

# FEW Notes

March 2005  
Volume V, No. 8

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

P.O. Box 890718  
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The  
President's  
Pencil.....  
By Brenda Hagar

Spring is just around the corner. This year continues to pass in a dash. This last month I was privileged to attend the Regional Training Program and Regional Board Meeting in Galveston, TX. The training and networking was wonderful. A great trip had by all who attended.

The GOKC Chapter one the following awards:  
Best Newsletter, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Special Emphasis, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; and Membership, 1<sup>st</sup> place

On March 3, I was able to attend a program at the VA hospital to incorporate the Federal Women's Program back into the Federal Executive Board. The keynote speaker, Oklahoma Senator Daisy Lawler was very interesting and held everyone's attention. Also offered, Stress Relief by the Central State Academy.

I hope all of you were able to attend our Women and Tragedy program at the Holiday Inn on 3/14. The Greater Oklahoma City Chapter plans on having more training for our members. If you have any suggestions for programs you can contact me or Tammie Kierstead, Second Vice-President for Programs.

I hope you will take time to reflect and enjoy the meaning of Easter this year.

*Next Board Meeting  
Monday, April 11, 2005  
5:00 pm*

**Holiday Inn Airport  
2101 S. Meridian**

*CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE @*  
**<http://www.gokcfew.org/>**

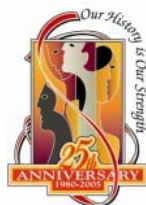
<b>GOKC CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2004-2006</b>		
President	Brenda Hagar	(w) 954-4514 (h) 376-5318
Immediate Past President	Ellen McKenzie	(w) 954-2882
VP Membership	Debbie Miller	(w) 605-7233 (h) 691-2992
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Secretary	Peggy O'Neal	(h) 843-5938
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Newsletter/Publicity	Carolyn Delong	(h) 691-5817

“Women’s History Week” celebration. Within a few years, dozens of schools and communities expanded their role in recognizing women through various programs. As the celebrations continued, curriculum materials became more prevalent in public schools. Additionally, the support of the California Commission allowed the celebrations to spread rapidly and resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress began to emerge. At that time, massive support became the effective means to achieving equitable goals within the classroom. Eventually, the immense support expanded beyond the realms of educational facilities and the importance of recognizing women’s accomplishments grew to a national level.

In 1987, the National Women’s History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since that time, the informational sharing of women’s history has increased. As women continue to transform culture, history and politics through their professional roles, our political climate as well as international communities, will continue to reap the benefits of female influence.

The 2005 theme will highlight the celebration of women and their valuable contributions to society.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



By Debbie Miller, VP for Membership

The month of March marks the national observance of Women’s History Month and the theme for 2005 is “Women Change America.”

Ironically, the popularity of recognizing women’s accomplishments did not develop until the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the 1970s, women’s history was an unknown topic in school curriculum and the general public’s consciousness. Due to the actions of the Education Task Force of the Sonoma, California Commission on the Status of Women, the recognition of women’s history was forever changed in 1978.

During this time, the commission acknowledged the need to change this oversight and initiated the

## FAMOUS FIRSTS BY WOMEN



By Debbie Miller, VP for Membership

The popularity of women’s history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women’s forgotten heritage. In many areas, state historical societies, women’s organizations, and groups (like the Girl Scouts) are working together to develop joint recognition programs. The following are “famous firsts” by American women; however, it is evident that there are still many “firsts” women we must continue to strive to achieve.

- 1849 Elizabeth Blackwell receives her M.D. degree from the Medical Institution of Geneva, New York, becoming the first woman in the U.S. with a medical degree.

- 1866 Lucy Hobbs becomes the first woman to graduate from dental school, the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.
- 1873 Ellen Swallow Richards, the 1<sup>st</sup> woman to be admitted to MIT, earns her B.S. degree, becoming the first female professional chemist.
- 1946 Edith Houghton becomes the first woman hired as a first major-league baseball scout.
- 1965 Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii is the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian-American woman to be elected to Congress.
- 1970 Diane Crump becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> female jockey to ride in the Kentucky Derby.
- 1972 Juanita Kreps becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> female director of the New York Stock Exchange, and later becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> woman appointed Secretary of Commerce.
- 1983 Dr. Sally K. Ride becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> American woman to be sent into space.
- 1985 Wilma Mankiller becomes the first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.
- 1989 Ileana Ros Lehtinen of Florida becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Hispanic woman elected to Congress.
- 1993 Toni Morrison becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature.
- 1999 Madeleine Albright becomes Secretary of State and the highest ranking woman in the US Government.
- 2005 Condoleezza Rice becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> African-American female Secretary of State.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

By Debbie Miller, VP for Membership

March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day (IWD), commemorates women's rights and peace. In various incarnations, ranging from a communist holiday to a U.N.-sponsored event, IWD has been celebrated for almost 90 years.

