

Help Review WILPF's By-Laws and Other Updates

As always, we request that you share the information in this letter with WILPF members who do not use email and that you forward this email to WILPF members who may not be on the list.

HELP REVIEW WILPF BY-LAWS

Dear WILPF Member,

Enthusiastic about bylaws? Probably not.

Some of us, if not enthusiastic, are at least concerned. Internationally, WILPF is governed by a [constitution](#); as a sub-unit of the international organization, WILPF U.S. has [bylaws](#) that describe and control how our organization operates. As one of its first actions, the newly seated 2011-14 national WILPF Board appointed an ad hoc **Bylaws Committee** to address some critical issues, such as the rights and responsibilities of members, and to bring greater coherence to our organizational documents.

There is room for one or two more members on the Bylaws Committee. Please consider joining and, most important, discuss with your

branch and co-members what questions and ideas you may have about the bylaws and get back in touch with us by emailing Marie Louise Jackson-Miller at bylawreview@wilpf.org. The committee hopes to report out frequently and to develop a good working relationship with members so any changes in the bylaws will reflect the wishes and good thinking of many members.

Some of the changes proposed by the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee will be discussed by the National Board when it meets at the national office in Boston on **October 14–16**. If you wish your ideas to be considered for that discussion, you must send your feedback to the email address above no later than **August 16**, in order that we can comply with the 60-day notice to the membership rule. All WILPF meetings are open to all members; if you are planning to attend, please contact Laurie Belton at belton@wilpf.org in advance of the meeting.

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL WILPF CONGRESS

WILPF U.S. Representative to the International Board
Catia Confortini with newly elected WILPF President
Adilia Caravaca. Read Catia's blog from the International
Congress at <http://wilpf.blogspot.com>

In addition to a new national board, WILPF has a new International Board and International Executive Committee seated during the recent International Congress in San Jose, Costa Rica. Approximately 25 members from the U.S. section were present for these meetings, which included a strong emphasis on integrating WILPF's advocacy work and improving coordination among sections. U.S. members made tangible contributions to the success of the congress by convening a Pan-American meeting to plan for regional cooperation and a bi-lingual quarterly newsletter; contributing as presenters at plenary sessions and workshops; urging members to financially support the Jubilee celebrations and getting commitments for \$15,000 in contributions; organizing a silent auction to help the Costa Rican section defray some of the costs of the current congress. The complete congress report will be distributed via email when it becomes available and the fall 2011 issue of "Peace & Freedom" will be chock full of in-depth stories written by our members who were there.

NEW ADDITION TO WILPF STAFF

Lastly, we are pleased to announce the appointment of a new consultant to take on management of our website and IT, as well as the editing and production of the monthly E-news. **Theresa Stephens** is a writer and graphic designer, with extensive experience in website maintenance and design as the principal of her own marketing and design agency, T. Stephens Media, where she specializes in copywriting and graphic design for non-profit organizations. Most recently she worked for the C.M Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, managing all of the organization's communication and marketing initiatives. She managed the redesign of the Museum's website in Drupal, the platform of our current website. Theresa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication studies from the University of Maryland University College and a graduate certificate in graphic and web design from Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging Arts. She is particularly excited to work with WILPF, since our mission deeply resonates with her personal values.

As summer rolls into fall, expect to hear more from WILPF about those national campaigns and actions which our members are helping to organize. The next deadline for WILPF's internal mini-grant program is **October 15**. Check out the [guidelines](#) to see if this funding could help scale up the impact of a project your branch wants to take on.

Peace be,
Laura Roskos
President, WILPF U.S. Section