

FEW Notes

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Federally Employed Women Inc.
Greater Oklahoma City
Chapter, No. 30

P.O. Box 890718
Oklahoma City, OK 73189-0718

Editor: Carolyn Delong
Mazda1994@sbcglobal.net



The
President's
Pencil.....
By Brenda Hagar

We all seem to sit around and wonder where 2005 went –This year - know where your year is going – do not let the year go by and wonder what happened to it. This year will be a year with many opportunities for all of us. Please be watching for your opportunity to serve your FEW Chapter.

This FEW Chapter will once again be doing registration at the Day at the Legislature on February 14. Please be sure to contact Peggy O'Neal if you are interested in helping.

Regional Training Program is March 14 – 17, in San Antonio, TX. March. As usual, the RTP will be a rewarding time.

GOKC Chapter is considering holding the RTP for 2007 in OKC. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of the planning committee.

Have a great month.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN

FEBRUARY 13, 2006

5:00 P.M.

Program to follow at 6:30 P.M.



GOKC CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2004-2006		
President	Brenda Hagar	(w) 954-4514 (h) 376-5318
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*Dr. Martin Luther King
Day
January 16, 2006*



Martin Luther King, Jr. was born *in Atlanta) Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin.

The son of the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King was ordained in 1947 and became (1954) minister of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Ala. He led the black boycott (1955—56) of segregated city bus lines and in 1956 gained a major victory and prestige as a civil-rights leader when Montgomery buses began to operate on a desegregated basis.

King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which gave him a base to pursue further civil-rights activities, first in the South and later nationwide. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance led

to his arrest on numerous occasions in the 1950s and 60s. His campaigns had mixed success, but the protest he led in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963 brought him worldwide attention. He spearheaded the Aug., 1963, March on Washington, which brought together more than 200,000 people. In 1964, at the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

King's leadership in the civil-rights movement was challenged in the mid-1960s as others grew more militant. His interests, however, widened from civil rights to include criticism of the Vietnam War and a deeper concern over poverty. His plans for a Poor People's March to Washington were interrupted (1968) for a trip to Memphis, Tenn., in support of striking sanitation workers. On Apr. 4, 1968, he was shot and killed as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel (since 1991 a civil-rights museum).

James Earl Ray, a career criminal, pleaded guilty to the murder and was convicted, but he soon recanted, claiming he was duped into his plea. Ray's conviction was subsequently upheld, but he eventually received support from members of King's family, who believed King to have been the victim of a conspiracy. Ray died in prison in 1998. In a jury trial in Memphis in 1999 the King family won a wrongful-death judgment against Loyd Jowers, who claimed (1993) that he had arranged the killing for a Mafia figure. Many experts, however, were unconvinced by the verdict, and in 2000, after an 18-month investigation, the Justice Dept. discredited Jowers and concluded that there was no evidence of an assassination plot.

Martin was famous for many things, but perhaps is still most well-known today for his "I Have a Dream" speech. Here is an excerpt from that speech:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have

a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today."

C E L E B R A T E
BLACK HISTORY
M O N T H

From: <http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/>

February marks the beginning of Black History Month - an annual celebration that has existed since 1926. But what are the origins of Black History Month?

Much of the credit can go to Harvard Scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was determined to bring Black History into the mainstream public arena. Woodson devoted his life to making "the world see the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history."

In 1926 Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week, which took place during the second week of February. Woodson chose this date to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln - two men who had greatly impacted the black population.

Over time, Negro History Week evolved into the Black History Month that we know today - a four-week-long celebration of African American History.



JANUARY HUMOR

T'was the month after Christmas, and all through
the house,
nothing would fit me, not even a blouse;
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I had to taste,
at the holiday parties had gone to my waist;

When I got on the scales there arose such a
number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a
lumber),
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared,
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared;

The wine and the rum balls; the bread and the
cheese,
and the way I'd never said, "No thank you,
please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt,
and prepared once again to do battle with dirt,
I said to myself, as only I can,
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip.
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished,
'til all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore,
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

Author Unknown



Marilyn Hampton February 12

*The Legend
of
Groundhog
Day*



From: <http://www.gojp.com/groundhog/>

The legend of Groundhog Day is based on an old Scottish couplet: "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year."

Every February 2, people gather at Gobbler's Knob, a wooded knoll just outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Residents contend that the groundhog has never been wrong.

The ceremony in Punxsutawney was held in secret until 1966, and only Phil's prediction was revealed to the public. Since then, Phil's fearless forecast has been a national media event.

The groundhog comes out of his electrically heated burrow, looks for his shadow and utters his prediction to a Groundhog Club representative in "groundhogese." The representative then translates the prediction for the general public.

If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner.

Approximately 90% of the time, Phil sees his shadow.

Phil started making predictions in 1887 and has become an American institution.

***OKLAHOMA WILD FIRES BURN MEMBER'S
HOUSE***

GOKC member Colleen Conway's home was burned to the ground in the wild fire in Mustang, Oklahoma just a couple days after Christmas. Fortunately, Colleen, her daughter Shirley, and their cat were not injured in the fire. The home and its contents were completely destroyed, and Colleen is currently working with her insurance company so she will be able to replace their belongings.

