



*Federally Employed Women, Inc.*  
**Greater Oklahoma City Chapter**  
GOKC FEW Chapter 30  
P.O. Box 890718  
Oklahoma City, OK 73189-0718

Editor: James Bina  
[JLBina@aol.com](mailto:JLBina@aol.com)

**February 2004, Vol. IV, No. 2**

## **In This Issue:**

- A "FEW" Notes from our President
- Leadership, Are YOU Ready? Part II
- National, Regional, Chapter Happenings
- National News
- Diversity / February Events
- Other Interests...
- Membership Information and Application

## **A "FEW Notes" From our President**

What an exciting time for FEW! Our Regional Training Program is right around the corner. I'm pleased that our very own Rhonda Trent is the Chair for the Legislative Breakfast and that several other GOKC members have been working with her to ensure this program is a success. I hope you to see you there.

By now you should have received your annual renewal invoice. Our membership year is from March 1 through February 28. Please renew your membership promptly, update the information on your invoice, and let us know if you would like to serve on one of our committees.

Look for information about our upcoming programs on Women's History (March 25) and Diversity in April and plan to join us. Both plan to be extraordinary events.

The 2004 National Training Program (NTP) will be in Nashville, July 19-23. I hope you are making plans to participate in this event. FEW training is excellent training and a good value for the training dollar. If you've never attended FEW training I hope you'll take a few minutes to review the training schedule and associated networking opportunities. Be sure to check out the National website ([www.few.org](http://www.few.org)) for all the latest information.

Happy Valentine's Day !!

## **Leadership – Are you ready?**

By Ellen McKenzie

### **Part II of III**

After reading last month's article did you begin to think that perhaps you could serve your chapter in a leadership position? I hope so as it is truly a rewarding experience. Last month I mentioned the qualifications required for every leadership position. Now I'll highlight a few qualifications specific to each elected position. Keep in mind that these are general duties and responsibilities and they do not require your attention each and every day.

### **Elected Officers/Positions:**

Prior to actively beginning term, the elected officer should familiarize her/himself with the applicable sections of the national Policy and Procedures Manual, the chapter bylaws and standing rules, national materials and publications, and other organizational documents.

#### ***President***

Additional Qualifications Specific to this office:

1. Held at least one other leadership position on the Chapter's Executive Committee,  
- and -
2. Have a sincere interest in all aspects of FEW activities and be committed to actively serving as the Chapter's leader.

The President is responsible for:

- Scheduling and presiding over all Executive Committee meetings
- General administrative and financial control of Chapter affairs and business
- Making all necessary committee appointments
- An ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee
- Working with the treasurer and executive committee to develop an annual budget

- Working with the executive committee to develop an annual plan for the chapter
- Overseeing the activities of all chapter offices and committees
- Maintaining communication with the national president, national office, and regional manager
- Prepare and submit timely chapter quarterly reports to the national office, the national VP for membership and chapter organization and the regional manager
- Member outreach activities
- Reviewing publications and attending meetings of other organizations to form coalitions on common issues, to develop networking opportunities between organizations, and to enhance the chapter's visibility and effectiveness
- Attend all chapter meetings
- Prepare written reports of activities, as required
- Prepare/present briefings at the membership meetings to keep members informed of the latest regional and national few activities

***Vice President for Membership***

Serves as assistant to the chapter president.

Additional Qualifications Specific to this office:

- Held at least one other leadership position on the Chapter's Executive Committee,
- Be committed to actively serving as the Chapter's second in command,
- Have a sincere interest in building membership and be committed to actively serving as the chapter's voice on membership issues.

Vice President for Membership responsibilities:

- Preside over all executive committee and membership meetings in the absence of the president
- Review publications and attend meetings of other organizations to form coalitions on common issues, to develop networking opportunities between organizations, and to enhance the chapter's visibility and effectiveness
- Attend all chapter executive committee and membership meetings
- Prepare written reports of activities for meetings
- Prepare an annual budget for membership activities
- Develop a membership committee to assist with duties, train members in membership functions, and get members actively working on chapter business
- Develop an annual plan that includes activities, programs and projects targeted at recruiting, retaining, and reclaiming members.

