



A VIEW FROM FEW

AN ORGANIZATION FOR OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY
FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

SPACE COAST CHAPTER, KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL

JULY - AUGUST, 2004

SPACE COAST CHAPTER, FEW 2004 – 2005 Officers and Committees

President	Dawn Partlow
Finance	
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Nat'l Bylaws & Resolutions	Karin Biega
Nat'l Scholarship Cmte	Barbara Powell
Regional Awards	Barbara Powell
Regional Nominations/ Elections	Vickie Hall



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Dawn Partlow*

August is here and summer is coming to an end and FEW is starting a new year. Come join the new Space Coast Chapter Board in our first Program/Business Meeting. The meeting is to be held at 5:00 pm, Wednesday August 18th at Kelsey's in Port St. John. Join us in making our New Year's Resolution as a chapter and individually. We will be brainstorming and planning our activities for this year. Think of what impact you can make on your community, on your fellow members, or on your organization. FEW has a mission statement, come and play a part of that mission and let's improve on where we stand today.

FEW MISSION STATEMENT – FEW is a membership organization which strives to eliminate sex discrimination in the federal government; enhances opportunities for career advancement of women; establishes and maintains with federal agencies, working relationships that advocate the fair application of EEO and personnel laws, policies, procedures, and practices; improves the quality of life for women by influencing Congressional and Administration actions; and works continually to achieve a unified and diverse membership that values and capitalizes on similarities and differences at all levels of the organization.

If you believe in the mission of FEW surely you can find the time to come and further the goals of FEW. Barbara Powell, the past President of our chapter, has challenged each and every

member to move into action this coming year for the benefit of the Space Coast Chapter of FEW. So come all you elephants, porcupines, butterflies, and bumble bees and help us plan, because as everyone has heard before, if you fail to plan then you plan to fail. And for those of you that don't know our Space Coast Chapter's old adage, "this membership will never let you fail."

A few of our members were able to attend the National Training Program held in Nashville, TN this past July. We will be discussing what we've learned and what we as a chapter, want to build upon, so come out to brainstorm and plan with us on August 18th. If you can't join us this time, don't forget to check our calendar in the Newsletter or on our website <http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/groups/few/> and find another event. We always have something going on.

Before I sign off I want to thank each of you that have the confidence in each officer you've elected into office this year. We as a chapter continue to learn and grow with each other. So remember each of you infects each of us and that is part of how we all learn and develop.



NTP 2004 IN NASHVILLE, TN
Jean Grenville

The NTP in Nashville, Tennessee was a great success. The hotel was unbelievable with waterfalls, beautiful foliage, walkways, boat tours, restaurants and shops. The Opening Session on Tuesday evening featuring Naomi Judd was very interesting but somewhat different from Opening Sessions in the past. Naomi Judd was a good speaker and shared her life story with the audience. Afterwards, there was a book signing at the Exhibit Hall and an opportunity to visit the exhibit booths. Classes were held on Wednesday with a box lunch provided. We were very proud of Clara Anderson and Karin Biega for their efforts in coordinating the arrangements for the Military Banquet on Wednesday evening. It was a great success and we all enjoyed the dinner and the

ceremony for the military award winners very much.

Classes were held all day Thursday. Some attendees were able to take some computer classes such as Preparing and Delivering Professional Presentations with MS PowerPoint, Web Publishing and Web Site Design, and classes such as "It's a Jungle Out There", "Give a Presentation, Who, Me?" and many others. The Regional meetings were held Thursday evening after classes followed by a networking event and 2005 NTP Kickoff.

Friday was the FEW Friday Festival that started with the Annual FEW Membership Meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. A brunch followed with the showing of a new FEW recruiting film, legislative information, a Salute to Chapter Presidents, Presentation of FEW Scholarship awards and presentation of FEW awards. (Space Coast Chapter tied for 2nd Place with the Bluff Center Chapter, Southwest Region, for Best Newsletter Award. Space Coast Chapter tied for Third Place with the Bluff Center Chapter, Southwest Region, for Best Fund Raiser Award. Clara Anderson received the Barbara Boardman Tennant Award which is the highest award an individual can receive in FEW. Clara is an employee of All Points Logistics, an 8(a) Native American and Veteran Owned Company. Jean Grenville received a certificate as the recipient of the Retiree Scholarship. And last, but not least, the National Officers were installed. Becky Fasulo from Space Coast Chapter was installed as Vice President of Training and Communication and Clara Anderson was installed as Treasurer. Also, Karin Biega will be serving as National Bylaws Chair this term. Congratulations to our FEW National Officers!

