

As always, we encourage you to forward this message to WILPF members who may not be subscribed to this list and to download and print out for members not on email at all!

May 23, 2011

Dear Members,

Spring cleaning is well underway at WILPF national as outgoing committee chairs on the national board sort through their e-mail, organize their meeting notes and write reports ready to turn it all over to the incoming 2011-14 national board, which takes office during the upcoming [triennial congress](#) in Chapel Hill, NC. WILPF members frequently refer to the accounts of our organization's past written by eminent historians; we hope that in writing the history of this historical moment historians will make note of the extraordinary level of commitment demonstrated by the 2008-11 national board—women who spent part of each and every day ensuring the growth and sustainability of WILPF during the course of their terms. Their names are familiar to you, as we hope their dedication is as well.

- Carol Urner (Program Co-Chair, 2008-2011)
- Pat O'Brien (Chair of Nominating Committee, 2008-2011)
- Mary Zepernick (Chair of Personnel Committee, 2008-2011)
- Deb Garretson (Secretary, 2009-2011)
- Ellen Schwartz (Treasurer, 2010-2011)
- Audley Green (International Board Representative, 2007-2011)

A heartfelt THANK YOU to each for her mindfulness, grace-under-pressure and generous service.

Earlier this year, a **new dues structure** was approved by a member referendum. The new dues amount—setting annual dues at \$15-\$150, will take effect after Congress, and the cost of Lifetime membership will simultaneously increase from \$500 to \$1500. The new approved language for soliciting memberships, ***“Membership dues are \$15 - \$150. Find your place in WILPF: Pay more if you can, less if you can’t. Dues can be paid annually in a lump sum or by pledging”*** will be integrated into WILPF’s website and brochures over the coming months. We encourage branches to begin using it immediately in their newsletters and mailings.

The new dues structure sets the minimum dues payment at \$15 because this is approximately how much of each membership or renewal goes to support WILPF’s international secretariat in Geneva. A membership in WILPF U.S. secures a membership in good standing with WILPF International, the U.S. Section, and any local branch that exists in your vicinity. WILPF International’s United Nations Office recently incorporated itself as a non-profit corporation under U.S. tax law. This means that the United Nations Office can now have a U.S.-based bank account, accept donations directly from individuals and institutions based here, and pay its own operating and payroll expenses. The WILPF United Nations Office shares office space with the Jane Addams Peace Association at 777 UN Plaza.

Co-president Laura Roskos dines with Madison, WI branch. Back row, from left to right: Mary Somers, Eleanor White, Mary Sanderson, Susan Friess. Front row, from left to right: Minjon Tholen, Laura Roskos, Courtney Roskos.

Also of interest to branches, many of which are concluding their programming year this month is the [Evergreen Branch Survey](#) now available from our website. This survey has been designed to be used on an annual basis by branches, and works best when filling it out becomes a collaborative endeavor undertaken at a branch meeting. When completed in this way, the survey can become a tool for focusing the branch’s efforts, providing a time for appreciative reflection and an opportunity to create goals for the future. The completed surveys should be returned to the national office, where the information can inform the ongoing work of our issue committees and staff. The Evergreen Branch Survey is every branch’s opportunity to help shape WILPF’s ongoing program work and its use, in conjunction with the updated [Branch Benefits and Responsibilities policy](#), will help keep us vital and connected.

In addition to updating the Branch Benefits and Responsibilities policy, the National board gave its approval to two new initiatives when it met in Boston last month.

As a result of decisions made there, the Development Committee of WILPF has gotten the nod to **begin building a roster of 100 WILPF sponsors for the 100th Anniversary**. Sponsors will be asked to lend their names (and in some cases their talents) to raising WILPF's profile over the coming years. Obviously, a list of 100 sponsors can't be built in a day, and development chair Robin Lloyd (1999-2005, 2010-11, 2011-14) is currently seeking WILPF members willing to make a two year commitment to serve on this subcommittee to carry out this project. The work will be exciting: vetting and inviting women (and men) who agree with our politics and want to be associated with WILPF as it nears its 2015 centennial. If you are interested, please write Robin at robinlloyd@greenvillemedia.org.

National Director Tanya Henderson also got the go ahead to form a **task force of WILPF members interested in the arts of non-violent communication and conflict resolution**. At her request, a Mediation Task Force is being recruited to undertake a year's investigation into the use, implementation, and education about mediation tools and practices as a means for resolving conflicts, both within WILPF U.S. and as a "model" for peaceful alternatives to resolve conflict in our immediate communities, larger societies, and among nations. If non-violent communication and conflict resolution/transformation is your passion or your expertise, and you are willing to commit to monthly meetings for one year, please contact Tanya at thenderson@wilpf.org.

After Chapel Hill, all WILPF eyes will turn toward San Jose, Costa Rica where the **WILPF International Congress** will be meeting for a week at the beginning of August. You can [register online](#) and the Congress is open to all WILPF members. In addition to our International Board Representative Audley Green (outgoing) and National Director Tanya Henderson, the U.S. Section will be represented by an official delegation consisting of Catia Confortini (Boston branch and incoming International Board Representative), Laura Roskos (Cape Cod branch and U.S. Section President), Joan Bazar (San Jose branch, chair of the International Communications Committee and Personnel Chair of the U.S. Section national board), Mary Jane Schuzius (St. Louis branch) and Pat Schroeder (Santa Cruz branch). If you have registered for the WILPF International Congress and wish to join a listserv of other attendees for planning purposes, please contact us at dialogue@wilpf.org.

In addition to "wrapping up" and preparing for the triennial congress, Director of Operations Laurie Belton and Section Co-President Laura Roskos recently enjoyed an opportunity to visit with several branches in the San Francisco Bay Area. They would like to thank their hosts along the way: Peter and Celia Scott (Santa Cruz), Jennifer Pitino (Santa Cruz), Sylvia Shih (Monterey County), and Annie Boddum (Berkeley/East Bay).

If you have any questions about WILPF's national office or board, don't hesitate to reach out by writing to [dialogue\(at\)wilpf.org](mailto:dialogue(at)wilpf.org). Your ideas are what keep us moving forward.

Sincerely,
Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos, Co-Presidents

**Join us in June in historic Chapel Hill, North Carolina June 1 -5
for a National Congress you won't soon forget!**

Return home with real tools for real change, local to global.