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June 20, 2009

Dear WILPF Members,

We rely on donations to carry out our work. Make your contribution to peace and justice today!

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The weather in St. Louis at the end of May was already hot but the ideas generated by the Young WILPF Core Committee were hotter yet as they kicked off the summer of 2009 with a weekend retreat at Webster College. Young WILPF's Core Committee of activists provides leadership and coherence for WILPF's organizing among younger women. They are an amazing group, possessing skills in local coalition building, research and writing, electronic communications, and UN-ese. Most are fluent in at least two languages. During three days of intensive visioning and planning, our core committee of YWILPF organizers benefited from the generous hospitality of St. Louis branch membership chair Terri Williams and former WILPF US president Yvonne Logan. Watch YWILPF at work by visiting their blog at <http://www.ywilpf.blogspot.com/> and become a fan of [their Facebook page](#).



YWILPF core committee members enjoy ice cream with Yvonne Logan on her back deck. (click on image to see full size)

The National Board is very happy to announce that we have a new Secretary: Deb Garretson of Bloomington, Indiana. In addition to taking on the task of overseeing the integrity of our historical record, she is serving on the Location and Personnel Committees. We welcome her energy! To read the Spring 2009 Board minutes, please go to <http://www.wilpf.org/BoardMinutes>.

We are also pleased to share with you a [financial report of our first quarter financial activity](#). The audited figures for fiscal year 2008 should be available sometime in late July and will be posted on the website at that time.

In reviewing our first quarter performance, please note that while membership dues payments are strong, WILPF is not meeting its goals for individual or branch giving. We will see a spike in these categories during the second quarter because of a significant transfer of funds received from JAPA in May. However, we all must give what we can if we want WILPF to be sustainable.

The 2009 operating budget is truly bare bones. If we merely succeed in breaking even this year, it means waiting at least another year before increasing our staff. Those most active on our ten issue committees are painfully aware of the myriad opportunities available to shift US foreign policy for the better in meaningful ways. Being understaffed means that WILPF is ill positioned to truly exploit the opportunities afforded by this new political context. Our volunteers deserve the support and technical assistance that national staff devoted to program can provide. Your generosity this year will help us take the critical next step in staffing up WILPF's national organization. Donations may be made directly to WILPF U.S. Section or through our 501c3 partner, the [Jane Addams Peace Association](#).

Financial stability is key to forward planning, and the national board is focusing on planning for our upcoming National Congresses. The International Board and U.S. section are also beginning to discuss and plan for celebrating WILPF's 100th anniversary in 2015. We thought you would like to know what is happening and have the opportunity to give input. One thing to think about is the schedule of our National Congresses. The current 3-year cycle will give us National Congresses in 2011 and 2014. The International Board has altered its schedule so as to meet in The Hague in 2015. The next two International Congresses will be in 2011 (Costa Rica) and 2015 (The Hague). Shall we keep our three year cycle and meet nationally in 2011 and 2014, or make changes? We could schedule our 2011 National Congress for August, after the International Congress in June. Transportation costs from the US to Costa Rica are low enough that members who wanted to attend both should be able to. The US board does not see a scheduling conflict with having two congresses in 2011, but if you think otherwise, let us know by e-mailing us at dialogue@wilpf.org.



As the summer continues to unfold, WILPF members Regina Birchem, Odile Haber Huguenot, and Edith Bell are planning to play an active role at the [National Assembly to End the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan](#). This is an important convergence for the anti-war movement and it is important that WILPF's positions are represented in the dialogue that will take place there. If you can be in Pittsburgh on July 10-12, please consider attending the National Assembly meetings at La Roche College. Other WILPFers are heading to Vermont for the annual [Gathering at Wing Farm](#), organized by member Robin Lloyd. This year's Gathering is scheduled for July 22-26, with workshops and presentations on a range of topics, including "Understanding relations between Rwanda and Congo," "Shamanism and women's rights in Mongolia", and "Criminal prosecution of Bush and Cheney for war crimes." Laura will lead a discussion about current strategies to promote U.S. ratification of CEDAW in 2009.

We hope that wherever your summer travels take you, that you take WILPF with you. Literally! Wear a WILPF button or t-shirt whenever you can. Share your passion for peace and for WILPF with new friends and acquaintances. And, don't forget to keep a few membership brochures in knapsack or purse.

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.

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