- Develop an annual membership contest
- Regularly review and update the chapter master membership roster for accuracy
- Submit timely updates/changes to the roster to the national office
- Distribute renewal notices
- Collect and process membership dues
- Serve as chair of the new member orientation/training program
- With executive committee, develop materials to publicize chapter activities
- Perform member outreach activities
- Continually update and renew the new member packet to ensure the materials contained are current and that the package is educational and interesting
- Follow up with new member applications which includes sending out new member informational packets; contacting every new member to ensure that they are familiar and aware of meeting/program dates, activities, services, etc.
- Welcome members and guests at monthly meetings
- Attend all chapter meetings
- Perform other duties as assigned by the president or as required by membership.

***Vice President for Programs***

Serves as assistant to the chapter president.

Additional Qualifications Specific to this office:

Held at least one other leadership position on the chapter's executive committee.

Vice President for Programs responsibilities:

- Develop an annual budget for program activities
- Develop a chapter program committee to assist with duties, to train members in planning, organizing and executing programs, and get members actively working on chapter business.
- Review publications and attend meetings of other organizations to form coalitions on common issues, to develop networking opportunities between organizations, and to enhance the chapter's visibility and effectiveness
- Develop an annual plan that includes meetings, activities and projects that encourage member participation and address member needs or chapter issues. These activities should include, but are not limited to meeting national program requirements for legislative, compliance and diversity programs and activities highlight new or unfamiliar government systems and programs, processes or plans, address career development, and other issues of national significance to female federal workers.

- Work with the membership chair to help plan new member orientation training programs
- Work with newsletter editor to develop and submit flyers and/or articles that highlight program plans and activities for submission to c/n/r newsletters that meet publishing deadlines.
- Develop materials to publicize the chapter program activities throughout the community.
- Perform member outreach activities which may include personally contacting officers, committee chairs, and members during the year to obtain feedback on past programs and to help determine future needs for specific types of programs.
- Attend all chapter meetings
- Prepare written reports of activities for meetings
- Prepare an annual budget for program activities
- Develop an annual plan that includes activities, programs and projects targeted at recruiting, retaining, and reclaiming members.
- Work with chapter executive committee to develop materials to publicize the chapter throughout the community.
- Welcome members and guests at monthly meetings
- Perform other duties as assigned by the president or as required by membership.

### *Secretary*

The Chapter Secretary serves as the recorder for all Chapter meetings, events and activities.

Additional Qualifications Specific to this office:

Have the ability to accurately capture, in writing, the discussion and decisions made at meetings

Secretary responsibilities:

- Develop annual budget for the secretary's functions
- Develop an action plan that includes timelines for transcribing and distributing minutes to ensure that all members receive meeting information in a timely manner
- Develop a back-up system to carry out duties, when absent
- Develop a system to capture, report, and follow-up on action items and due dates discussed and decided on at meetings. Minutes should be typed and grammatically correct.
- Advise the president if quorum requirements are met at the beginning of a meeting
- Bring all reference documents (bylaws, minutes of past meeting, applicable portions of National Policy and Procedures Manual), motion slips, etc.
- Retrieve, copy and/or distribute incoming mail from the chapter P.O. Box

- Develop and maintain a chapter calendar of events and activities
- Prepare correspondence as needed
- Work with the membership chair and the newsletter editor to maintain and update membership, address, telephone, email and fax info for mailing and contact purposes
- Update and maintain contact lists/directories of national and regional officers, other FEW chapters, federal agencies, other organizations and persons interested in FEW, as needed, to maintain good communication links
- Work with the newsletter editor to develop and submit articles that highlight chapter members and chapter activities for the chapter newsletter and/or submission to national and regional newsletters that meet publishing deadlines
- Attend all chapter meetings
- Prepare written reports of activities for meetings
- Performs other duties as assigned by the president or as requested by the membership

### *Treasurer*

Authorized custodian of the chapter's funds.

Additional Qualifications Specific to this office:

Have the ability to accurately maintain, track and report on detailed financial transactions.

