

(Please forward to other WILPF members who may not be on this list and share with members who do not have e-mail.)

May 9, 2008

Dear WILPF Members,

Having emerged from the Spring Board meeting, we have several important issues we'd like to inform you about.

- This winter, the Past Presidents of WILPF formed a committee to research and make recommendations regarding the future of the building at 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, which has been home to WILPF's national office since 1972.

The eleven members of this committee—[who represent 36 continuous years of service as presidents!]
—having reached strong consensus among themselves, advised the current board to take immediate action to begin the process of selling the building. The board will be meeting at the end of this month to follow up on their recommendation. The full text of the Past Presidents' Report is available on the WILPF website at <http://www.wilpf.org/pastpresidentsletter>; and excerpts from that report will appear in the Spring 2008 issue of Peace and Freedom, which was mailed this week. We urge all interested members to read and consider this report and to send their comments to inforequest@wilpf.org. Please also use this same address if you are interested in giving your comments orally during open commentary period at the board meeting scheduled to discuss this topic.

- We also want to acknowledge the concerns expressed in a resolution presented to the national board on Friday, April 11, 2008, concerning additional severance pay for our former staff. We appreciate your bringing these concerns to the board, as well as the participation of some of the resolution's authors in the conflict transformation session of our April board meeting.

At this time WILPF can not make any financial commitments toward individual former staff members due to the grievances pending with the National Labor Relations Board. The national board has no idea how long this process will last or how much it will cost the organization. Once the legal situation is clarified, we will respond to the resolution presented to us.

We have concerns about some misinformation conveyed in the cover letter to the resolution. That this misinformation has gone unchallenged alerted us to the possibility that some members may not have received the previous letters from the board posted to this e-mail list, beginning with the one posted on December 9, 2008. These letters are now archived on the WILPF website at http://www.wilpf.org/National_Board; where they can be read or downloaded. In addition, time is scheduled at the National Congress in Des Moines to discuss any questions or ideas that you may have about moving WILPF forward in ways that are strategic, politically astute and centered in our branches and

membership.

- This past weekend, Chris Morin, president of the WILPF board, attended the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA) board meeting where there was much excitement over the announcement of this year's Jane Addams Peace Association Book Awards.

The award winning books are chosen by a committee comprised of 12 WILPF members, who meet year round to share their reviews of literally hundreds of children's books, to identify those that most effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community and the equality of the sexes and all races, as well as meeting conventional standards of excellence. The members of this dedicated committee, chaired by Susan Griffin, volunteer hundreds of hours to decide on the prize books, authors and illustrators. This year's winners were announced on April 28 at Hull House in Chicago and information on the winners can be found on the JAPA web page, <http://www.janeaddamspeace.org>;

A wonderful tool kit, also available at the JAPA website, can help you and your branch integrate JAPA's winning books into your peace work.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Des Moines!

Sincerely,

Chris Morin, President
and National Board members