

FEW Notes

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

Editor: Carolyn DeLong
Mazda1994@sbcglobal.net



The
President's
Pencil.....

By Debbie L. Miller

I am honored that I have been elected to serve as President of the GOKC Chapter of FEW. This chapter continues to meet new challenges and I am excited to be their leader during their journey over the next two years. I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the new chapter officers. I look forward to creating synergy as a team to make GOKC the preferred chapter by raising the standards of membership, participation and women's growth within the community.

Congratulations to our newly elected National officers, especially my dear friend Rhonda Trent who will be serving as the FEW National President. The Southwest Region also recently elected their new officers. Ms Judy Rosco will continue to successfully direct our paths as the Southwest Region Manager. Kudos to our Immediate Past President, Brenda Hagar, as she was elected to the position of Regional Secretary. I am confident the officers at both the Regional and National level will provide excellent leadership and consider them our role models within FEW. I would like to respectfully extend my thanks to our chapter's outgoing officers. I applaud their efforts as they did an excellent job in providing leadership and positive direction for this Chapter. Their efforts were noteworthy as several FEW awards, both National and Regional, were received during these past two years.

Concerning the immediate future, several Executive Board officers are looking forward to attending our National Training Program in Atlanta GA, July 17-21, 2006. All attendees should take advantage of the leadership training being conducted throughout the week as well as reacquainting themselves with nationwide FEW friends. I will proudly represent our chapter at the various scheduled meetings. Our chapter's involvement will be discussed in more detail via our next newsletter!

Please don't forget about our next Board meeting—August 14th. Attendance by all members is always welcomed. We will be discussing the proposed Regional Training Program being sponsored by our chapter, March 6-9, 2007.

***NEXT BOARD MEETING
AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN***

***August 14, 2006
5:00 P.M.***

GOKC CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2004-2006		
President	Debbie L. Miller	(w) 954-7825 (h) 691-2992
Immediate Past President	Brenda Hagar	(w) 954-4514 (h) 376-5318
VP Membership	Jennifer Mott	(w) 954-5558 (c) 650-6323
VP Programs	Tammie Kierstead	(w) 270-0501 x4115 (h) 620-1429
Secretary	Lynn Carroll	(h) 752-4535
Treasurer	Carolyn DeLong	(h) 691-5817
Nominations Chair	Peggy O'Neal	(h) 843-5938
Bylaws	Ellen McKenzie	(w) 954-2882 (h) 285-1296
Compliance/Diversity & Legislative	Susan Arnett	(w) 736-3578 (h) 740-2400
Ways & Means	Marilyn Hampton	(h) 794-0905
	Leanna Eversmeyer	(w) 290-1896 (h) 261-0270
Parliamentarian	Peggy O'Neal	(h) 843-5938
Finance	Cynthia Corbett	(w) 954-7528 (h) 659-1802
Resolutions/Awards	Lora Bettis	(w) 734-1662 (c) 625-9582
Newsletter/Publicity	Cathy Ortiz	(w) 605-7258 (h) 677-6655

FEMALE MAYOR SETS A BENCHMARK

Submitted by Tammie Kierstead

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich is famous for her quip "Well-behaved women rarely make history" -- there's certainly an exception in Lynchburg VA. With the election of Joan Foster as the city's first mayor, she will surely go down in the history books.

Foster, who serves as the chief operating officer of the Alliance for Families and Children, has had some tumultuous times since being elected in 2002. A legal battle in 2003 followed her election: Because of her job, it was unclear whether she could vote on the city's budget. In the end, she was able to vote on all but \$6 million of the 2004 budget for Lynchburg's general fund; the Alliance request that year lost \$44,000.

She refrained publicly from decrying the process opting instead to work on consensus building.

She was elected as vice mayor in 2004; then the whole Carl Hutcherson mess began. She won re-election this year as one of 12 candidates, in the largest pool in history.

With last week's nomination as mayor she becomes one of only three women to serve as mayor in Virginia cities of 30,000 or more. According to the Center for American Women and Politics based at Rutgers University, in January of 2006, the only other women mayors are Annie M. Mickens of Petersburg (population 33,740) and Meyera E. Oberndorf of Virginia Beach (population 425,257).

Foster, who has lived in the area for 33 years, earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Lynchburg College, says city council must take an active role in "making Lynchburg the best place it can be for everyone who lives here. We must strive for the best possible education for our children, the best possible jobs for our workforce, and the best possible living conditions for everyone."

What will serve Foster well is her leadership in the management of prevention programs, grant writing, advocacy and managing a budget.

Foster will be judged her outright, and will, at least locally, her political successes and failures will set a benchmark for all women in politics since so few hold high offices.

For example, according to CAWP, as of January, women hold 81 (or 15 percent) of the 535 seats in the 109 U.S. Congress. Fourteen women take seats in the 100-member Senate, and 67 women (a tad bit more than 15 percent) serve in the House. In addition, three women serve as delegates to the House from Guam, the Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C.

It's a far cry from when the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate, Rebecca Latimer Felton (a democrat from Georgia) served. She was appointed to her post in 1922, and she served for one day.

Foster's track record has spoken for itself; let's keep the women-in-politics movement going, and maybe Little ol' Lynchburg will set the bar for bigger races. Foster is surrounded by capable council members and together with the newly elected officers, the Mayor will move Lynchburg in a much-needed, forward direction. More importantly, it is exciting times to move ahead with a woman at the helm.