Treasurer's responsibilities:

- Provide a budget worksheet for the chapter executive board to use in preparation of the new fiscal year budget
- Obtain necessary signatures of new officers for bank documents and account
- Develop an annual budget for the treasurer's operations and functions
- Develop an action plan that includes timelines for depositing and reconciling financial transactions to ensure that all members receive financial information in a timely manner
- Develop a backup system to carry out duties, primarily reporting on the chapter's financial status, when absent
- Receive and deposit chapter funds into chapter's bank account
- Disburse funds in timely manner and in accordance with the approved budget
- Have all books, records and the checkbook available for inspection by the chapter officers at every meeting

- Prepare a written financial statement prior to each meeting and reporting information to the membership at annual meeting
- Prepare semi-annual financial report (Feb and Aug) and submitting them to the national office
- Submit books for audit at the end of the fiscal year and upon request of the chapter president or the membership

### ***Nominations Chair***

Nominations Chair serves as the coordinator for the chapter's biannual nominations process.

Additional Qualifications Specific to this office:  
Be committed to actively serving as the chapter's leadership recruiter.

Nominations Chair's responsibilities:

- Develop an annual budget for nominations activities
- Develop a nominations and elections plan that includes activities, programs, and projects that will provide for a full slate of officers for the annual ballot and allow members involvement in the nominations and elections process
- Work with the chapter program chair to develop leadership programs, speakers and training as either stand alone activities or as part of the membership meeting/programs
- Write articles about the elected and appointed chapter leadership positions for the newsletter that highly the duties of each position
- Develop materials to publicize the benefits of leadership
- Conduct member outreach activities which may include personally contacting officer, committee chairs during the year to market the benefits of leadership and to generate interest among the membership in running for office
- Prepare the chapter ballot and distribute to the membership in accordance with established procedures and timelines
- Announce the official results of chapter elections
- Write an article about the results of the election for the chapter newsletter
- Maintain contact with the region and national nominations chairs to help identify chapter members who would be good candidates for region and national office
- Review publications and attend meetings of other organizations to form coalitions on common issues, to develop networking opportunities between organizations, to enhance the chapter's visibility

and effectiveness, and to identify events and programs that could improve chapter's nomination efforts

- Attend all meetings of the chapter meetings
- Prepare written reports of activities meetings
- Prepare briefings to present at the membership meeting to keep members informed of the latest nomination activities at the region and national levels
- Performing other duties as assigned by the president or as requested by the membership.

*Repeated from last month:* before accepting this responsibility, members should examine both their professional and personal lives to ensure that the duties of the office can be carried out promptly, systematically, and efficiently.

While we have only a few elected positions, there are other important offices to hold and jobs to be done. These other offices are filled as appointed positions. Remember, every job is important and everyone works together. The duties specific to each appointed office will be highlighted next month.  
TO BE CONTINUED .....

## **FEW National, SW Regional and Local Chapter News**

---

### **GOKC Chapter News**

---

For more information about our chapter and to view previous issues of FEW Notes, visit our Website at [www.gokcfew.org](http://www.gokcfew.org).

### **GOKC FEW Membership Renewal,**

Your membership renewal notice should have arrived by now. If you haven't done so yet, now is a good time to renew your membership. Ensure you make any appropriate changes (name, address, phone number, etc.) on the form and return it promptly with your check for membership renewal. If you have any questions please contact our VP for Membership, Danielle Satterfield.

### **February Birthdays**

- 8 – Danielle Satterfield
- 12 – Marilyn Hampton
- 22 – Debi Talley
- 26 – Elane Essic
- 28 – Jo Smith

Happy Birthday and best wishes!!

## Up and Coming for Women's History Month

We have a big program coming up the end of March (25th) for Women's History Month. Here are the details so far....

Speaker: Sandra Hansen

Location: Sheraton FourPoints @ 6300 Terminal Drive

Date: March 25, 2004

Time: 6:00pm

Title of Presentation: "Kate's Pants"

POCs: Brenda Hagar, 954-4514, and Linda Carlisle, 954-6574.

## Southwest Regional News

---

---

### Southwest Regional Training Program (RTP)

The Southwest Regional Training Program is here!! Our program will be held February 24 –27, 2004 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel located in downtown Fort Worth, Texas. The planning committee has put together a dynamic series of speakers and classes, and there will be plenty of activities and excitement in downtown Fort Worth!

For those of you who are going, The Radisson Plaza Hotel is located at 815 Main Street (downtown Ft. Worth), 76102, 817-870-2100. The toll-free reservations number for RTP is 800-333-3333. We'll see you there!

