

January 7, 2008

Dear WILPF Members.

The National Board agrees with the suggestions made by many members that we stay in touch with you on a regular basis, to keep you informed of WILPF happenings during this transitional period and beyond.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to our staff on Friday Jan 4th, their last day of work. We are hopeful that we will soon get our finances in order and start the process of rehiring staff. We thank Pamela Jones-Burnley, Elaine Jones, Jody Dodd, Kate Zaidan and Judy Claude very much for their hard work for WILPF: their passion, idealism, and ability to speak powerfully for WILPF. We are sorry that this layoff had to occur—especially over the holidays.

We have not closed the office, although our present situation calls for a reduction in activities. As far as office operations are concerned, emails are being rerouted to board members who will try to forward and address them as appropriate. Phone calls to the National office will be picked up at least daily and responded to promptly. Members living in the Philadelphia area will be volunteering in the office alongside Laura Roskos, interim executive director, a few days each week over the coming months. To the best of their abilities, they will be processing membership renewals, donations, and resource requests.

The board has created subcommittees to work towards unveiling our Strategic Plan. We are revising the job descriptions and setting financial benchmarks that will allow us to hire staff back and to support effective programming. To that end, our immediate priorities are fundraising and improving our internal communication systems.

Our income for December was not as bad as November, and we were able to meet all expenses without going deeper into debt. Board members are continuing to make calls to members to remind them to renew their dues and to donors, who have been sent special donor letters. We thank all of you who have been responsible for talking with your branch members about renewing their dues, who have sent in individual contributions, and to branches who have made contributions.

You will have an opportunity to share your ideas and express your concerns later this month. Please mark your calendars for three upcoming membership conference calls with the National Board. The call in number for these calls will be 605-990-0200; access code 1058181. The dates and times of these calls are:

Tuesday, January 22 at 7p.m. PT; 8 p.m. MT; 9 p.m. CT; 10 p.m. ET

Wednesday, January 23 at 5 p.m. PT; 6 p.m. MT; 7 p.m. CT; 8 p.m. ET

Thursday, January 24 at 4 p.m. PT; 5 p.m. MT; 6 p.m. CT; 7 p.m. ET

We hope that WILPF's educational, advocacy, and organizing work will continue throughout this transition. We have a large number of people who are very involved in creating WILPF's programs. If you have a question concerning one of our campaigns or issue committees and don't know where to direct it, please contact C.J. Minster, our board program chair, at [cjminster@gmail.com](mailto:cjminster@gmail.com), and she will direct you to the correct contact person.

In addition to the ongoing activities of our two campaigns and six issue committees, we will be hosting a large delegation of WILPF members for the Commission on the Status of Women meetings at the U.N. in New York this spring. Our established members will be joined by 18 college women who have enrolled in a new Practicum in Advocacy at the U.N. program organized by WILPF's membership committee in conjunction with the National Association of Women's Studies. Of these, 4 hold passports from countries other than the U.S. and two are students at historically Black colleges.

The WILPF's International Co-president, Kerstin Greback is planning a tour of the U.S. Section branches, this spring, as she will be in the states for the Commission on the Status of Women conference and an International Board meeting. This trip is to be announced to branches and can be discussed on our January membership calls.

The Middle East Campaign is distributing postcards regarding the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and is planning a tour of Palestinian Section President Hannan Awwad, this spring. Contact person for the Middle East Campaign is Odile Huguenot-Haber, [odilehh@gmail.com](mailto:odilehh@gmail.com). The Save the Water Campaign is supporting the Anchorage Branch in its 3-city educational effort to fight the dramatic increase of mining exploration and permitting that threaten Alaskan federal lands, indigenous people, and would adversely impact water for all. Activities for the spring—centered around the UN World Day of Water—are being planned. The Save the Water campaign contact is Nancy Price at [nancytprice@juno.com](mailto:nancytprice@juno.com).

We encourage branches to initiate or continue the sponsoring of Peace Tables. Details can be found on the WILPF's homepage at [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org). Our Des Moines, IA branch is in the midst of planning Triennial Congress, to be held June 25-29th, at Simpson College, in Des Moines. The newly formed Congress program committee is still seeking additional members. To get involved, contact Marybeth Gardam at [mbgardam@aol.com](mailto:mbgardam@aol.com).

You will receive the next issue of Peace & Freedom in February. The details of the nominating process for the National Board will be in this issue. We are presently seeking

applicants and several members have inquired about running for the board. The ballots will be sent out in March and the new board members will be elected by the end of April.

To stay as transparent as we can, all board committee minutes and decisions will be made available upon request. Contact for this information is Georgia Pinkel, who can be reached at [gpinkel@pacifier.com](mailto:gpinkel@pacifier.com).

We thank you, again, for wanting to stay informed and for working with us to revitalize WILPF. It is only with all of our efforts that we can make this happen and be a viable force in the world, when we celebrate our 100th anniversary.

in solidarity,

Chris Morin and the National Board.