Inspired by an American commemoration of working women, the German socialist Klara Zetkin organized IWD in 1911. The most famous IWD was March 8, 1917. On this day, there was a strike for "bread and peace" led by Russian women in St. Petersburg. The strike eventually merged with other riots that had spread throughout the city during the same week. It became known as the February Revolution because it forced the Czar Nicholas II to abdicate. Vladimir Lenin recognized the importance of women's contributions

and made March 8<sup>th</sup> an official holiday celebrating the "heroic woman worker." Today it is still a Russian holiday—celebrated in the fashion of Mother's Day with flowers or breakfast in bed—in which men show appreciation for the women in their lives.

During the early 1900s, the United States began commemorating IWD but eventually support dwindled. Ultimately, the focus on women's issues strengthened due to the revival of the women's movement in 1960. Worldwide support also strengthened and the United Nations officially recognized IWD in 1975. On March 8, try to remember the women in foreign countries who are still suffering for their rights—they should not be forgotten.



HISTORY OF ST.  
PATRICK'S DAY  
MARCH 17



By Debbie Miller, VP for Membership

St Patrick is known as the patron saint of Ireland. True, he was not a born Irish. But he has become an integral part of the Irish heritage, mostly through his service across Ireland of the 5th century. Patrick was born in the later half of the 4th century AD, but there are differing views about the exact year and place of his birth. His real name was probably Maewyn Succat. Though Patricius was his Romanized name, he was later came to be familiar as Patrick.

Patrick was the son of Calpornius, a Roman-British army officer. He was growing up as naturally as other kids in Britain, when, one day a band of pirates landed in south Wales and kidnapped this boy along with many others. Then they sold him into slavery in Ireland. He was there for 6 years, mostly imprisoned. This was when changes came to him. He dreamed of having seen God. Legend says, he was then dictated by God to escape with a getaway ship. Finally, he did escape, went to Britain, then to France. There he joined a monastery and spent around 12 years in training. And when he became a bishop he dreamed that the Irish were calling him back to Ireland to tell them about God. The Confessio, Patrick's spiritual autobiography, is the most important document regarding this. It tells of a dream after his return to Britain, in which one Victoricus delivered him a letter, headed "The Voice of the Irish."

So he set out for Ireland with the Pope's blessings. There he converted the Gaelic Irish, who were then mostly Pagans, to Christianity. He was confident in the

Lord, he journeyed far and wide, baptizing and confirming with untiring zeal. Indeed, Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. Through active preaching, he made important converts even among the royal families. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. For 20 years he had traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country.

By the end of the 7th century Patrick had become a legendary figure, and the legends have continued to grow since then. There are many legends associated with St Patrick. It is said that he used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity, hence its strong association with his day and name. Legend also has that Saint Patrick had put the curse of God on venomous snakes in Ireland. And he drove all the snakes into the sea where they drowned.

True, these are mostly legends. But, after some 1500 years, these legends have been inseparably combined with the facts. And together they have helped us know much about the Saint and the spirit behind celebration of the day. Patrick's mission in Ireland lasted for over 20 years. He died on March 17, AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. The leprechaun and the shamrock have become entrenched as symbols for this holiday.

But why the icons like the green color, the tri-leaved shamrock, the leprechaun, or the pot of gold and Blarney's stone- all came to be associated with the celebration of this Day? And what do they all mean?



## HISTORY OF THE SHAMROCK

By Debbie Miller, VP for Membership

In written English, the first reference to the Shamrock dates from 1571, and in written Irish, as seamrog, from 1707. As a badge to be worn on the lapel on the Saint's feast day, it is referred to for the first time as late as 1681. The Shamrock was used as an emblem by the Irish Volunteers in the era of Grattan's Parliament in the 1770's, before '98 and The Act of Union. So rebellious did the wearing of the Shamrock eventually appear, that in Queen Victoria's time Irish regiments were forbidden to display it. At that time it became the custom for civilians to wear a little paper cross colored red and green.

As a symbol of Ireland it has long been integrated into the symbol of the United Kingdom, along with the Rose, the Thistle and the Leek of England, Scotland and Wales. So today, on St. Patrick's Day, a member of the British Royal Family presents Shamrock to the Irish Guards regiment of the British Army.