### SW RTP Legislative Breakfast

One of the many highlights of the Regional Training Program is the Legislative Breakfast. This years event will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 AM. This year we are especially fortunate to have Ms. Janet Kopenhaver as our guest speaker. Ms. Kopenhaver is the President of "Eye on Washington" and will give us an inside look of what really goes on "in side the beltway." I'm sure she will us give an informative and enlightening presentation. Be sure to attend this function while at the SW RTP!!

We would also like to thank the Legislative Breakfast Committee for putting this program together. The members of this committee are:

**Rhonda Trent** Chair, Greater Oklahoma City Chapter  
**Christy Lam**, Greater Oklahoma City Chapter  
**Jennifer Yoder**, Greater Oklahoma City Chapter  
**Debbie Miller**, Greater Oklahoma City Chapter  
**Ellen McKenzie**, Greater Oklahoma City Chapter  
**James Bina**, Greater Oklahoma City Chapter

## Janet Kopenhaver's Bio

Janet Kopenhaver, President, *Eye on Washington*, has more than seventeen years experience in the government relations and international trade fields. Throughout her career, she has developed numerous contacts both on Capitol Hill and in U.S. Federal Government Agencies, including the U.S. Trade Representative's Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture, International Trade Commission and U.S. Department of State. Among her many areas of expertise are lobbying government officials; research projects; monitoring and analyzing legislation and regulations; and managing grassroots programs.

Janet founded *Eye on Washington* with the aim of creating a high quality, yet reasonably-priced, government relations and international trade consulting firm to whom organizations and companies could turn for any number of services, including drafting articles and publications; lobbying; writing comments and petitions in response to proposed federal rules and regulations; and tracking legislative and regulatory issues.

Among her current clients are Federally Employed Women for whom she serves as Washington Representative. She is responsible for the organization's grassroots, lobbying and regulatory programs.

Prior to starting *Eye on Washington*, Janet served as Vice President for International Trade and Government Relations for a manufacturers' trade association, and concurrently as Executive Director of an affiliated Canadian organization. In these roles, she organized and managed the association's government relations and international trade programs. This included serving as spokesperson and lobbyist with Capitol Hill and Administration agencies; drafting comments on proposed regulations; tracking and analyzing legislation; and monitoring and resolving international trade disputes.

Prior to this position, Janet served as Regional Director, International Market Development for an agricultural trade association. In this capacity, she managed the Latin America Market Development Program; drafted market plans and budgets; and implemented marketing activities.

Before working in the association field, Janet was employed in the U.S. Government for five years. She served at the U.S. Department of State and in the congressional office of Mr. Mike DeWine from Ohio, who now serves as Senator.

Janet earned an M.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University, and a B.A. in International Affairs from American University. She also serves in leadership positions in many professional organizations, including Women in Government Relations American League of Lobbyists, and Women in International Trade.

### **RTP Registration Book on NBCFAE Web Site**

Need to take a last look at the RTP registration book? You can find it posted on the NBCFAE website. Go to <http://home.earthlink.net/~johnjontx/nbcfae.htm> then click the link titled "Federally Employed Women 2004 Regional Training Program." This will bring up the entire file. Claudia Williams

### **Opportunities at 2004 RTP**

The Southwest RTP is here and there is still much to do. Want to get involved? Simply contact one of your chapter officers or Claudia Williams, our Regional Manager to get on the books.

### **FEW Connections - National**

---

---

For more information on FEW memberships and the FEW organization, check out the national FEW Website at [www.few.org](http://www.few.org)

### **National Membership Contest**

Don't forget to invite friends and co-workers to visit us and join FEW. Your recruiting efforts could be rewarded with a cruise, lifetime membership or other cash prizes. Full contest details are at [www.few.org](http://www.few.org). Contest ends June 30, so hurry!

### **National Training Program**

It's time to check out [www.fewntp.org](http://www.fewntp.org) and start your agency process for approval and funding to attend FEW's annual NTP. Excellent, excellent training, as always.

### **NTP 2004 - The Best is Yet to Come!**

Join us for the 2004 National Training Program in Nashville, Tennessee. This fantastic training program will run July 19 – 24, 2004. This is an event not to be missed! The NTP staff is working very hard to make this another world-class event. Make a commitment to your career and plan on attending this amazing career enhancer.