After an hour break the National Board Meeting was held until early evening. The National board Meeting began again at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning until late Saturday evening. Again, it was a great event where we bonded with members from other chapters, networked with prospective speakers and increased our knowledge from the great training.





MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Vickie Hall, Acting

I am delighted to be taking the reigns as your Membership Chair, but I'd love to have someone serve as my "back-up", "Membership Chair in training" or "committee member". Whatever you'd like to call it, I think it is important to have someone in line that is willing to take over a position if the need should arise or have someone that is interested in a position in training for the next term. So if anyone out there in the Space Coast membership would like to assist me, please give me a call. I welcome all those interested!

HIP! HIP! HOORAY! AND WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

- Michelle Hamada chinalotus1@msn.com
- Maria Caban maria.caban@dhs.gov
- Susan Hutchinson susan.hutchinson-1@nasa.gov
- Sudie Lewis sudie.lewis@lmco.com
- Lucia Dougherty lucia.dougherty@ssp.navy.mil
- Eleanor Miller eleanor.miller@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov
- Daisy Morales daisy.morales@dhs.gov
- Sherry Russo jcjp@cfl.rr.com
- Eva Coffman no email info

If you haven't yet sent in your membership dues, please send your check to me right away so that you are not deleted from National's Membership records.



SUNSHINE

Celebrating birthdays in July and August:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Karen Jansma | July 01 |
| Arden Belt | July 15 |
| Betty Valentine | July 15 |
| Sandy Eliason | July 26 |
| Charlotte Becker | July 31 |
| | |
| Carole McCline | August 03 |
| Carolyn Burnham | August 08 |
| Melodie Tucker | August 21 |



If you notice anyone missing please email Muzette Fiander at Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov



ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAM
Vickie Hall

The annual training program, sponsored by the Space Coast Chapter of FEW is set for March 2nd and 3rd, 2005. Now I know this seems a little early to be addressing training in March of next year, but past experience tells me its not. This year we would like to get some new friends involved in the planning and production of this event. Hopefully you have all had the opportunity to attend one of these training programs in the past, but for our new members, I'll try to explain how it works and the purpose.

The year 2005 will be the 26th year we have held a training seminar, thus it is named our Annual Training Program. It takes about six months to put it all together and the work behind the scenes and during the event is done by Chapter members with some assistance by the Federal Women's Program Working Group (FWPWG), which is an official NASA working group. For the past several years we have partnered with the FWPWG during Women's History Month and as a reciprocating arrangement, they have worked to get the keynote speaker for our event, as well as assisting during the training program as hostesses, etc. We have helped to pay for the keynote speaker and then the FWPWG uses the speaker to do a lunchtime presentation here at Kennedy Space Center, in honor of Women's History Month.

All that said, the training program is offered to anyone and everyone, but the majority of our support comes from Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base (both civil service and contractor, male and female employees). It is a one-day program, which is repeated a second time to accommodate the number of attendees who register for the training, usually 400 – 500. The cost for attendance at the Seminar is \$80/person

for a day and includes morning coffee/Danish, sodas during afternoon break and lunch.

Now what do we do with the money we earn during this training program? – we spend it! Actually, we support several community outreach projects during the year, as well as provide scholarships to Kennedy Space Center dependents, Space Coast Chapter members, and help fund our officers and committees' chairpersons, not funded by their organization, to attend Regional and National Training Programs. Next year's Regional training will be held in Pensacola, FL, March 16-19, and the National Training Program will be in Reno, NV, July 18-22. So it's always to your benefit to get involved in Chapter activities and volunteer to assist in community outreach projects, etc., especially if you are interested in attending regional or national training and need assistance from the Chapter to do so. And as a matter of information, there are guidelines in our Policy and Procedures Manual that outline the order of precedence for attending training at the Chapter's expense.

I am serving as the Chairperson for the 2005 Annual Training Program and two very wonderful FEW members, Sisters, and dear Friends have volunteered to serve as Co-Chairs: Barbara Powell and Sandy Eliason. And here's your opportunity to get involved. We need to establish our training program team which consists of a Recorder, Finance Chairperson, and Chairpersons or team members for the following teams: Registration, Programs, Logistics, Exhibits, Hospitality, Graphics, Publicity, Hostesses and the 50/50 drawing. I'll be happy to send you an overview of the responsibilities for each of these teams. So please, if you are interested in serving on a great team, contact either me at 867-9100, Vickie.C.Hall@nasa.gov or Barb Powell, 867-7384, Barbara.Y.Powell@nasa.gov or Sandy Eliason, 861-9309, Sandra.K.Eliason@nasa.gov

And one more thing, we are having a contest to come up with this year's training theme. Last year's theme was "Training and Networking – Tools for the Future". Send your suggestions to me, Barb or Sandy no later than September 30, 2004. The training team will then select a theme and the winner of the contest will receive a one-year Membership in FEW for the 2005-06 year.

