

FEW Notes

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

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From the President...
Reflections & Highlights
By Debbie L. Miller

July is a celebratory month. Besides commemorating the birth of our nation, we acknowledge our military forces (both women and men) that allow our generation to experience freedom. More importantly, we honor our fallen heroes and their families by committing to memory their selfless actions so American citizens can continue saying”*Let Freedom Ring.*”

July means warm weather and, hopefully, Oklahomans will experience a break from the rain. The warm weather allows families and friends to gather together and have fun creating camaraderie by participating in social events outdoors.

For FEW Members, July is the key month of the year. Why? The National Training Program (NTP) is held annually offering professional training in addition to providing an excellent venue to unite and celebrate with nation-wide FEW members in one locale.

All FEW members are allowed to make choices. After serving one year of my two-year term as Chapter President, I realize how significant successful actions influence and energize our local/regional members. I can attest that enthusiasm attracts and motivates our FEW chapter members, coworkers, and friends. I have been privileged to work with the GOKC Executive Board and our chapter members as we continually set goals to become more synergistic in order to motivate members to higher levels of achievement. Ask yourself....when was the last time I volunteered or participated in a project that promoted women? I would like every FEW member to make a difference during the next six months. Be determined--define a contribution you can make within FEW, set a realistic goal, fulfill it, and strive to make a difference in 2007.

As you climb the ladder of success, either professionally or personally, remember to “*pay it forward.*”

**NEXT BOARD MEETING
AUG 13, 2007 @ 5:00 P.M.
HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT**

History of July 4th

"Taxation without representation!" That was the battle cry of the 13 colonies in America that were forced to pay taxes to England's King George III with no representation in Parliament. As dissatisfaction grew, British troops were sent in to quell any signs of rebellion, and repeated attempts by the colonists to resolve the crisis without war proved fruitless.

On June 11, 1776, the colonies' Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia formed a committee with the express purpose of drafting a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. The document was crafted by Jefferson, who was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer. (Nevertheless, a total of 86 changes were made to his draft.) The final version was officially adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4.

The following days, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed and, on July 6, The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first newspaper to print the extraordinary document.

The Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty.

Bonfires and Illuminations

On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks.

The custom eventually spread to other towns, both large and small, where the day was marked with processions, oratory, picnics, contests, games, military displays and fireworks. Observations throughout the nation

became even more common at the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain.

On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C., to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote. In it, Jefferson says of the document:

"May it be to the world, what I believe it will be ... the signal of arousing men to burst the chains ... and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. That form, which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. ... For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them."

Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870 and in 1938 Congress reaffirmed it as a holiday, but with full pay for federal employees. Today, communities across the nation mark this major midsummer holiday with parades, fireworks, picnics and the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and marches by John Philip Sousa.

Amelia Mary Earhart

Submitted by Carolyn Delong

Amelia Earhart, the world's most famous female aviator, was born July 24, 1897 in Atchison, Kansas. She was a woman pioneer; some would probably say that she was born before her time. Below are just a few of the facts about this courageous woman:

- ✓ Despite having to attend six different high schools, she was able to graduate on time.
- ✓ Earhart was called "Lady Lindy" because her slim build and facial features resembled that of Charles Lindbergh.
- ✓ Earhart refused to don typical flying gear - she wore a suit or dress instead of the

"high-bread aviation togs," a close-fitting hat instead of a helmet, didn't put on her goggles until she taxied to the end of the field and removed them immediately upon landing.

- ✓ She developed a friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt, who wanted to learn how to fly. Earhart had planned to teach her, for which the First Lady even got her student permit.
- ✓ Earhart met Orville Wright at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia in 1937, the same year she disappeared.
- ✓ Earhart had such an impression on public that people often wrote and told her about naming babies, lakes and even homing pigeons "Amelia."
- ✓ The United States government spent \$4 million looking for Earhart, which made it the most costly and intensive air and sea search in history at that time.
- ✓ She was the 16th woman to receive a pilot's license from the FAI (License No. 6017).
- ✓ First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic; 14 hrs 56 min.
- ✓ First woman to fly solo nonstop coast to coast; set women's nonstop transcontinental speed record, flying 2,447.8 miles in 19hrs 5min.
- ✓ First person to solo the 2,408-mile distance across the Pacific between Honolulu and Oakland, California; also first flight where a civilian aircraft carried a two-way radio.
- ✓ The "Ninety-Nines", a now famous women pilot's organization, was formed by Amelia Earhart in her hotel room in Cleveland during a meeting with other women pilots. Charter membership included 99 applicants. She was to serve as its first President.

Earhart disappeared in 1937, as she attempted to become the first woman to fly around the world. With her navigator, Fred Noonan, her

Lockheed Electra was last heard from about 100 miles from the tiny Pacific atoll, Howland Island on July 2, 1937. President Roosevelt authorized an immediate search; no trace was ever found.

