

A VIEW FROM FEW

AN ORGANIZATION FOR OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY FOR WOMEN IN
GOVERNMENT

Space Coast Chapter, Kennedy Space Center, FL

September 2000

SPACE COAST CHAPTER, FEW 2000 - 2001 Officers and Committees

President	Aneta Ott
Finance	Clara Anderson
Public Relations	Jean Grenville
Newsletter	Vickie Hall/Rutha Williams
NTP/RTP Planners	Connie Dorbin/Barb Powell
Nominations	Arden Belt
Webmaster	Debbie Ward
Presidents Task Force	Vickie Hall
President Elect	Connie Dobrin
Seminar	Becky Fasulo
Compliance/Diversity	Sue Gaines
Vice President	Barb Powell
Programs	Jean Grenville
Parliamentarian	Carolyn Burnham
Community Outreach	Dawn Partlow
Treasurer	Christy Vanasse
Membership	Patricia Leonard
Sunshine	Suzanne Worland
Environmental	Valarie Franklin
Secretary	Jane Eitel
Scholarships	Christy Vanasse
Legislation	Connie Dobrin
Historian	Carolyn Burnham
Past President	Vickie Hall
National Legal Chairperson	Karin Biega
Regional Awards	Becky Fasulo



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our August meeting was held at the Olive Garden in Merritt Island. Cindy Flachmeier from the Salvation Army spoke on "Make a Difference Day" and made some suggestions for that

special day.. You will learn more about "Hands are not for Hitting" soon. We had a great turnout for the event.

I can't believe that we are fast approaching the holidays. This year has flown by. I've always been told the older you get, the faster time flies and boy do I believe it. We have been a very busy Chapter this year both within our organization and externally. We have supported Federally Employed Women at the Regional and National levels and we have supported our local community on various projects. And I thank all of the members who have represented us or participated in a community project. We voted at the August meeting that we would support FPWPG with this year's Voter's Registration Drive. Hope that if you have time, you will let Arden Belt know that you will help. Thanks

I just want to say Congratulations to your new 2000 - 2001 Officers. I am delighted to serve in the role of your President and I look forward to serving with Connie Dobrin, Barbara Powell, Jane Eitel and Christy Vanasse.

We have many big items coming up on our agenda, but the biggest of which is the 2002 National Training Program. We will be having a meeting on the August 29th, at Kelsey's to decide a lot of important things for the NTP. I encourage each of you to get involved with the NTP 2002 Committee and to attend this important planning meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at that meeting...if not before.

Aneta

Calendar of Events

August 24	Voter Registration Drive at KSC
August 29	NTP 2002 Meeting @ Kelsey's PSJ
September 4	Labor Day
September 8	STS-106 Atlantis Launch (8:45 am)
September 10	Grandparents' Day
September 19	STS-106 Landing @ KSC (4:59 am)
September 21	First Day of Fall
September 25	FEW Program Meeting @ Kelsey's PSJ

Melbourne. It was a great networking day and what a good feeling it gave you to know you were helping someone in the community. Catherine and her daughter, the house recipients, were right there beside us the whole day helping to build their house. They can't wait to get in their house and were ever so Thankful for our support.

Thanks to FEW members Patricia Leonard, Vickie Hall, and Aneta Ott, and to hopefully future FEW members Shermane Britt, Elisa Artusa, Barbara Brown, Michele Taylor, and Rosaly Santos who worked along beside me all day in helping to fulfill someone else's dream.

Keep an eye out for future Community Projects and information for the KSC Days of Caring and our Make a Difference Day Project to be decided in the next few weeks.

SUNSHINE
Suzanne Worland



Vickie Hall	Sep 2
Pat Lowry	Sep 2
Joan Fosdick	Sep 22
Sharon White	Sep 25
Cindy Coddington	Sep 26
Jean Rhodes	Sep 27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YA!!

