

January 17, 2008

Dear WILPF Members,

This brief note is to alert you to three current and upcoming opportunities to participate in shaping the future of WILPF's U.S. Section.

PARTICIPATE IN IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

Next week the National Board will host three conference calls updating members on the recent transitions at the Philadelphia office and progress towards the implementation of the strategic plan. These calls offer every member an opportunity to receive the up-to-date information that our branches need to facilitate organizing in their communities. Comments made during the November member conference calls were influential in framing the Board's decision-making since then. We will once again be seeking your feedback, suggestions and help in moving WILPF forward toward a healthy and vibrant future.

The dial up number for all the calls is the same: 605-990-0200, access code 1058181

The dates and times of the calls are:

Tuesday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. PT/8:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. CT/10:00 p.m. ET

Wednesday, January 23rd at 5:00 p.m. PT/6:00 p.m. MT/7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET

Thursday, January 24th at 4:00 p.m. PT/5:00 p.m. MT/6:00 p.m. CT/7:00 p.m. ET

These calls were first announced in the December 9th letter from the National Board, with dates, times and dial up info included the letter distributed over the "WILPF membership" e-list January 7. If you are a member, have e-mail, but have not been receiving messages through the "WILPF membership" list, please contact wilpf@wilpf.org to have your address added to the distribution list.

PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING WILPF'S THIRTIETH TRIENNIAL CONGRESS:

The Program Committee for the 2008 Triennial WILPF National Congress to be held at Simpson College in Indianola, IA, June 25-29, invites your best thinking toward creating a vibrant and engaging program. In their own words, they want you to OWN this emerging congress by actively shaping it to meet your needs and expectations.

So, search deeply and answer these 4 questions by January 20:

What would make you yearn to be part of the Congress? Think about ideas, activities and subjects you would like to see included on the agenda.

What are you most looking for in this gathering of powerful women? Is it information on issues, strategy for using that information, help with your own branch struggles, recruitment inspiration, strategy for using the nation's hunger for change to our advantage, an examination of the new strategic plan at the National level, other?

What would you like to bring to Congress to share with your sister WILPFers?

What information and skills would you want to bring home with you?

What would you hope not to leave without?

Please share your hopes for the Congress with the Planning Committee by January 20 so the Congress program will best reflect the direction of your energy, empower future strategy, equip you with the skills and information you need, and surround you with the vibrant energy of like minded dangerous and feisty women.

Post your answers to:

Mary Hanson Harrison (harrison0607@msn.com)

2510 High Street

Des Moines, IA 50312

Look for the Congress Registration Form in the Winter edition of Peace and Freedom. Complete information on Congress will be available soon through the WILPF website at www.wilpf.org.

PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS FOR THE 2008-11 NATIONAL BOARD:

As announced in the fall issue of Peace and Freedom, nominations for the 2005-08 National Board are now open. Nominations are for specific Board positions. The elected positions are Treasurer, Secretary, 2 Program Chairs, Personnel Chair, Development Chair, and Nominations Chair. Detailed job descriptions for each of these positions will be published in the Winter edition of Peace and Freedom which should be arriving in your mailboxes in early February. Meanwhile, nomination forms are available from Pat O'Brien (patob777@verizon.net) or Chris Morin (funforlife1@mac.com).

If there is someone whose leadership on behalf of WILPF you admire—even if that person is yourself—it is not too early to talk with her about seriously considering a run for one of these elected offices. National board positions require considerable time and commitment, but also offer an opportunity to promote the growth of the organization, steward its resources, and administer the affairs of the U.S. section.

Whichever of these options appeals to you, please do step up to help shape the future of WILPF! Your ideas and energy are essential.

Sincerely,

Laura Roskos

Secretary, National Board

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section