

July 30, 2008

Dear WILPF members and allies,

We are pleased to announce that on Tuesday July 29 the Industrial Workers of the World, representing former staff in our national office, withdrew the complaint it had filed against the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

We thank the many members whose advocacy and wise suggestions helped guide WILPF in achieving an end to this dispute. We hope that the settlement negotiated on July 24 will initiate a period of reconciliation uniting our organization in its mission to eradicate the root causes of war.

As one step in this process, **the National Board extends an invitation to interested branches to host the National Board meetings scheduled for spring 2009, fall 2009, spring 2010, and fall 2010.** Our National Board is committed to meeting as many members as we can during the upcoming term of office and feels that one of the best ways to do this is to meet you where you are. As stated in the WILPF by-laws, all meetings of the National Board are open to any WILPF member who chooses to attend. Branches interested in hosting a meeting of the National Board are asked to contact the co-presidents at dialogue@wilpf.org.

In addition, the National Board offers the following formal statement of apology:

On May 13, 2008 the National Labor Relations Board filed a consolidated complaint against the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section. The US WILPF National Board apologizes to the members of the Industrial Workers of the World who worked for WILPF as of December 2007-Elaine Jones, Jody Dodd, Judy Claude and Kate Zaidan-for the incidents that led up to the complaint.

We deeply regret that board/staff relations had deteriorated to such an extent that by last November we could not have a frank and open discussion about our differences and our organization's fiscal fragility, and for our lateness in attending to the resolution of conflicts that were obvious for some time. While we acted only with the best of intentions for WILPF and her health and sustainability, we made mistakes.

Specifically, we take responsibility for the lack of communication around the proper process of negotiating and approving the contract with the Industrial Workers of the World governing your work conditions.

We apologize for not giving you proper notice through your union representative of the January 4, 2008 layoffs necessitated by our fiscal crisis; and subsequently directly offering you mediation instead of talking to you through your union representative.

We regret that mistrust had so escalated that the lock on the door of the office was changed on Dec 7, 2007 by a representative of the 2005-2008 Board, thus interrupting your work lives for 3 days.

We are sorry for the pain the loss of your jobs has caused, and the disruption to the work of WILPF, of which you were an important part for so many years.

We hope this apology will be a step in the direction of reconciliation between us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos, Co-Presidents

On behalf of The National Board of the WILPF U.S. Section