### **The Best Educational Workshops in the Industry.**

We asked you, "How can we make our conference better?" You answered...and we listened. More importantly, we made changes. And we think you'll like what's in store for you:

- Exhibit hall with more profession-boosting exhibits than ever before.
- Tiered training tracks tailored for novices and executives.
- Outstanding technical and professional training
- Learn from your peers—More built-in networking opportunities
- An attractive venue to make learning fun, with many activities for attendees and families.

### **FEW Welcomes Naomi Judd**



Famous country singer, songwriter and speaker will be the KEYNOTE SPEAKER at the opening session of Federally Employed Women's 35th annual National Training Program. Following Ms. Judd's speech will be an 1 hour book signing session.

### **Hear the Sounds of Success at the "Best Hotel in Nashville"—**

#### **Opryland**

- Pleasant weather and indoor tropical gardens year-round
  - Walking distance from the world-famous Grand Ole Opry and more than 200 manufacturer outlets, off-price retailers, specialty stores and restaurants
  - Four pools, fitness center, salon, on-site shops and restaurants ready to pamper you.
  - All the comforts of home with spacious and attractive rooms that feature all the amenities.
- Online conference registration begins March 15, 2004. Register before May 28 and save \$100.

### **NTP Opportunities**

Marion Stevens, National VP for Membership and Chapter Organization, is asking for volunteers for a couple of exciting positions. If you are interested in either of the FEW NTP positions please contact Marion (information below) or let Ellen know and she will pass your information on to her.

*FEW Store Manager* I'm looking for a volunteer to be the FEW Store Manager for NTP 2004. This person will make all the arrangements to have items with the FEW logo available for sale before and during NTP. I need a person in place by Feb 15, 2004. If you are interested, curious, and want to know more about the position please contact Marion or Ellen.

FEW National Membership Booth Looking for a volunteer to manage the FEW National Membership

Booth during NTP 2004. This person will make the arrangements necessary to have an attractive and functional membership booth in the exhibit area during the NTP. Again please contact me to get more information.

### **National Membership Renewal**

FEW members, when you renew your membership for 2005 you will receive a card in the mail to let you know it is complete. If you have not received the card 6 weeks after you pay your dues please contact your chapter or contact me if you are a member-at-large. My contact information is: office [stevensm@scott.disa.mil](mailto:stevensm@scott.disa.mil) or (618) 229-9313. At home I can be reached at [marionstevensm@charter.net](mailto:marionstevensm@charter.net) or (618) 632-1695. Thanks, Marion

## **Diversity**

---

### **February Events**

From the Diversity website, [www3.kumc.edu/diversity](http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity).

[Black History Month](#) (United States)

2 - [Groundhog Day](#) (United States)

12 - [Abraham Lincoln's Birthday](#) (United States)

14 - [Valentine's Day](#) (United States)

16 - [President's Day](#) (United States)

22 - [George Washington's Birthday](#) (United States)

24 - [Mardi Gras](#) (United States)

[Black History Month](#) is the successor to Negro History Week which was initiated on February 12, 1926 by [Carter G. Woodson](#), a pre-eminent historian and founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Woodson was concerned that the contributions of Black Americans were overlooked or misrepresented and he began lobbying for Negro History Week as early as 1915. He selected February because it included the birthdays of [Abraham Lincoln](#) (February 12) and [Frederick Douglass](#) (February 14) whom he believed had dramatically impacted the lives of Black Americans.

In 1976, Woodson's legacy, now renamed the [Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History](#), successfully lobbied to extend Black History Week into a month-long observance.

Each year, a new theme is chosen for Black History Month. The 1998 theme was African Americans and business: The Path toward empowerment.

[Valentine's Day](#) occurs annually on February 14. Modern day customs include sending greeting cards known as [valentines](#) to loved ones. School rooms are often decorated with lace and paper hearts. Gifts of candy and flowers are also common at this time.

The [origins](#) of [Valentine's Day](#) are uncertain. Many experts believe that it originated with [Lupercalia](#), a Roman celebration honoring the wolves Romulus and Remus. During this festival, young men struck women with a goatskin hide called a *februa*. Receiving the blows was thought to make women more fertile and to ease childbirth. At Lupercalia, the names of all the young women in the city were placed in a box. Young men drew a name from the box and the couple would be paired until the next Lupercalia. Lupercalia was replaced with Valentine's Day by Christians.