## The Blarney Stone



By Debbie Miller, VP for Membership

The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence (blarney). The castle was built in 1446 by Cormac Laidhiv McCarthy (Lord of Muskerry) -- its walls are 18 feet thick (necessary to thwart attacks by Cromwellians and William III's troops). Thousands of tourists a year still visit the castle. The origins of the Blarney Stone's magical properties aren't clear, but one legend says that an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. Kissing the stone while under the spell gave the king the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly. It's tough to reach the stone -- it's between the main castle wall and the parapet. Kissers have to stretch to their back and bend backward (and downward), holding iron bars for support.



## National Membership Contest

Annually FEW sponsors a national membership contest. The current contest started July 1, 2004 and will end May 31, 2005.

Go to [FEW.org](http://FEW.org) to read the rules.

The prizes are:

- |                       |                                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place | Airline travel voucher & a set of luggage |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | portable DVD player                       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | \$100                                     |

[FEW.org](http://FEW.org)

## SCHOLARSHIPS



Submitted by Ellen McKenzie

Many scholarships go unclaimed every year. Take the time to check out the list below of many scholarships available:

- 1) Bell Labs Fellowships For Under Represented Minorities  
<http://www.bell-labs.com/fellowships/CRFP/info.html>
- 2) Student Inventors Scholarships  
<http://www.invent.org/collegiate/>
- 3) Student Video Scholarships  
<http://www.christophers.org/vidcon2k.html>
- 4) Coca-Cola Two Year College Scholarships  
<http://www.coca-colascholars.org/programs.html>
- 5) Holocaust Remembrance Scholarships  
<http://holocaust.hklaw.com/>
- 6) Ayn Rand Essay Scholarships  
<http://www.aynrand.org/contests/>
- 7) Brand Essay Competition  
<http://www.instituteforbrandleadership.org/IBLEssayContest-2002Rules.htm>
- 8) Gates Millennium Scholarships (major)  
<http://www.gmsp.org/nominationmaterials/read.dbm?ID=12>
- 9) Xerox Scholarships for Students  
[http://www2.xerox.com/go/xrx/about\\_xerox/about\\_xerox\\_detail.jsp](http://www2.xerox.com/go/xrx/about_xerox/about_xerox_detail.jsp)
- 10) Sports Scholarships and Internships  
<http://www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html>
- 11) National Assoc. of Black Journalists Scholarships (NABJ)  
<http://www.nabj.org/html/studentsvcs.html>
- 12) Saul T. Wilson Scholarships (Veterinary)  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mb/mrphr/jobs/stw.html>
- 13) Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund  
[http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/sk\\_v6.cfm](http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/sk_v6.cfm)
- 14) FinAid: The Smart Students Guide to Financial Aid scholarships  
<http://www.finaid.org/>
- 15) Presidential Freedom Scholarships  
<http://www.nationalservice.org/scholarships/>
- 16) Microsoft Scholarship Program  
<http://www.microsoft.com/college/scholarships/minority.asp>
- 17) WiredScholar Free Scholarship Search  
[http://www.wiredscholar.com/paying/scholarship\\_search\\_h/pay\\_scholarship\\_search.jsp](http://www.wiredscholar.com/paying/scholarship_search_h/pay_scholarship_search.jsp)
- 18) Hope Scholarships & Lifetime Credits  
<http://www.ed.gov/inits/hope/>
- 19) William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship for Minority Students  
<http://www.apsanet.org/PS/grants/aspen3.cfm>
- 20) Multiple List of Minority Scholarships  
<http://gehon.ir.miami.edu/financial-assistance/Scholarship/black.html>
- 21) Guaranteed Scholarships <http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/>
- 22) BOEING scholarships (some HBCU connects)  
<http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/educationrelations/scholarships>
- 23) Easley National Scholarship Program  
<http://www.naas.org/senior.htm>
- 24) Maryland Artists Scholarships <http://www.maef.org/>
- 26) Jacki Tuckfield Memorial Graduate Business Scholarship (for AA students in South Florida)  
<http://www.jackituckfield.org/>
- 27) Historically Black College & University Scholarships  
<http://www.iesabroad.org/info/hbcu.htm>
- 28) Actuarial Scholarships for Minority Students  
<http://www.beanactuary.org/minority/scholarships.htm>