Also if you are not listed on the Birthday list, it's because we do not have your birthday in our books, please send an e-mail to Suzanne Worland with the day so that we do not leave you out. Suzanne.Worland-1@ksc.nasa.gov

Member Incentive Program
Vickie Hall

It was decided at the August Program/Business Meeting that we would once again adopt the Member Incentive Program this year.

Criteria:

Any member who has attends at least seven Business/Program meetings and participates in at least three (or a majority) of community/special projects is eligible for the Chapter to pay for their dinner at the Installation and Awards Dinner (June 2001) providing Chapter funds are available to cover this cost.

Details must be provided by each member as to which meetings (specific dates) were attended as well as which projects were supported -- project name/date (e.g. Habitat for Humanity Build/August 12, 2000).

Specific format for providing this information will be provided at a later date so just keep track of meetings you attend and projects you support.

LEGISLATION
Connie Dobrin



GAO SAYS DoD A-76 PROGRAM MAY FALL SHORT OF GOALS

The Defense Department's plan to save \$11.7 billion by opening more than 200,000 jobs to commercial competition by 2005 will likely fall short of its goal, according to a new General Accounting Office report to the House Committee on Armed Services. The GAO examined nine A-76 competitions for privatizing a variety of DOD jobs and found that the process is not advancing as quickly as originally estimated. The report, NSIAD-00-106, cites DOD for failing to estimate baseline costs for performing work and for not being able to track costs associated with the A-76 competitions. The GAO recommended periodic reviews of cost-savings programs, and an increase in operations and maintenance funds to cover the costs of civilian employees who replace military positions.

EEOC ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR GENETIC INFO RESTRICTIONS

Last February, Executive Order 13145 was issued to protect federal employees from any discrimination based on protected genetic information. Last week, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued the working guidelines in support of the executive order. The EEOC guidelines spell out the definition of genetic information, and spell out the reasons why the federal government may not use such information in its consideration of a government employee's job status. The EEOC also explains why family medical history is considered on a par with protected genetic information and is, therefore, also disallowed as a factor in employment decisions about a worker's ability to perform his or her duties. For a FREE copy of the EEOC's guidelines, simply go to our new website at <http://www.fedamerica.com> and click on the ARCHIVES button on the homepage.

LONG-TERM CARE BILL AWAITS PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

Last week, H.R. 4040, entitled "The Long-Term Care Security Act," passed Congress. The bill, which will allow federal employees to obtain long-term care insurance at a discount through group rates, is awaiting the President's signature. Under the program, OPM would administer the program so that federal employees, annuitants, active and retired military members and their relatives would have the option of purchasing long-term care insurance. The federal government would not subsidize any part of the premiums, and individuals purchasing the insurance would be required to pay 100% of the premium costs. However, the cost of premiums is expected to be discounted because OPM would contract with "one or more" insurance carriers for group rates. The bill is expected to be signed into law.

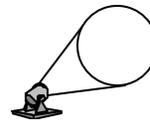
BILL CORRECTING RETIREMENT ERRORS PASSES CONGRESS

Congress also passed the "Federal Erroneous Retirement Coverage Corrections Act" last week. Introduced by Representative Joe Scarborough (R-Florida), the bill would correct administrative errors made during the mid-1980s, when several thousand federal employees were placed in the wrong retirement system. Under the bill, federal agencies are required to promptly identify and notify individuals who are - or have been - affected by a retirement coverage error. Employees and annuitants who should have been placed in FERS, but were wrongly placed in either CSRS or CSRS-Offset retirement systems, can elect either CSRS-Offset or FERS coverage, effective as of the date of the retirement coverage error. Employees who should have been Social Security-only covered, but who erroneously were covered by CSRS-Offset or CSRS, may elect either CSRS-Offset or Social Security-only coverage, also retroactive to the date of the error. Finally, employees wrongly placed in FERS can elect to remain in FERS, or move into the correct retirement system (CSRS, CSRS-Offset, or Social Security-only). The Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board will issue regulations. The bill is also

expected to be signed into law by President Clinton.