Hope to be hearing from you soon!



**GOVERNMENT NEWS &
LEGISLATION**
Marie Argana

Most of the information in this column is taken from the July 1st FEW Washington Update provided by Janet Kopenhaver, thus reflecting activities through the end of June. Her next report will not be available until after the deadline for this newsletter. I will forward that information to all chapter members when it's available. Information in this column also has been taken from the latest issue of FEDweek Weekly Newsletter.

Congress has taken its summer recess through early September leaving behind a number of unfinished bills that will have to be taken up in what could be an intense period of several weeks of work before recessing again for the elections. Most prominent among those bills are the annual appropriations measures needed to keep agencies funded through the fiscal year that starts October 1. The House has passed nearly all of the regular 13 appropriations bills, with the notable exception for federal employees of the Transportation-Treasury bill, the major bill affecting federal pay and benefits. The House likely will vote in early September on the committee-approved bill. The Senate has cleared just two of the appropriations bills, largely due to procedural issues making it difficult for leaders to get individual bills to floor votes promptly. Officials say Congress most likely will have to turn to a catchall spending bill--or possibly a series of them--to keep agencies funded until the budget situation is finally settled.

Government Reform:

The House Government Reform Committee approved new civil service flexibilities to reinforce the recruitment and retention program for federal agencies. Originally sponsored by Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH) in the Senate, this bill has already passed the Senate. It was slightly changed by the Subcommittee on Civil Service Reform, and that version passed the full

Government Reform Committee. The bill now heads to the full House for a vote.

The bill would increase managerial flexibilities by providing managers with the authority to:

- ◆ Use recruitment, retention and relocation bonuses to hire and retain for the best and brightest. Under the bill, agency heads and OPM would be able to waive the 25% limit on bonuses and provide payments of up to 50% of an employee's pay. The total could not exceed 100% of an employee's annual salary over a four-year period.
- ◆ Compensate federal employees for their travel time during non-business hours. The bill would allow federal employees who travel on their own time – for example, spending Sunday on an airplane to attend a Monday morning meeting – to reclaim those hours. Agencies would also be required to provide compensatory time off for the hours spent traveling.
- ◆ Offer increased vacation benefits to mid-career professionals that join the civil service.
- ◆ Change the way part-time retirement benefits are administered to ease older workers into retirement.
- ◆ Allow employees to make adjustments to their Thrift Savings Plan accounts throughout the year.

Shifting to NASA, a presidential commission studying ways to implement US space policy has proposed a major overhaul of NASA that would include turning the agency's 10 field installations into federally funded research and development centers. The Commission also proposes elevating management of the nation's space exploration organization to a Cabinet level.

The report recommends that NASA begin its transformation by consolidating its work into three key enterprises – science, exploration system and aeronautics. Next, the report says NASA should turn over management of its 10 field offices to universities or not-for-profit organizations through a competitive process.

● **Employment Benefits:**

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), who chairs a House Appropriations Subcommittee, wrote a provision into the FY2005 spending bill for the Commerce, State and Justice Departments, that would require certain agencies to certify that 100% of

eligible employees have the option to telecommute. Agencies that failed to comply would face a budget cut of \$5 million each.

The bill, which was approved by the House Appropriations Committee, also would require that each agency submit quarterly reports to Congress on the status of its telecommuting program and, as requested last year, designate a telework coordinator to oversee the program.

Last month, OPM informed Congress that only 6% of federal employees work from home or a telework center at least one day a week. The survey covered 74 agencies with more than 1.7 million employees. The OPM report listed 20 agencies where less than 2% of the employees telecommute. Among them are two agencies that Wolf oversees as an Appropriations chair – the State Department and the SBA.

In a previous bill, Wolf laid out a timetable for ramping up the government's telecommuting effort. But the timetable, which would have had three out of four eligible employees telecommuting, has not been met. By most accounts, agencies have moved slowly because of concern that employees who work at home may be less productive and because federal managers are reluctant to let employees work out of their sight.

