



A Time Sensitive Message to Our Members

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September 22, 2009

Dear WILPF Members,
 Today we celebrate the fall equinox, a moment of Earth equilibrium that highlights the imbalance in the human world. While some members of Congress work against great odds to find a way to make health care available for all, WILPF is commemorating Keep Space for Peace Week, all too aware that our oversized military budget keeps our nation's budget hopelessly out of balance while jeopardizing the health of us all.

For the sixth year WILPF is co-sponsoring [a week of Keep Space for Peace actions and events](#), from October 3-10, with Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. Report your Branch events directly to globalnet@mindspring.com and to the national WILPF office at newsletter@wilpf.org. Pictures are always appreciated. If you are located west of the Rockies, take advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate your opposition to military excess offered by [CODE Pink's fall action at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, September 25-30](#). That's where Predator drones bombing Afghanistan and Pakistan are controlled by computer and satellite from half a world away.

Fall is felt by many to be a time of new beginnings, and that is certainly so for the WILPF national board and staff. The fall 2009 issue of *Peace and Freedom* is in the mail; both the US and International offices of WILPF are cooking up bright new programming for 2010. And, our director of operations, Stacey Ferguson, celebrated her marriage to Brendan Mruk on September 12. (Congratulations can be sent to staceyf@wilpf.org) We are energized and ready to take on new challenges.

Many of you have already completed the member activism survey distributed via e-mail and our website last month. The survey, commissioned by WILPF's program and communications committees, consists of 37 questions and [can be accessed at Survey Monkey](#) before September 25, 2009. Sarah Sheffer, our program intern, will use



WILPF team supports Stacey on her big day.
Left to right: UN Practicum Academic Director Amy Agigian, bookkeeper Sharon Benner, Co-president Nancy Munger, Director of Operations Stacey Ferguson-Mruk, Co-president Laura Roskos, Spring 2009 Administrative Intern Kristina Sandfoss, Personnel Chair (and former Board President) Mary Zepernick

the data gathered from individual members to craft a second survey to be distributed to branch contacts. The final stage of information gathering will be one-on-one telephone interviews with branch contacts. Through this multi-tiered process, we'll have a far more comprehensive picture of WILPF's activism than we've ever had before and this picture can inform our planning for 2010 and beyond.

Join WILPF

Another key fall deadline is the **mini-grant application deadline of October 15**. Both Branches and Issue committees in good standing can apply. [Download information on the mini-grants from the WILPF website](#). You can also download copies of the grant guidelines and grant proposal forms there. Proposals can most easily be submitted on line to [programsupport\(at\)wilpf.org](mailto:programsupport(at)wilpf.org). **Alternatively 5 paper copies can be mailed to: WILPF, 565 Boylston Street, Second Floor, Boston, MA 02116.**

One of the projects funded through the WILPF internal mini-grant program was the videotaping of the Pittsburgh branch's production of Jan Maher's play *Most Dangerous Women*. The branch has performed the play five times at various venues to very receptive and enthusiastic audiences. **WILPF has reserved a free copy of the DVD for every branch.** Send your Branch request and address with a check for \$5.00 (payable to WILPF/Pittsburgh) to cover postage, disk, mailer etc. to Marcie Luek, 5310 Hardt Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044. Use it to inspire your own live production or as a tool for sharing WILPF's story with Women's and Peace Studies classes, labor unions and local peace organizations.

The national board will once again be hosted by members of the Greater Boston branch when it next meets on November 7-9. Meetings of the national board are open to all WILPF members; if you are planning to attend, please contact dialogue@wilpf.org so that we can send you an agenda for the meeting, once one has been drafted.

Thanks for taking time out of your busy life to read this message!
Sincerely,

Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos,
Co-presidents, WILPF US Section

P.S. As always, please share this news with your non-electronically-connected sisters. And please send comments or questions to dialogue@wilpf.org.



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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