Womens' Equality Day
Arden Belt

The Kennedy Space Center Federally Women's' Program Working Group, with assistance by members of the Space Coast Chapter, Federally Employed Women will be conducting a Voters' Registration Drive during the lunch hours on August 24th. Registration tables will be set up from 11 am - 1 pm in front of the following cafeterias: Headquarters, Operations & Support Building (OSB), Operations & Checkout Building (O&C), and the Space Shuttle Processing Facility (SSPF). Contact Arden Belt, 867-2201, for additional information. Also if you are an FEW member, make sure you let Dawn Partlow know you supported this event for the Member Incentive Program.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Valarie Franklin

I was born in St. Augustine, FL, and moved to Cocoa, FL, where I attended Monroe Elementary, Poinsette Elementary (which is now Ronald McNair Magnet School) and Monroe High School. I am a member of MT Moriah AME Church in Cocoa, FL, where I sing in the Mass Choir and also serve as Secretary. I started my Civil Service career at Patrick Air Force Base in 1971.

My husband Robert, is retired from the United States Air Force. We have four lovely children, three girls and a son who is in the United States Army presently stationed in Kuwait.

I transferred from The Department of Defense to NASA/KSC in 1991 in the clerical pool. I have worked in Procurement, Personnel, Public Affairs, Legal Office and Payloads as a Secretary while assigned to the clerical pool. In December of 1991, I accepted a Secretary position in the Chemical and Analysis Branch of the Material Science Laboratory, in the Operations & Checkout Building. In 1995, I became the Division Secretary for the Materials Science Laboratory now known as the Labs and Testbeds Laboratory. I have received many awards and recognitions over the years and in 1997, I received the KSC Certificate of Commendation and was Logistics Space Flight Awareness Launch Honoree and in 1999 received the Silver Quality Dollar Award.

I served two terms as BEST Secretary and am now serving as the BEST Treasurer. I also serve on the FWPWG, KSC 2000 Community Appreciation Day, Brevard Youth Summit 2000 Committee and as a new member of Space Coast Chapter, FEW I am serving as Chair for the Environmental Committee. I have been accepted into the Leadership Brevard 2000 - 2001 program and a member of KSC Tiger Team and a SEARCH Mentor for

Ronald McNair Magnet School. I enjoy networking with others, crafting, sewing, crocheting, gardening and relaxing.

SPACE COAST CHAPTER WEBSITE

Debbie Ward

Don't forget to visit our FEW website at <http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/groups/few/>

We are also linked from the FEW National website to our Chapter.

If you have additional info for the website please contact me at 867-0832 or e-mail at Deborah.Ward-1@kmail.ksc.nasa.gov

THANK YOU

Arden Belt

I wanted to thank Jean Grenville for creating the outstanding Beanie Baby collection as a kick-off contribution for our Chapter's seed money for the NTP 2002 we will be hosting in Orlando. The Beanie's complimented each other perfectly, the outfits were delightful, the pillow was such a thoughtful idea (their little fannies are all plumped down on softness), and the entire basket is beautiful. A thanks also goes to Clara Anderson who carried the basket to New Orleans and back again. Hope the group that went to NTP 2000 enjoyed their New Orleans experience.

(Editorial note: In case you hadn't heard Arden won the Beanie Baby Raffle basket).

Women's Domestic Abuse Shelter

Cindy Coddington

If you have unused or inactivated cell phones, the Domestic Abuse Shelter would love to have them. You may contact Cindy Coddington, 867-0828, or drop the phones off in Headquarters, Room 2118. Even though the phones are no longer activated, the 911 feature still works and the phones are given to domestic abuse victims for emergency use.