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has approved a bill (S-2657) that would create a new stand-alone vision and dental benefit program for federal employees. The committee's quick action, only a week after the bill was introduced, reflects the sponsors' hope to get the measure enacted this year. Federal employee organizations generally support the bill, although they are voicing disappointment that enrollees would pay the full cost. However, sponsors say that by aggregating the buying power of large numbers of enrollees, the program could command discounted rates. Meanwhile, companion legislation (HR-4844) has been introduced in the House by civil service leaders there. An earlier House-passed bill (HR-3751) that would only require a study into the feasibility of creating such a program-- and not mandate one--left open the possibility of a government contribution toward premiums. That study also would have to encompass hearing benefits as well as vision and dental

benefits.

The cost of providing additional benefits has been a concern at OPM. The Office had previously froze dental and vision benefits in 1987 because it believed any coverage improvements should focus on hospital, surgical and other key medical benefits. OPM, in general, has tried to avoid adding benefits to FEHBP that would increase premium costs

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee also has passed two bills to improve benefits for federal employees called to active military duty: S-2409, which would extend to 24 months the authority for continued health benefits coverage for employees called to active duty in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 consecutive days and who are placed on leave without pay or separated from federal employment, along with authority for the agency to pay both the employee and employer share of premiums, while making life insurance subject to similar provisions; and S-593, which would entitle them to receive the difference between their federal salary and their military pay, if lower.

• **Federal Retirement Board Has New Call Center:**

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board announced that it will begin providing toll-free telephone service to Thrift Savings Plan participants and beneficiaries beginning July 1. Those using the toll-free service will be able to obtain TSP account or transaction information via the ThriftLine's automated telephone service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They will also be able to speak to a participant service representative at one of two TSP call centers between the expanded hours of 7 am to 9 pm, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Beginning July 1, the primary toll-free number will be 877-968-3778, and the TDD number for the hearing impaired will be 877-847-4385.

• **Federal Employment Statistics:**

OPM issued a report on Federal Civilian Workforce Statistics Employment and Trends as of January 2004. It is a bi-monthly publication and the only official source of data on the entire federal civilian workforce. The data show that there are 2.7 million federal civilian employees in the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

The executive branch accounted for 97.6% of the government's civilian employment. The legislative branch – Congress and its support agencies – make up 1.1%, and the judicial branch – mostly the federal court system – accounted for 1.3%. Of the total, 12.3% - or 333,462 – worked in the Washington, DC area.

Although jobs are being created to strengthen homeland security, they probably will be offset by job reductions in other federal sectors because of budgetary constraints and the growing use of contractors, analysts suggest.

Among the largest employers were the US Postal Service (780,313 employees); Defense (663,380 civilian employees); Veterans Affairs (232,172) and Homeland Security (149,258).



FINANCIAL PRIVACY
Muzette Fiander

All it takes to clean out your bank account is a signed check swiped from your outgoing mail and the chemical acetone commonly found in nail polisher remover, says Frank W. Abagnale Jr., the former check forger and identity thief depicted by Leonardo DiCaprio in the movie *Catch Me If You Can*.

It works like this: The crook steals outgoing paid bills from your mailbox and places a piece of cellophane tape over the front and back of your signature on the check. Then he or she places the check into a pan of nail polish remover for about 30 minutes—which lifts anything that's not printer's ink, except for your tape-protected signature. The check is then blow-dried and flattened in a book, and the tape is carefully removed. Voila! A blank check, signed by you.

Only one type of ink—the kind in gel pens—is counterfeit-proof to acetone or any other chemical used in “check washing.” “I recommend the uni-ball Gel Impact pen, which sells for about \$2 each at any office supply or chain store,” says Agagnale, who now consults law enforcement and corporations on the art of the steal. “I personally sign all my checks and important documents with one.”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 18 Brainstorming and Business Meeting
Kelsey's, Port St. John – 5:00 pm
- 26 Women's Equality Day

September

- 06 Labor Day
- 18 Florida Coastal Cleanup – Shepard Park,
Cocoa Beach

October

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- National Disability Awareness Month
- Quarterly Report due to National and Regional



COCOA VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

Sep 12 – Sep 28

Here's Love...Miracle on 34th Street

Nov 14 – Dec 5

Brigadoon

Feb 6 – Feb 22

Anything Goes

Apr 23 – May 9

THE HENEGAR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

In historic downtown Melbourne

Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* & Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple – Female Version* (Our own NASA employee, Jalane Johnson, OP-MS, is part of the cast of the Female Version)

Aug 6 – Aug 22 (weekends only)



SPACE COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Muzette Fiander

This monthly publication is a means of sharing information and ideas. Please send news articles or items of interest for this Newsletter to Muzette Fiander, TA-E1, or e-mail at Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov

Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your friends. And for anyone interested, a Membership Application is attached as the last page.

Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!

--- Anne Frank