It is women like Amelia Earhart that helped pave the path for so many determined women to follow in her footsteps.

CapWiz•XC-

Your one stop shop for all your government relations needs

Capwiz•XC is designed to help constituents identify and communicate with their legislators or committee members on important issues when it counts the most. It's a fact that most lawmakers only read and respond to messages from their own constituents.

For your convenience, the National FEW website has a direct link for FEW members to contact their local representative.

<http://www.few.org/legislative.asp>

*It really doesn't matter how
many classes you attend,
what you read or
do at the end of the day,
If you are not willing to do
something different -
Nothing will change...*

Author unknown
Submitted by Al Miles

U.S. Celebrates Recovery of the American Bald Eagle

The bald eagle, America's national symbol, was removed from the U.S. threatened and endangered species list this week—just in time for the Independence Day celebration on July 4.

Bald Eagles Recover in Just 40 Years

Bald eagles were first listed as “endangered” in 1967, after hunting, poisoning and widespread use of DDT reduced the number of bald eagles to 417 breeding pairs in the continental United States. The eagles’ status was changed from “endangered” to “threatened” in 1995. Today, there are bald eagles in Alaska and all of the lower 48 states, and 10,000 breeding pairs nationwide.

Placing bald eagles on the endangered species list protected the birds and their habitat. Bald eagle recovery was also helped by the 1972 ban on DDT. The toxic pesticide causes the shells of bald eagle eggs to thin and reduces the birth rate of young eagles.

Bald Eagles Still Protected by Federal Law

Even though bald eagles are no longer listed as “endangered,” federal laws and policies—specifically, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—will continue to prevent people from killing or injuring bald eagles or disturbing their nests. As a result, environmentalists say they believe bald eagle populations will continue to grow.

President George W. Bush was jubilant over the bald eagle’s recovery: “This great conservation achievement means more and more Americans across the nation will enjoy the thrill of seeing bald eagles soar. What a wonderful way to celebrate this Fourth of July.”

Ironically, the bald eagle recovery comes at a time when the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is being challenged by the Bush administration and facing another internal review at the Interior Department. The ESA is also under attack by property rights advocates and some business groups. Conservationists claim saving the bald eagle demonstrates the effectiveness and necessity of the ESA.

“The rescue of the bald eagle ... ranks among the greatest victories of American conservation,” said John Flicker, president of the National Audubon Society.

A Dissenting Opinion on Bald Eagles

The only notable person on record who might not think much of the bald eagle recovery is Benjamin Franklin. He thought the turkey, not the eagle, should be the U.S. national symbol. Writing from France on January 26, 1784 to his daughter Sally in Philadelphia, Franklin said: “For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his living honestly.”

It was Franklin’s contention that the eagle stole food from other birds, was “generally poor and often very lousy,” and was a “rank coward” besides. “The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the District.” According to Franklin, “the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America . . . He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on.”

Bald Eagles Suffered Decades of Abuse

Franklin may not have admired bald eagles, but he didn’t advocate killing them. Many others took a harsher stance.

For years, many people considered eagles both a dangerous predator and an aggressive scavenger that should be eliminated whenever possible. Bald eagles were shot from airplanes, poisoned legally in some states, and hunted for their feathers. Alaska placed a 50-cent bounty on the birds.

In 1940, Congress passed a law that made killing a bald eagle illegal, but at about the same time DDT was being widely used to control mosquitoes. The toxic insecticide drained into lakes and streams, contaminating fish, building up in the eagles’ bodies, harming adult eagles and thinning the shells of their eggs to a point where many broke before the baby eagles could be hatched. The damage to the bald eagle population was devastating.

Things began to turn around for the bald eagle after DDT was banned in 1972 and the Endangered Species Act provided additional

safeguards, all leading eventually to the current recovery.

Passports and Travel Accommodation

The U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security announced Friday, June 8, that U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or countries in the Caribbean region (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica (except for business travel), Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos), who have applied for, but not yet received passports, can re-enter the United States by air. This accommodation does not mean that Americans are exempt from meeting the entry requirements of Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or countries in the Caribbean region, some of which require a passport, certified birth certificate, or other evidence of citizenship for entry.

The U.S. has reached out to the governments of countries affected by Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) to consult with them about our announcement. Many of them have agreed to take a flexible approach toward their own entry requirements. For the most current information on entry requirements at their destination, travelers should contact their airline.

U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or countries in the Caribbean region who have applied for, but not yet received passports, can re-enter the United States by air by presentation of a government issued photo identification and Department of State official proof of application for a passport through September 30, 2007. The federal government is making this accommodation for air travel due to longer than expected processing times for passport applications in the face of record-breaking demand.

The WHTI was mandated by Congress in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to strengthen border security and facilitate entry into the United States for citizens and legitimate international visitors. WHTI requirements for air travel took effect on January 23, 2007.