Others trace Valentine's Day back to the rule of the Roman emperor Claudius II. In the 200's C. E., Claudius become frustrated when he had trouble recruiting soldiers into his army. Believing that the young men did not want to leave their wives and children, Claudius banned all marriages of single young men. However, a priest named Valentine disobeyed Claudius and performed secret marriages. Claudius found out about the marriages and sentenced Valentine to prison until his death on February 14, 270 C. E.

Many historians believe the custom of sending poetic verse on this day originated with the capture of Charles, Duke of Orleans, during the Battle of Agincourt. From his prison cell in the Tower of London, Charles sent his wife a rhyming love letter. Valentine cards became popular in Great Britain in the nineteenth century. Noted artist Kate Greenaway created cards which featured joyful children and beautiful gardens. Esther Howland was one of the first Valentine card manufacturers in the United States. Inspired by a British card, she began production in 1847. Her cards featured lace and paper flowers and leaves. Other card manufacturers emphasized [Cupid](#), the pudgy, winged son of Venus, the goddess of love. In Roman lore, Cupid is known as Eros, the son of Aphrodite.

**President's Day** began with the passage of Public Law 90-363 in 1968. This legislation moved the legal observance of [George Washington](#)'s birthday from February 22 to the third Monday in February. Since Washington's birthday fell so soon after [Abraham Lincoln](#)'s birthday (February 12), many states chose to combine the two events into President's Day. Other states honor all former presidents on this day.

[Mardi Gras](#) or *fat Tuesday* is a boisterous celebration held annually on Shrove Tuesday, the day

before the season of Lent begins in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. The actual date varies from year to year since it depends on the date of Easter. [Mardi Gras](#) is the culmination of a long carnival season which begins on January 6, the Twelfth Night of Christmas. The custom was brought to the United States by the French who had paraded a fat ox through Paris. The honor of the oldest Mardi Gras celebration in the United States belongs to Mobile, Alabama which first observed the holiday in 1703. However, the city most associated with Mardi Gras is [New Orleans, Louisiana](#).

Secret societies known as *krewes* arrange and finance the activities. The oldest krewe is Comus, which made its first appearance in 1857. However, since a 1992 New Orleans city ordinance which required the societies to open up their membership if they wanted to hold a parade, Comus has cancelled its parades in protest. The [Krewe of Rex](#) first appeared in 1872 and is synonymous with Mardi Gras. A different krewe holds a parade on each night during the two weeks leading up to Lent. The krewes also hold masked balls at which the king and queen of the krewe are presented to the society.

## **Achievements of African American Inventors**

### **Dr. Daniel Hale Williams**

Open Heart Surgery Heart surgery has become a common, everyday occurrence. But it wasn't always so, and certainly not in 1893, when Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, an African American surgeon, dared to open a man's chest to repair his damage from a stab wound — the first recorded case of open-heart surgery.

Williams was born in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, and got his medical degree from Chicago Medical College in 1883. In an era that saw few black doctors, Williams was committed to both medicine and social justice. He helped re-organize the Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, DC, to provide better care for African Americans in the nation's capitol. He established a training school for black nurses. And he founded Provident Hospital, the oldest black-owned hospital in the United States.

The only black doctor in the founding members of the American College of Surgeons, Williams was honored on a US postage stamp in 1970. His pioneering work in both medical science and public healthcare policy left lasting legacies.

### **Clatonia Joaquin Dorticus**

Photo Print Process Who doesn't like to look at pictures of family and friends? One of the early American innovators of photography was a black woman,

Clatonia Joaquin Dorticus. Little is known about Dorticus's life, but the New Jersey woman was clearly ahead of her time, with four patents to her name, one — in 1895 — that detailed a new method for making photographic prints.

Among her other innovations were a device for applying dyes to sides of soles or heels of shoes — a concept well understood by anyone who ever had to dye bridesmaid shoes to match their dresses! — a machine that embossed photographs, and a gadget meant to stop hoses from leaking.

### **George Washington Carver**

Peanut Butter, Crop Rotation Born in 1864 on a farm near Diamond Grove, Missouri, George Washington Carver's early life was unsettled — as an infant he was kidnapped, along with his mother, by Confederate border raiders and taken to neighboring Arkansas. He was brought back to Missouri and brought up by Moses Carver and his wife, but grew up without knowing either of his parents, who had disappeared.

