteId=Komen>—to print instructions, tailored by different ethnic groups, for conducting monthly breast self examinations.

Compliance Program

One component of FEW’s Compliance Program is to review access to a wide variety of programs that seek to help employees juggle work and family responsibilities. We want to share some examples of the programs that exist within the various Agencies that our Chapter members

represent. We invite you to share your success or concerns with other areas of compliance during our Chapter meetings. These important issues assist National FEW with its legislative mission.

Tuition Reimbursement - To encourage employees to pursue education, an agency may establish a tuition reimbursement program and reimburse employees for some or all of the cost of tuition for successfully completed courses. Some tuition reimbursement programs tie reimbursement to the grade employees earn in the course. An "A" might receive 100 percent reimbursement; a "B," 75 percent; and a "C," 50 percent (*OPM*).

Lactation Center - available in health units located in federal buildings or in designated office space to provide a comfortable and private area for nursing mothers who need to pump and store milk during their work day.

Maxiflex/Flexiplace - These work schedule options are generally designed to accommodate employee and mission-related needs. There should be a balance among alternative work schedules, workload, quality of work and mission accomplishment (*EPA*). Examples include the 4-10 schedule (employee works four 10 hr days each week) or the 5/4-9 tour (employee works eight 9 hr days, one 8 hr day and is off one day during a two week period). A Maxiflex schedule can also include floating start and end times as long as 8 hrs are achieved during that work day. Flexiplace programs permit employees to perform their work at more convenient locations (e.g., at home) (*OPM*).

Family Medical Leave Act - Covered employers must grant an eligible employee up to a total of 12 work-weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period for one or more of the following reasons: for the birth and care of the newborn child of the employee; for placement with the employee of a son or daughter for adoption or foster care; to care for an immediate family member (spouse, child, or parent) with a serious health condition; or to take medical leave when the employee is unable to work because of a serious health condition (*DOL*).

No new members who joined

In September/October 2008.

We currently have 43 members!

THAT’S MY PAN

Our September/October fundraiser is underway! NOTE: That’s My Pan items make great gifts and with the Holiday season (parties, family gatherings, etc.) approaching, these personalized kitchen items are MUST HAVES! Don’t worry about your pan walking away from the event, purchase a personalized item. Submit your fundraising orders to Jacqueline Wasik Before October 31. Jackie can be reached at jwasik@cns.gov.

**Lashana Sims-Johnson,
President**

Phone: 312-886-4070

Fax: 312-886-7514

Email:

lashanasims@yahoo.com

Chapter Officers

**Cynthia Curtis-V. President
Adrienne Callahan-Treasurer
Shari Holloway-Secretary**

**FEW Windy City Chapter
P.O.Box 1484
Chicago, IL 60690**