Adults who have applied for but not yet received a passport should present government-issued photo identification and an official proof of application from the U.S. Department of State. Children under the age of 16 traveling with their parents or legal guardian will be permitted to travel with the child's proof of application status. Children traveling alone should carry a copy of their birth certificate, baptismal record or a hospital record of birth in the United States in addition to their passport application status documentation. This accommodation applies to all American citizens who apply for passports, until September 30, when this accommodation period ends. U.S. citizens with pending passport applications can obtain proof of application at: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/status/status_2567.html.

Since implementation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has and will continue to exercise its current authorities in unique circumstances to allow individuals subject to the WHTI requirements into the United States based on other evidence of identity and citizenship.

Travel document security remains a top priority for the U.S. Government. Both the 9/11 Commission and the U.S. Congress urged strengthening of travel documents to prevent entry of terrorists across our borders, reduce use of fraudulent documents, and speed up entry procedures.

How does this affect you?

1. Are you a U.S. Citizen traveling to Mexico, Canada, Bermuda or countries in the Caribbean region by air who HAS APPLIED for a passport but has not received it yet?

- ❖ If so, go to http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/status/status_2567.html and follow the instructions to print out your passport status page. Keep this status page with you during your entire trip for both exit from the U.S. and re-entry to the U.S.
 - ❖ Next, find out what the entry requirements are for the country you are visiting. In some cases, you may need to contact the Embassy of the country you are visiting.
 - ❖ Be sure to present the documentation required by the country you are visiting along with your printed passport status page to the airline personnel upon departure and re-entry to the U.S.
2. Are you a U.S. Citizen traveling to Mexico, Canada, Bermuda or countries in the Caribbean region by air and you have NOT APPLIED for a passport yet, or, you HAVE NOT APPLIED TO RENEW an expired passport yet?
- ❖ If so, access the Passport Page, http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html, to apply for a new passport or to renew an old passport.
 - ❖ Once your application is in process with the U.S. Department of State (which could take up to 7 to 10 days to track online), you should:
 - Go to Checking the Status of Your Application (https://passportstatus.state.gov/opss/O PSS_Status_ip.asp) and follow the instructions to print out your passport status page. Keep this status page with you during your entire trip for both exit from the U.S. and re-entry to the U.S.
 - Next, find out what the entry requirements are for the country you are visiting. In some cases, you may need to contact the Embassy of the country you are visiting.
 - Be sure to present the documentation required by the country you are visiting
- along with your printed passport status page to the airline personnel upon departure and re-entry to the U.S.
3. If you are a U.S. Citizen traveling to ANY OTHER COUNTRY and your passport application and delivery has been delayed,
- ❖ Please go to U.S. Passport Application Status to check the status of your application. The online status check will verify that the application is in process, and will update to confirm when the completed passport has been mailed.
4. If you are a U.S. Citizen traveling to ANY OTHER COUNTRY and your passport application and delivery has been delayed and trip departure date is within two weeks, please e-mail the National Passport Information Center, http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/about/npic/npic_896.html
5. Are you a child who is a U.S. citizen traveling to Mexico, Canada, Bermuda or countries in the Caribbean region by air and you have applied for a passport but have not received it yet?
- ❖ **Children 16 and under traveling with a parent or legal guardian** will be required to present the proof of passport application status from the Department of State (DOS) for departure from the United States as well as re-entry to the United States. Acceptable confirmation of a passport application may be found at the Department of State's website at http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/status/status_2567.html.
 - ❖ **Children 16 and under traveling alone** should carry a copy of their birth certificate, baptismal record or a hospital record of birth in the United States as well as the proof of passport application status from the Department of State (DOS) for departure from the United States as well as re-entry to the United States. Acceptable confirmation of a passport application may be found at the Department of State's website at

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/status/status_2567.html.

- ❖ **Children older than 16 and traveling alone** are required to have a government-issued photo ID in addition to the proof of passport application status. Acceptable confirmation of a passport application may be found at the Department of State's website at http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/status/status_2567.html.

Happy Birthday!!

*Jennifer Mott - July 8th
Janice Bernard - July 10th
Lyn Osburn - July 26th*

Women's Rights - Did you know ...?

July 13, 1848: Lucretia Mott, Martha C. Wright, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Mary Ann McClintock are invited to tea at the home of Jane Hunt in Waterloo, New York. They decide to call a two-day meeting of women at the Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Seneca Falls to discuss women's rights.

July 19 and 20, 1848: Three hundred people attend the first convention held to discuss women's rights, in Seneca Falls, New York. 68 women and 32 men sign the "Declaration of Sentiments," including the first formal demand made in the United States for women's right to vote: "...it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise."

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2006-2008**

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If additional information is required, please contact the Chapter President at
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