From earliest childhood, however, Carver showed a fascination with plant life, and as a child began making detailed sketches of the plants and flowers he saw growing up. In 1891 he enrolled at Iowa State College, graduating in 1894 with a BS in botany and agriculture, and then staying on to earn masters degrees in the same subjects. In 1896 he arrived at the all-black Tuskegee Institute, invited by Booker T. Washington to head up the fledgling school's department of agriculture.

While at Tuskegee, Carver attempted to both educate his students and develop new means of farming that could improve the health of the community — the local farmland had seen much of its value decline over decades of endless cotton production sapped the soil's richness. Carver knew that certain plants, especially those in the pea family, could return valuable nutrients to the soil, ensuring greater yields and a healthier topsoil for future generations. Once he had developed his crop rotation plans, he traveled to rural Alabama to teach farmers how to use his technique.

Carver also worked to extend the value of agricultural production in consumer terms, innovating new uses for foods like the peanut (for which he famously developed at least 300 products), the sweet potato and the pecan. Of his hundreds of innovations and inventions, Carver patented only three. He donated his life savings to a fund that encouraged research in the agricultural sciences.

## **In Other News....**

## **Defense contractors owe billions in unpaid federal taxes**

By Chris Strohm

U.S. defense contractors failed to pay the federal government billions in taxes and, in some cases, may be guilty of criminal offenses, auditors with the General Accounting Office said last week.

But unpaid taxes on defense contracts might only be the tip of the iceberg, as many defense companies also do business with other agencies across the federal government, Gregory Kutz, a director of GAO's financial management and assurance office, told the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. More than 27,000 defense contractors owe the federal government about \$3 billion in unpaid taxes as of September 2002, the watchdog agency concluded in a new report, "DoD Contractors Abuse the Federal Tax System with Little Consequences (GAO-04-95)."

Full story:  
<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/021204c1.htm>

## **Defense expects a 'global' round of base closings in 2005**

By George Cahlink

The Defense Department will announce within the next 90 days a realigning of forces overseas that will have a major impact on which bases in the United States will be marked for closure in 2005, according to Raymond Dubois, deputy undersecretary of Defense for installations and environment.

Dubois told the House Appropriations Military Construction Subcommittee last week that the 2005 round of military base realignment and closures (BRAC) would be a "global BRAC." He reiterated his position that this round of base closings could be larger than previous ones held in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995.

In those four rounds, about 20 percent of domestic military bases were closed or realigned for a savings of \$17 billion. An additional \$7 billion have been saved each year since 2001 in reduced operating costs.

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/021204g1.htm>

## **Lawmakers want full assessment of terrorism risks**

By Teri Rucker,

National Journal's Technology Daily Lawmakers on the House Homeland Security Committee are most concerned that the Homeland Security Department has yet to create a full risk assessment of potential terrorism, complaining that the government cannot properly target its resources if no one knows what is at greatest risk.

At a hearing last week, Committee Chairman Christopher Cox, R-Calif., said a complete risk

assessment is needed to establish "more concrete goals to make the country safer" and to "deter irresponsible binge spending."

Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., agreed, complaining that she has been waiting for more than a year for the department to complete such an assessment. She demanded a timeline for completion, and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said he expects an assessment to be completed in the next 60 to 90 days.

Full story:  
<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/021204tdpm1.htm>

## **Discrimination reports need polishing, analysts say**

By Amelia Gruber

A number of federal agencies recently posted on their Web sites reports required by an anti-discrimination law, but these reports will require some fine-tuning before they will be of much use to analysts and the public, civil rights advocates said on Wednesday. Under the Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act, which took effect on Oct. 1, 2003, agencies must publish quarterly data on the volume and nature of discrimination complaints they have received, as well as their methods of resolving those complaints. The reports should give the public a feeling for how effectively various agencies address allegations of discrimination, said Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, the senior Environmental Protection Agency policy analyst who shepherded No FEAR into law.

But the information agencies have provided to date is incomplete and is not presented in a format that facilitates meaningful analysis, Coleman-Adebayo said. Agencies have provided a hodge-podge of statistics in a variety of formats, making it nearly impossible to compare data across the government, she explained. In addition, no one is checking to make sure that the statistics posted are accurate. Full story:  
<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/021804a1.htm>

## **Breast Cancer Hospitalization Bill - important legislation for all women**

There's a bill called the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act which will require insurance companies to cover a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for patients undergoing a mastectomy. It's about eliminating the "drive-through mastectomy" where women are forced to go home hours after surgery against the wishes of their doctor, still groggy from anesthesia and sometimes with drainage tubes still attached.