One Flaw In Women

Women have strengths that amaze men.
They bear hardships and they carry burdens,
but they hold happiness, love and joy.
They smile when they want to scream.
They sing when they want to cry.
They cry when they are happy
and laugh when they are nervous.
They fight for what they believe in.
They stand up to injustice.
They don't take "no" for an answer
when they believe there is a better solution.
They go without so their family can have.
They go to the doctor with a frightened friend.
They love unconditionally
They cry when their children excel
and cheer when their friends get awards.
They are happy when they hear about
a birth or a wedding.
Their hearts break when a friend dies.
They grieve at the loss of a family member,
yet they are strong when they
think there is no strength left.
They know that a hug and a kiss
can heal a broken heart.
Women come in all shapes, sizes and colors.
They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you
to show how much they care about you.
The heart of a woman is what
makes the world keep turning.
They bring joy, hope and love.
They have compassion and ideas.
They give moral support to their
family and friends.
Women have vital things to say
and everything to give.

HOWEVER, IF THERE IS ONE FLAW IN WOMEN,
IT IS THAT THEY FORGET THEIR WORTH.

Author Unknown

Congress Clamps a Lid on Outsourcing of Government Work

This information from an email from Patricia Wolfe, National President
By Stephen Barr

Tuesday, December 20, 2005; Page B02

Congress, in an effort to protect federal jobs, has placed restrictions on the Bush administration's program that uses cost-comparison studies to determine whether "commercial" activities performed by the government should be turned over to contractors.

One of the more significant curbs was contained in the fiscal 2006 spending bill for the departments of Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development. The provision applies across the government -- except for the Defense Department and the Transportation Security Administration's airport screener operation -- and became law Nov. 30.

The fiscal 2006 defense spending bill, approved by the House yesterday and sent to the Senate, would place a similar limit on the Defense Department's conversion of federal jobs to contractor jobs.

The president's "competitive sourcing" initiative calls for studies to determine whether certain types of work performed by federal employees can be done by the private sector at less cost. In policy statements, the White House has pointed out that job competitions conducted in fiscal 2003 and 2004 are projected to produce five-year savings totaling \$2.5 billion. Federal employees have won 90 percent of the job competitions, officials also point out.

But federal unions have lobbied against the job competitions, arguing that the rules are tilted against employees and that estimates of cost savings are overstated or cannot be proved. Industry groups contend that agencies should be able to outsource work if it helps

them manage their budgets or better accomplish their goals.

The new law will allow 10 or more federal employees to set up a "most efficient organization" to bid against contractors for the government work. Previously, only groups representing at least 65 federal employees could compete.

The law also prohibits agencies from contracting out activities involving 10 or more federal jobs unless the contractor's bid comes in \$10 million or 10 percent lower.

Although President Bush's senior advisers had warned of a possible veto if the restrictions on outsourcing were adopted, a spokesman at the Office of Management and Budget said the administration "determined that these provisions do not significantly erode the president's management agenda."

Alex Conant, the OMB spokesman, said officials "will monitor the impact" of the limits on competitive sourcing and, if found too restrictive, will work with Congress "to fix them." Conant said OMB officials are drafting additional guidelines for agencies "to help them successfully compete work."

The spending bill for the Defense Department carries provisions similar to the Transportation-Treasury law. It goes a step further, however, by including a section that would not permit contractors to gain an advantage in their bids if they offer less generous health insurance benefits than those paid by the Defense Department on behalf of its civil service employees.



Somewhere out in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow my footsteps, and preside over the White House as the president's spouse. I wish him well!

Barbara Bush

NTP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



The National Scholarship Committee is currently accepting applications for the 2006 National Training Program (NTP) and Retiree Scholarships Programs for the Federally Employed Women (FEW). The NTP scholarship program provides an opportunity for deserving individuals to participate in the NTP who might not otherwise be able to attend. Each member who meets the requirements is encouraged to submit an application for a scholarship.

Applications must be postmarked by April 7, 2006. The scholarship criteria, forms, and submission procedures are posted on the FEW web site at www.few.org, click on the menu button on the left of the home page under Scholarship - NTP/Retiree. Additional information can be found in FEW's National Policy and Procedures Manual (NPPM), Part Three - Activity and General Procedures, in the National Training Program Scholarship Section or at www.few.org and click on the menu button for Publications on the left of the home page for more information.



FEW Collegiate Scholarship Program

The National Scholarship Committee is currently accepting applications for the 2006 Collegiate Scholarship Program for FEW members who are seeking to continue their college education. The amount of the scholarship is up to \$4000 for FEW members pursuing their first Associate or first Bachelors Degree at an accredited institution. The person receiving this scholarship is not limited

to a particular field of study or career objective in pursuing her or his academic discipline.

Applications must be postmarked by April 7, 2006. The scholarship criteria, forms, and submission procedures are posted on the FEW web site at www.few.org, click on the menu button on the left of the home page under Scholarships - Collegiate. Additional information can be found in FEW's National Policy and Procedures Manual (NPPM), Part Three - Activity and General Procedures, in the National Training Program Scholarship Section or at www.few.org and click on the menu button for Publications on the left of the home page for more information. All application packages **MUST BE SUBMITTED** in accordance with the NPPM procedures.

COMPUTER PASSWORDS



From: <http://ask.yahoo.com/ask/20041022.html>

On average, the human brain can hold only five to nine "random bits of information" in short-term memory. Considering the brain's limited capacity and the sheer number of secret names, codes, and words a person needs to remember in this password-protected age, it's no surprise that the most common password is simply "password."

Besides serving as an easy-to-remember code for less-creative computer users, "password" is often used as the default password for many web sites and programs, making it extremely common and not at all secure. In other words, "password" is a bad password.

Other perennial favorites include "God," "sex," "money," and "love." Passwords based on the names or birthdays of partners, children, or pets are also quite common. For a lengthy list of common passwords, go to <http://geodsoft.com/howto/password/common.htm>. Make sure to scan it and look for yours. If yours made the list, it's probably a good idea to change it.