EEO TIP - OFFICE ROMANCES: RARELY A GOOD IDEA

Submitted by Tammie Kierstead

Almost everyone has heard a story or two about the boss who marries his or her subordinate or the co-workers who find love and marriage that all started at a copy machine or on a coffee break while at work. But, as in fairy tales, reality almost never imitates fiction and this tip offers a pretty simple piece of advice: when thinking about asking a fellow employee out on a date, it's best to immediately put the thought on hold, get back to work, and leave your social life for the evenings and weekends with friends outside of work.

Since the early 1990s, the federal workplace has educated itself relatively quickly about the laws prohibiting workplace sexual harassment, regardless of whether it is a request for sexual favors in exchange for employment benefits, promotions, or more favorable work conditions, or whether it is unwanted comments or actions motivated by gender. Employer liability has also been a hot topic for the Supreme Court, which has said in the last decade that employers can be held liable for their supervisor's conduct if it involves sexual harassment coupled with a tangible employment action (such as a promotion or other significant job benefit). Agencies thus need to be vigilant about an office romance that could turn sour and result in a major potential liability, both for the agency and for the individual supervisor.

As a result of the Supreme Court precedents, it is simply good practice to remind your subordinates and fellow employees to avoid office romances. While a relationship at work may be fine for a while, the employee and the agency risk great liability, in the form of an EEO complaint, a civil lawsuit, or an administrative investigation into allegations of

sexual harassment. Even if both persons involved are perfectly happy and work well in the same agency, other employees may allege claims of discrimination by way of theories of "preferential treatment." In short, if the manager or fellow employee feels that strongly about the relationship, it's best to consider transferring to a different position outside of the immediate division, office, or department.

Finally, even the Supreme Court has acknowledged that common courtesies, expressions of civility and kindness, and general politeness do not make a sexual harassment suit. Encourage your employees to foster a pleasant and friendly team-oriented work environment. When it comes to office romances, though, it's better to think twice and look for that fish in a different pond, or change ponds yourself

This EEO Tip taken from FEDmanager.

SENSITIVE WOMEN

WOMEN are like the ocean. When they feel loved, their self esteem rises and falls like the ocean at its wildest time. A woman's ability to accept and return her love is usually a reflection of how she sees herself. If a woman sees herself as happy and sexy, her arms and heart are wide open. When she sees herself as down and plain, she falls into a pit of darkness and numbness. During this time an open mind and heart is much needed to be on the receiving end. Then and only then can she rise up and feel all the love that is within her and be of pure radiant love and intimacy.

WOMEN tend to feel deep emotions, such as insecurity, worry, resentment, hopelessness, mistrust, control, disapproval, possessiveness, need, confusion, overwhelmed and a total failure. The more support that a woman connects with, the more her trust grows inside her and releases all the negative emotions that her chemical hormones plant inside her.

WOMEN yearn, for understanding, respect, devotion, reassurance, a soft touch of his lips to be cared for, to be admired, to feel equal leverage, and to feel loved genuinely.

WOMEN love to find their space through simple things such as: reading a book, listening to music, working in a garden, exercising (wink), getting a massage, writing a journal, watching a chick flick, taking a bubble bath with lots of candles, chatting with a girlfriend for a long time, going shopping, taking a long walk, having a nice glass of wine, pleasing their partner (wink), or simply just curling up on the couch and dreaming.

WOMEN are the heart of a relationship, they are the fantasy, they are the flower, the candles, the wine, the soft romantic music, the sexy outfit, the pleasure of joining as one, and they are the sweet smell of nature.

Author Unknown

CREATION OF THE "CULTURED PEARL"



Submitted by Debbie L. Miller

Kokichi Mikimoto is the Japanese inventor of the cultured pearl; however, his partner and assistant was his wife Ume. Born as the first son of a noodle shop owner in Toba, Mie prefecture, he left school at the age of 13 selling vegetables to support the family. Seeing the pearl divers of Ise unloading their treasures at the shore in his childhood started the fascination of pearls. In 1888, he and his wife obtained a loan to start their first pearl farm at the Shinmei inlet in Shima province (now Mie prefecture). On July 11, 1893 after many failures and near bankruptcy, the first "cultivated" pearl was obtained. It took another 12 years to create completely spherical pearls that were indistinguishable from natural ones. In 1899, the first Mikimoto pearl shop was opened in the fashionable Ginza district of Tokyo. The Mikimoto empire

expanded internationally soon thereafter. Just before his death, Mikimoto was awarded the order of Merit of the First Class. In September 1954, Kokichi Mikimoto died at the age of 96. Posthumously, he was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of Sacred Treasure. With the assistance of his wife Ume, a treasured jewelry piece was created and still remains popular today among women.



Elaina Lopez

July 28

Colleen Conway

Aug 12

BREAKING THE POLITICAL GLASS CEILING

Out of 435 U.S. Congressional districts, more than 150 (35%) are unlikely to elect a woman from either party any time soon. How do we know? A new study, Breaking the Political Glass Ceiling, by two political scientists who analyzed all elections to the U.S. House of Representatives in all Congressional districts from 1956 to 2004 tell us so. Barbara Palmer, a scholar with the Women in Politics Institute and Dennis Simon of SMU have determined from this data what makes a district likely, or unlikely, to elect a woman to Congress. The best place for a woman to run for U.S. Congress is New York City. The worst place is Gadsden, Alabama.