Lifetime Television has put this bill on their web page with a petition drive to show your support. Last year over half the House signed on.

You can sign the petition by clicking on the web site below and help women living with breast cancer get the care they need and deserve!! There is no cost or monetary pledge involved. You need not give more than your name and zip code number. [http://www.lifetimetv.com/health/breast\\_mastectomy\\_pledge.html](http://www.lifetimetv.com/health/breast_mastectomy_pledge.html)

### Heroes

This is for you who may have enjoyed these entertainers as children. Captain Kangaroo, Lee Marvin and Mr. Rogers.

Quite a few of you grew up with Captain Kangaroo, as you or your children probably did. I knew nothing of his background, only that his show was both entertaining, educational, and, as kids, we looked forward to it with great anticipation. Captain Kangaroo turned 76 in 2002 (DOB: 6/27/27), which is odd, because he's never looked a day under 76. In light of the Captain's passing earlier this year it reminded me of the following story.

Some people have been a bit offended that Lee Marvin is buried in a grave alongside 3 and 4-star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time, why the heck does he rate burial with these guys? Well, following is the amazing answer:

I always liked Lee Marvin, but did not know the extent of his Corps experience. At a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces, often in rear-echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award... the Medal Of Honor.

If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he also credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery. While a guest on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, Johnny Carson said, "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima .. and that during the course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded."

"Yeah, yeah... I got shot square in the butt and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi... bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys gettin' shot hauling you down. But Johnny, at Iwo I served under the bravest man I

ever knew. We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in comparison. The dumb guy actually stood up on Red Beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. That Sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi we passed the Sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me lying on my belly on the litter and said, 'Where'd they get you Lee?' Well, Bob ... if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse! Johnny, I'm not lying... Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew... Bob Keeshan... You and the world know him as Captain Kangaroo."

On another note, there was this wimpy little man (who just passed away) and on PBS, gentle and quiet. Mr. Rogers is another one of those you would least suspect of being anything but what he now portrays to our youth. But Mr. Rogers was a US Navy Seal, combat proven in Vietnam with over twenty-five confirmed kills to his name. He wore a long sleeve sweater to cover the many tattoos on his forearm and biceps. A master in small arms and hand-to-hand combat, he was able to disarm or kill in a heartbeat. He hid that away and won our hearts with his quiet wit and charm. America's real heroes don't flaunt what they did, they quietly go about their day to day lives, doing what they do best. They earned our respect and the freedoms that we all enjoy.

Amazing what we do not know about people of interest.

### FY 2002-2004 GOKC Executive Board

President: Ellen McKenzie	405-954-2882
VP Membership: Danielle Satterfield	405-954-4126
VP Programs: Al Miles	405-427-0588
Secretary: Debbie Miller	405-734-8806
Treasurer: Wendy Morgan	405.954.2571
Immediate Past President: Brenda Hagar	405-954-4514
Nominations: Shirley Heginbotham	405-736-2092
Bylaws: Jennifer Yoder	405-954-4648
Compliance/Diversity: Christy Lam	
Legislative: Jennifer Yoder	405-954-3104
Newsletter: Jim Bina	210-497-1511
Awards/Resolution: Carolyn DeLong	405 691-5817
Finance: Colleen Conway	405-954-4238
Parliamentarian: Peggy O'Neal	405-843-5938
Ways & Means: Lynn Carroll	405-752-4535

## Women's History Month

*The  
Greater OKC Chapter of  
Federally Employed Women*

*Would like to invite you to the presentation of:  
"Kate's Pants"  
Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 6:00 PM*

*FourPoints Hotel  
6300 Terminal Dr.  
Oklahoma City, Ok 73159*



**"Kate's Pants"** is a delightful introduction to women's history. Through a magical book and the layering of clothes, audiences become acquainted with important women such as Amelia Bloomer, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Mrs. Sydney Savory Buckman. Travel through time as dress reform is interwoven through the women's rights movement of the past 150 years.

Sandra Hansen, of Holland Michigan, has been performing since 1989 throughout the Midwest and across the country.

*Light refreshments will be served.  
RSVP by March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Al Miles 427-0588  
Linda Carlisle 954-6574*