- 29) International Students Scholarships & Aid Help  
<http://www.iefaf.org/>
- 30) College Board Scholarship Search  
<http://cbweb10p.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/fundfind01.html>
- 31) Burger King Scholarship Program  
<http://www.bkscholars.csfa.org/>
- 32) Siemens Westinghouse Competition  
<http://www.siemens-foundation.org/>
- 33) GE and LuLac Scholarship Funds  
<http://www.lulac.org/Programs/Scholar.html>
- 34) CollegeNet's Scholarship Database  
<http://mach25.collegenet.com/cgi-bin/M25/index>
- 35) Union Sponsored Scholarships and Aid  
<http://www.aflcio.org/scholarships/scholar.htm>
- 36) Federal Scholarships & Aid Gateways 25 Scholarship Gateways from Black Excel  
<http://www.blackexcel.org/25scholarships.htm>
- 37) Scholarship & Financial Aid Help  
<http://www.blackexcel.org/fin-sch.htm>
- 38) Scholarship Links (Ed Finance Group)  
[http://www.efg.net/link\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.efg.net/link_scholarship.htm)
- 39) FAFSA on the Web (Your Key Aid Form & Info)  
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- 40) Aid & Resources for Re-Entry Students  
<http://www.back2college.com/>
- 41) Scholarships and Fellowships  
<http://www.osc.cuny.edu/sep/links.html>
- 42) Scholarships for Study in Paralegal Studies  
<http://www.paralegals.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=13>
- 43) HBCU Packard Sit Abroad Scholarships (for study around the world)  
<http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad/scholarships/index.html>
- 44) Scholarship and Fellowship Opportunities  
<http://scholarships-college.uchicago.edu/>

- 45) INROADS internships  
<http://www.inroads.org/>
- 46) Black Alliance for Educational Options Scholarships  
<http://www.baeo.org/options/privatelyfinanced.jsp>
- 47) ScienceNet Scholarship Listing  
<http://www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/scholarships.html>
- 48) Graduate Fellowships for Minorities Nationwide  
<http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Student/GRFN/list.phtml?category=MINORITIES>
- 49) RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS AT OXFORD  
<http://www.rhodesscholar.org/info.html>
- 50) The Roothbert Scholarship Fund  
<http://www.roothbertfund.org/scholarships.php>



**Federally Employed Women Invites You  
To Join Us in the "Biggest Little City in the World"**



**At FEW's 36th National Training Program  
July 18-22, 2005 Reno Hilton Hotel  
Reno, Nevada**

Online conference registration begins March 15, 2005  
Register before May 27, 2005, and save \$75.00  
Visit [www.few.org](http://www.few.org) for further program information and registration

Scholarship applications are available for the National Training Program. The deadline for submitting your application is April 7, 2005.

Scholarship information and applications are available at the FEW website [www.few.org](http://www.few.org)



“Happiness isn’t a goal, it’s a by-product”

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

## CHOICES PART III



By Marilyn Hampton, Nominations Chair

### EXPERIENCE BIRTH - EXPERIENCE LIFE - EXPERIENCE DEATH!

To recap previous articles, we know LIFE is full of choices. After our birth, parents make our choices. During our formative years, teachers and peers help us choose our paths. We are often told that EXPERIENCE is the best teacher. LIFE EXPERIENCES form our personality, our character and our focus for the future.

In the last four months, this author has faced the death of her spouse, her mother-in-law and 13 year-old family dachshund. With these up close and very personal DEATH EXPERIENCES, she is coping with a significant impact upon her focus for the future. She also is facing a significant LIFE EXPERIENCE - retirement.

Suddenly, a mere existence facing each day with hope for something better and with grace to meet something better face to face suddenly pales in the face of death's reality. One copes with the shock, anger, and sadness of the loss until at some point the leftover pieces of ones existence come together to create a new portrait for the future.

As with our personal lives, the Greater Oklahoma City Chapter of Federally Employed Women must cope with shock, anger, and sadness or frustration of opportunities lost. Recruiting new points of view and energy is critical to GOKC FEW's future. Each member must meet face to face with a portrait of what it means to be an integral part of this organization and its path to the future.

For GOKC FEW to be a significant force for the future of its members, each member must be energized to pick up the pieces of their existence and insert themselves into the future portrait of GOKC FEW. An organization functions best when each member gives its ultimate best. Future members will join us only if they see the portrait of a vital, cohesive, creative group of intelligent and professional women reaching out with a friendly hand to make our world better for those who follow.

The future lies ahead with many opportunities to participate and serve this fine organization. How can you be a part of this portrait you ask? Simple: Volunteer to work on a special project; volunteer to

serve on one of our focus committees; attend open Executive Board meetings and observe the inner workings of GOKC; or, shadow an officer or committee chair to learn the duties and responsibilities they exert.