KUDOS TO:

Sue Gaines who has been selected to participate in the Kennedy Graduate Fellowship Program and attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, pursuing a Master of Science in Planning (M.S.P.), with a specialization in Growth Management and Comprehensive Planning. Sue will attend classes at FSU this fall and spring, then return for one more on-campus semester in fall of 2001, to complete the

required course work. During semester breaks, she will be back on Center doing her normal routine tasks. Best of luck Sue!

Get Away Cruise

Vickie Hall

As you know everybody deserves a break now and then. Last year, several members of the Space Coast Chapter of FEW decided we needed A Girls Week Away (AGWA) and accompanied by some of our friends, we took a cruise in November to the Bahamas on the Big Red Boat. I think we numbered 28 in our group and a good time was had by all. This year we are again looking into yet another cruise and wanted to know if any of you were interested in going along. This would be a Girls Week Away (spouses, significant others are optional)!

The cruise I am looking at is on the Fantasy (Carnival ship). Itinerary: departs Port Canaveral, FL -> Freeport -> Day at Sea -> then returns to Port Canaveral or a similar itinerary on Sovereign of the Seas (RCI). Itinerary: departs Port Canaveral -> CocoCay -> Nassau -> Day at Sea -> Port Canaveral. Both ships leave on Sunday late afternoon and return on Thursday (early am) and the dates I am looking at are Oct 29th or Nov 5th.

Prices look like around \$450/pp maybe lower if we get group rate, which is why I am soliciting your input. We have to book eight rooms to get a group rate, right now we have five rooms committed. Since the group rate will be based on # passengers, cabins booked, I need a pretty firm commitment if you are interested in this get-away cruise. Please only respond if you are definitely up for this cruise. You can send me an e-mail Vickie.Hall-1@ksc.nasa.gov or give me a call 867-9100.

HEALTH CORNER

Submitted by Vickie Hall

Breast Cancer Awareness

The notion that we could raise \$16 million by buying a book of stamps is powerful! As you may be aware, the US Postal Service is presently selling a "Fund the Cure" stamp to help fund breast cancer research. The stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland.

It is important that we take a stand against this disease that kills and maims so many of our mothers, sisters, friends. Instead of the normal \$.33 for a stamp, this one costs \$.40. The additional \$.07 will go to breast cancer research. A "normal" book costs \$6.60. This one is only \$8.00. It takes a few minutes in line at the Post Office and means so much. If all stamps are sold, it will raise an additional \$16,000,000 for this vital research. Just as important as the money is our support. What a statement it would make if the stamp out sold the lottery this week.

What a statement it would make that we care. I urge each of you to do two things TODAY:

1. Go out and purchase some of these stamps.
2. E-mail your friends to do the same.

Many of us know women and their families whose lives are turned upside-down by breast cancer. It takes so little to do so much in this drive. Please help! Thank YOU

Space Coast Chapter Newsletter Editor
Rutha Williams



This monthly publication is a means of sharing information and ideas, please send news articles or items of interest for this Newsletter to Rutha Williams at QA-D or e-mail Rutha.Williams-1@kmail.ksc.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.

**FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN, INC.
SPACE COAST CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

This form may also be used to notify the Membership Chairperson of any changes you have in personal data. Include name and corrected data only.

New Applicant Notice of Change

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Birth date: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Agency/Company: _____ Work Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Committees you would like to work on or Chair:

Finance ____ Bylaws ____ Seminar ____ Programs ____
Community Outreach ____ Legislative ____ Scholarships ____
Sunshine ____ Environmental ____ Historian ____

Officer positions you would be interested in serving:
President ____ President Elect ____ Vice President ____
Secretary ____ Treasurer ____

Other areas of interest or things you would like Space Coast Chapter to address or provide a program covering a specific topic: _____

The following information is requested by the National Office for statistics only.

Position/Title: _____ Series/Grade: _____

Circle One: SES GM GS WG Military Other

Since dues are paid on a pro-rated basis, please contact the Membership Chairperson, Patricia Leonard, 867-8147, for payment amount and address.