



Federally Employed Women, Inc.
Greater Oklahoma City Chapter
GOKC FEW Chapter 30
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In This Issue:

- A “FEW” Notes from our President
- New Web Site at FEW.com
- National, Regional, Chapter News
- Diversity / April Events
- Other Interests...
- Membership Information and Application

A “FEW Notes” From our President

Wasn't our program celebration of Women's History Month fantastic?? Our speaker, Sandra Hansen, really made women's history come alive! We even had some “young” women attend our program. We'll look for them to be members in a few years. A special thanks to our members who brought guests, I appreciate the strong attendance at this event. Please mark your calendars now to attend our Diversity Program on April 19th (please see the flyer for all the details).

As I'm writing this, our Nominations committee is busy finalizing the nominations for next term's officers. If you've not submitted your nomination it may not be too late—please contact Shirley Heginbotham to let your desires be known. I promise you, the opportunities and rewards are endless – come share your talents with us.

Spring is my favorite time of year. I love the daffodils and the redbuds. I'm always glad for the longer days and bright sunshine to return. It's such a joy for me to watch my granddaughter hunt for her Easter eggs. Of course, she's a joy for me in most everything she does. Do you hear me singing the Julie Andrews song, “My Favorite Things?” I didn't mean to get carried away with the things that make me smile, I'll move on now...

As our nation marks the one-year anniversary of the war in Iraq, I hope you'll join me in praying for the safe return of our military men and women. God Bless America. – Ellen -

New Web Site Shows Lawmakers How Many are Federal Workers

By Tim Kauffman

A new Web site provides perhaps the most comprehensive breakdown yet of federal employees by congressional district and agency. And its creators hope it will give federal employees more clout on Capitol Hill when lawmakers consider bills important to them. The interactive site, created by the nonprofit group Federally Employed Women (FEW), allows users to click on a U.S. map and find out where employees live and work by congressional district.

The Office of Personnel Management already compiles a breakdown of employees by county, but providing such statistics by district will be more relevant to lawmakers and their staffs, FEW President Patricia Wolfe said. “Federal employees are considered a large constituency, and we want legislators to know how many of their constituents are employed by the federal government,” Wolfe said.

Some congressional offices already have access to federal employment data by district, although the numbers are rarely shared with the public and do not capture where employees work within each district. Lobbyists for federal employee causes are already praising the Web site. “Any time we can find useful resources such as this that divide up federal employees not only by district but by agencies, it helps us represent the interests of our members more effectively to Congress and the administration,” said Thomas Richards, government affairs representative at the Federal Managers Association. If a lawmaker knows 10,000 federal employees live in his district, he is more likely to support legislation that will benefit them, Richards said. “When you speak in terms of votes, it brings the issue to a whole other

level. It makes the issue much more pointed," he said.

FEW has been lobbying Congress for years to repeal two laws that lower some employees' retirement earnings. Having this tool should help that effort, said Ann Bley, FEW's vice president for congressional and governmental relations. "The interactive map will play an integral role in our campaign on the Hill," Bley said. "It is an excellent medium for showing lawmakers just how relevant this group of voters is to each of them."

FEW used OPM's county-based federal employment statistics to compile the district-by-district breakdown. The data isn't precise because county and district lines do not match exactly. In instances where one county contains multiple districts, FEW assigned the county's entire federal work force to each of those districts. For example, all of Los Angeles County's 54,000 federal workers are counted for each of the 13 congressional districts within the county. "It's not perfect, but I still think you get a good idea of how many people are in each district," said Janet Kopenhaver, FEW's Washington representative.

The interactive map is available at FEW's Web site, www.few.org. It is also available at http://eyeonwashington.com/few_map/map.html.

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.

NEW GOKC FEW Members

We wish to extend our warmest welcome to our newest members of the Greater Oklahoma City Chapter.

Dalia Lopez
Teresa Pyle
WELCOME!!

CONGRATULATIONS

DEBBIE MILLER is the proud recipient of the \$100 early renewal incentive offered by the GOKC FEW chapter. When our VP/Membership, Danielle Satterfield, sent out the renewal notices she offered the

incentive to those who renewed prior to February 17, 2004. We had 13 members renew in time to be eligible for the incentive. Debbie's name was drawn during our "Kate's Pants" program for Women's History Month. Congratulations Debbie!!