My name is Marilyn Hampton. I AM the Chair of the Election/Nominations Committee and I AM NOT running for President! However, I am looking for good candidates to nominate for office next spring 2006 for the 2007-2008 Executive Board of GOKC. Will you be one of those candidates? If you would like to see your name on that ballot in 2006, call me and ask where and how you can serve GOKC FEW now for the EXPERIENCE you need to run for election in 2006! I'll be waiting for your call at (405) 794-0905.

## PINK OR BLUE

According to the website "Gender Specific Colors," it would seem that assigning color to gender is mostly a 20th century trait. It would also seem that at one time, the color associations were reversed when color first came into use as a gender identifier.

In fact, this reversal of what we consider "normal" was considered conventional, even in the early 20th century.

"At one point pink was considered more of a boy's color, (as a watered-down red, which is a fierce color) and blue was more for girls. The associate of pink with bold, dramatic red clearly affected its use for boys. An American newspaper in 1914 advised mothers, "If you like the color note on the little one's garments, use pink for the boy and blue for the girl, if you are a follower of convention." [The Sunday Sentinal, March 29, 1914.]

"There has been a great diversity of opinion on the subject, but the generally accepted rule is pink for the boy and blue for the girl. The reason is that pink being a more decided and stronger color is more suitable for the boy, while blue, which is more delicate and dainty, is prettier for the girl." [Ladies Home Journal, June, 1918]

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
 GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN  
 P. O. BOX 890718  
 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73189-0718**

Month/Year joined:  /       DOB (MM/DD Only):  /       Membership ID \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME:       FIRST NAME:       MI

ADDRESS 1:

ADDRESS 2:

CITY:       STATE       ZIP CODE + 4

OFFICE PHONE:       HOME PHONE:

FAX:       EMAIL:

<b>GRADE (check)</b>		FWP Full-Time	<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>
GS 1-4	SES	FWP Part-Time	SEX (M/F): _____
GS 5-8	WG	EEO	RACE: _____
GS 9-12	Military	Other	YEARS OF SERVICE: _____
GS 13-15	Other	FWP/EEO	RETIRED (Y/N) _____
GS 16+		(Not Applicable)	

**ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:**

FEW is comprised of chapters throughout the world. Membership is open to all Federal employees (regular members) and to any other person supporting the goals and objectives of FEW (associate members). More information about our local chapter is posted on the GOKCFEW web site: <http://www.gokcfew.org>. For more information about the FEW organization, our site links to both our Regional and National web sites. The National FEW office address is P.O. Box 75551, Baltimore, MD 21275.

National membership dues are \$25.00 for chapter members, and \$35.00 for members-at-large (no chapter affiliation). To join the Greater Oklahoma City Chapter, the total dues are \$33.00 per year (\$25 National; \$1 Regional; \$7 Chapter); dues are prorated with an annual renewal date of March 1st. Eligibility for chapter membership is contingent upon national membership. National lifetime membership is a one-time fee of \$250.00. Greater Oklahoma City Chapter lifetime dues are available upon request. National/ Regional/ Chapter Dues are prorated as listed below. Month chosen must match "month/year joined" above.

	Natl/ Reg/ Chap/Total		Natl/ Reg/ Chap/Total	National: \$ _____
March	\$25.00/ 1.00/ 7.00/ 33.00	September	\$12.00/ 1.00/ 4.00/ 17.00	
April	\$23.00/ 1.00/ 6.50/ 30.50	October	\$10.00/ 1.00/ 3.50/ 14.50	Chapter: \$ _____
May	\$21.00/ 1.00/ 6.00/ 28.00	November	\$ 8.00/ 1.00/ 3.00/ 12.00	
June	\$19.00/ 1.00/ 5.50/ 25.50	December	\$ 6.00/ 1.00/ 2.50/ 9.50	Regional: \$ _____
July	\$17.00/ 1.00/ 5.00/ 23.00	January	\$ 4.00/ 1.00/ 2.00/ 7.00	
August	\$15.00/ 1.00/ 4.50/ 20.50	February	\$ 2.00/ 1.00/ 0.50/ 3.50	Total Due: \$ _____

I wish to join the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter as a:      regular member;      associate member.

I wish to join as a "Member-at-large" (prorated National fee from above plus \$10.00 enclosed)

Payment (\$250.00) is enclosed for a Lifetime Membership.

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributions or gifts to FEW are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.**