

This email was sent on July 20, 2008

Dear WILPF Sisters,

Many exciting things happened at, and emerged from, our National Congress held in Des Moines, Iowa on June 25- 29. Thanks to all who participated, and to the many women who so excellently produced the event, led by Mary Hansen Harrison and Mary Beth Gardam of Des Moines, and Sandy Silver for the National Congress Committee.

- **The evenings were highlighted** with talks by [Amy Goodman](#), [Fran Korten](#) (editor of *YES!* magazine) and the James Cheney Freedom Award presented to WILPF by the Pastor John Lewis. [[Read WILPF Intern Courtney Johnson's congress report here.](#)]
- **In addition, we were honored to be joined** by Annelise Ebbe (International Co- President), Diane Brace (President of the UK Section, the fastest growing section in WILPF), Hanan Awaad (President of the Palestinian Section) and Susi Snyder (International Secretary General). Our intention to strengthen our WILPF U.S. connection to International WILPF was greatly enhanced by their presence and presentations.
- **The young women who launched Y-WILPF** brought great energy to the week. They developed a work plan for the rest of 2008, and selected 2 representatives to the US Board: LeFlora Cunningham Walsh from Santa Cruz and Monica Kinkel from Des Moines. They will be supported by Kate Hawley, of the Portland branch, who has accepted a WILPF internship for the fall. We recognize the outstanding leadership of outgoing Program Chair C.J. Minster, who organized the Y-WILPF gathering at Congress.
- While Denise Hall (new Personnel chair on the US Board) was unable to attend, **WILPF members were introduced to our other new [Board members](#)** Barbara Nielsen (Treasurer), Laura Santana (Development), Carol Urner and Tura Campanella Cook (Program Co-chairs), as well as Stacey Ferguson, our recently hired Director of Operations.
- Many of the tensions between WILPF members generated during the past year were expressed, and we hope the efforts of many to dialogue, exchange information, and reflect on our mutual accountability resulted in greater understanding and more unity in moving forward.

We invite any member who wishes to write to the Board, especially about Strategic Planning, to send their comments to dialogue@wilpf.org (or hard copy to 1213 Race St, Philadelphia, PA 19107). The communications will be distributed to all Board members.

- Our rollout of our **new mini grant program** (which replaces the previous campaign structure) was met with enthusiasm. Our program co-chairs Tura Campanella Cook and Carol Urner will be overseeing the program, the details of which have been [posted on our website](#). The application deadline for this inaugural round of grants (\$14,000 for the rest of 2008) is September 30.

Members are invited to join the 2 committees: Grant and Oversight. If interested please call Tura at 512-796-9702 or Carol at 503-320-9108 or email programsupport@wilpf.org.

- **A new Issue Committee on Iraq/Iran** was created at Congress, and we encourage you to connect to all our issue committees. Tura and Carol are working on compiling an updated contact list for our Issue Committees which will soon be available on the website and in hard copy.

- **A Site Committee to research the future location of our National office** is currently being formed. Members who are interested in joining this committee may call Pat O'Brien (Chair) at 617-576-0649 or email patob777@verizon.net.

We recognize that we as an organization are in a fluid and dynamic time, and need to be especially attentive to hearing each other and working in the peaceful way we wish to see happen in the world. We will keep you updated on developments around the progress of the Site Committee, our negotiations with the IWW, our financial health, as well as other issues.

We are working hard to make our communications and avenues for participation more accessible and effective, and we thank all of you for our ongoing political and financial contributions.

Laura Roskos

Nancy Munger

Co-Presidents, WILPF U.S. Section

"We have made but the merest of beginnings in the highest of human arts, that of living and working together on the plane of consent and cooperation without coercion."

--Emily Greene Balch, WILPF's first International Secretary General and Nobel Prize Laureate