April Birthdays

10 - Linda Carlisle
15 - Melissa Hagar
18 - Mary Maddux
19 - Shirley Heginbotham
25 - Lynn Carroll

Happy Birthday and best wishes!!

GOKC FEW Nametags

Did you have an identity crisis at the last FEW meeting or get-together? GOKC FEW nametags are still available and can be purchased for a small fee of only \$6.00. These nametags are gold with black lettering, have the FEW logo engraved on them and attach to your clothing with magnets – no more pin holes in your Gucci blouse! Want one? Need one? Contact Ellen McKenzie today at 954-2882 to get yours!

GOKC FEW Sweatshirts

GOKC FEW still has a few sweatshirts available for only \$10.00 each. Contact Ellen McKenzie if you want one of these highly collectable shirts. Call Ellen at 954-2882 to get yours!

FEW Connections - National

For more information on FEW memberships and the FEW organization, check out the national FEW Website at 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. Contest ends June 30, so hurry!

National Training Program

It's time to check out 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.

CHECK IT OUT! NTP 2004 Registration Package

Congratulations to the NTP 2004 Committee Chair and her outstanding team for this tremendous milestone! The NTP 2004 registration package has been posted at www.fewntp.org. Jeni reports that it will be

"searchable" on Monday, March 1st, but it is up and running now. It looks great!

I know that NTP 2004 will be a huge success!

Hear the Sounds of Success at the “Best Hotel in Nashville”—Opryland

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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. stevensm@scott.disa.mil

Diversity

April Events

From the Diversity website, www3.kumc.edu/diversity.

- 1 - [April Fool's Day](#) (United States)
- 4 - [Palm Sunday](#) (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 6 - [Passover](#) (Jewish)
- 9 - [Good Friday](#) (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 11 - [Easter](#) (Protestant, Roman Catholic)

22 - [Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day](#)
(United States)

25 - [Earth Day](#)

30 - Arbor Day

April Fool's Day or All Fool's Day occurs annually on April 1. The day is generally observed by playing a practical joke on a "victim" who soon becomes known as an *April Fool*. This custom is thought to have started in France during the 16th century but the British are credited with bringing it to the United States.

The commonly accepted origin of April Fool's Day involves changes in the calendar. At one time, the New Year celebration began on March 25 and ended on April 1. However, in 1582, King Charles IX adopted the Gregorian calendar and accepted the beginning of the new year as January 1. Those who refused to acknowledge the new date or simply forgot received foolish gifts and invitations to nonexistent parties. The butt of such a prank was known as a "poisson d'avril" or "April fish."

Palm Sunday occurs on the Sunday before Easter Sunday in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. It signals the upcoming end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. The day commemorates the spreading of palms and clothing in Jesus' path as He entered Jerusalem prior to His crucifixion:

They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:7-9)

Many churches re-enact Jesus' return to Jerusalem with a processional in which participants wave palm branches. In areas where palm trees are unavailable, branches of the pussy willow, yew, and spruce trees are often used.

Passover, or **Pesach**, is an eight day observance which begins at sunset on the 15th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. During this time, Jews celebrate the flight of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery in the 1200's B. C. E.

A ceremonial feast known as the **Seder** takes place on the first two nights of Passover. Symbolic foods, including unleavened bread, are placed on the table.

The word Passover is derived from the tenth plague God placed on Egypt for keeping the Israelites in slavery. According to the Bible, God killed the first born child in Egyptian homes but "passed over" the Israelites' homes which were marked with the blood of lambs.

Good Friday occurs between March 20 and April 23 on the Friday before Easter. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. There are few explanations as to why the holiday is known as "Good" Friday since it commemorates a sorrowful time in Christianity. Some scholars believe that "good" is a corruption of the word "God's" while others speculate that "good" was used to denote "holy". In Eastern Orthodox churches, the observance is known as Great Friday.

Good Friday has been observed since about 100 C. E. However, for many years it had no association with Jesus' death but was simply another day of fasting. Since the late fourth century, it has been associated with the crucifixion. Many churches now have mourning services from noon until 3:00 p.m. to symbolize Jesus' last hours on the cross. Some congregations also re-enact Jesus' procession to the cross in a ritual known as [Stations of the Cross](#).

Easter celebrates the [resurrection of Jesus](#), the most joyous occasion in Christianity. It also marks the end of [Lent](#). The [date of Easter](#) varies each year but always falls between March 22 and April 25. The date is set by determining the Sunday following the full moon on or after the vernal equinox.

According to the Gospel of St. John and other scriptures, Mary Magdalen arrived at Jesus' tomb only to find it empty. An angel told her that Jesus had risen and ascended into heaven.

Many churches hold sunrise services on Easter Sunday to symbolize the return of light to the world after Jesus' resurrection. The day is observed with feasts and celebrations.

The name "Easter" reflects many pagan customs that are now associated with the holiday. Present day scholars accept St. Bede's theory that "Easter" is derived from the "Ostern" and "Ostra", Teutonic and Scandinavian goddess associated with spring and fertility. The [Easter egg](#) is an example of the pagan origins of Easter. Pagans believed that eggs symbolized earth being reborn each spring. Christianity adapted this custom to symbolize the rebirth of humanity. Easter

eggs were first decorated in the late 13th century C. E. but the most famous eggs were created by [Carl Faberge](#).

Parents are encouraged to **bring their daughters (and/or sons) to work** on this day, and to use this opportunity to educate their children on the nature of employment.

Earth Day was first observed on April 22, 1970. The goal of the day was to attract public attention to the growing needs for cleaner air and water. Additionally, the need to conserve the earth's natural resources was emphasized.

Former Senator Gaylord Nelson first proposed the idea for Earth Day in 1969. He came up with the idea while reading about anti-war teach-ins which were occurring on several college campuses in the United States. Nelson's idea was to have a nationwide teach-in on the environment. His idea became very popular and in 1970, more than 20 million people participated in the first Earth Day.

On the 25th anniversary of Earth Day in 1990, more than 200 million people worldwide participated in activities designed by the [Earth Day Network](#) to "increase awareness, responsibility and action toward a clean, health future for all living things."

In Other News....

OPM DIRECTOR ENCOURAGES DIVERSITY IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Office of Personnel Management Director Kay Coles James recently sent a memorandum to federal agency chief human capital officers encouraging participation in the 2004 summit of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives in efforts to increase Hispanic representation in the federal government and create a diverse federal workforce. "Consistent with President George W. Bush's call to create a federal workforce that draws from the diversity of America, I know that each of you is personally committed to promoting equal opportunity in the federal government," James said in the memo. The NAHFE summit, targeted at members of the Senior Executive Service and federal employees at the GS-15 level, will focus on several major areas including:

- * Hispanics and the strategic management of human capital
- * Building and improving effective mentoring and training programs for Hispanics at the GS 12-14 levels
- * Management accountability in creating innovative approaches to recruiting, training and retaining

Hispanics in the federal workforce. "Although there was a 58.1 percent increase in Hispanic hiring for fiscal year 2002, more progress needs to be made to attract Hispanics into the civil service and to achieve the diverse federal workforce President Bush called for in his Management Agenda," James said.

On the Lighter Side

News you can use

Courtesy Dan Miller, 48 Days, Hope and Inspiration Newsletter

McDonald's CEO -- Fast-food chain McDonald's Chairman and Chief Executive Jim Cantalupo, 60, died of an apparent heart attack this morning. Let's see, McDonald's - heart attack. Could there be a connection?

Starbucks - are your co-workers tense and irritable. The Wall Street Journal hired a laboratory to test the most widely available "ready-made" coffees and learned that house blends at Starbucks have an average 56 percent more caffeine than samples tested at 7-Eleven Inc. stores. Not only are your co-workers spending \$4.00 a whack, they're also likely quickly becoming addicts.

World's Oldest Worker Quits at 104 -- Associated Press, GRANTHAM, Pa. - A man billed as the world's oldest worker is calling it quits. Ray Crist, a retired scientist who started teaching at Messiah College near Harrisburg in 1970, put down his pointer Tuesday at age 104. He started at Messiah at age 70, after a career in science and a decade teaching at Dickinson University. In his 34 years at Messiah, he took only a token salary of \$1 a year.

Humor – Tax Time

A businessman on his deathbed called his friend and said, "*Bill, I want you to promise me that when I die you will have my remains cremated.*"

"*And what,*" his friend asked, "*do you want me to do with your ashes?*"

The businessman said, "*Just put them in an envelope and mail them to the Internal Revenue Service and write on the envelope, 'Now you have everything.'*"

FY 2002-2004 GOKC Executive Board

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