

CHALLENGE DEADLINE EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE!

You have more time to invest in WILPF program and action!



Women's International League for Peace & Freedom - US Section
Connecting economic justice and human rights to the roots of war since 1915.
11 Arlington St., Boston MA 02116
www.wilpfus.org

Dear WILPF member or Friend,

One of our younger members recently put WILPF's situation in the 21st Century into powerful words. She said:

"Those who oppose human rights and peace will always have funds to invest in violence and war. But organizations like WILPF will always have to seek funding for peace work and human rights advocacy".

Of course it echoes the 1970s refrain about how nice it would be if Peacemakers had a huge budget to depend on and the Defense Department had to hold bake sales to buy more war planes.

Not much has changed since the 70s on that equation, except that funding for peace and justice organizations has gotten tighter and harder to find. And the issues WILPF members engage are more complex and challenging than ever.

With so many issues and so many challenges, we rely on you more than ever to show your support for our mission, program and the work that keeps us so engaged.

We are introducing this Mini-Newsletter to keep you abreast of many of the details you might not have gotten from the Internet, our website, our EAlerts or ENewsletters. We encourage you to read those postings, open our email, forward and share information about our programs, our branches and our challenges. You'll also find out about our successes, our newest Board Members, our latest recruiting successes, our goals for fundraising and staying strong at wilpfus.org.

Printing and mailing more hard copy updates is expensive, so we're asking you TODAY to consider a meaningful gift that helps defray our costs and expand funds for program and branch support.

- If you were moved by the potential for training and recruiting new leaders in our Practicum and CSW story
- If you continue to be inspired by the energy and raw courage of our DISARM leaders
- If you are as delighted as we are at the return on investment our MiniGrant Program is getting

BEFORE MAY 30th - Now is the time to dig in and contribute to expand the Craigslist "Pop-Up Donation" Challenge! If just 100 of us give \$100, we'll reach our goal by Memorial Day, a fitting deadline for peace organizing.

- But ANY amount will help meet our goal. Complete the coupon below and mail it back.

I am humbled by your support in re-electing me as your President. We have a lot to do together! Let's stand united for ONE WILPF!

In Peace
Mary Hanson Harrison
President
WILPF US

DON'T MISS BEING COUNTED IN!

If you have not renewed your membership you might not get all our publications. Contact info@wilpfus.org with questions about your renewal date!

Enclose this coupon with your check.

For a Tax-Deductible Contribution make your check out to Peace Development Fund, **our fiscal sponsor**.

If you want WILPF to use your gift for direct action and don't need a tax deduction, make it out to WILPF.

I want to support the mission, programs and branches of Women's International League for Peace & Freedom - US Section. Put me down for:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$150 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

My check is ENCLOSED

I have made my donation online

I am an under-used WILPF member. Contact me to put me to work!!

Tell me about Memorial Gifts for WILPF

Contact me about leaving WILPF a gift in my will

Contact me about updating my membership or checking renewal dates

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

BRANCH _____ OR AT LARGE MEMBER _____

EMAIL _____ BEST PHONE # _____

I want to give to expand support for growing our Programs and amplifying the work of our members.

IF YOU ARE FEELING UNDER USED – WE HAVE A SOLUTION!

As a member of a small less active branch who is raring to go, but without a lot of support locally...or as an At-Large Member who yearns to be more active but regrets not being part of a Branch Community, you might feel disconnected or under used. We can match you up with challenging and rewarding work that will capture your heart, engage your intellect, get you connecting with WILPF's most empowering and over-worked leaders, and keep you in the thick of planning for the future of WILPF.

Here are some of the opportunities!

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is charged with finding and vetting the future leaders of WILPF. Hard to imagine a more important role.

ByLaws Committee

The ByLaws Committee members are responsible for constantly evaluating the ByLaws under which we are governed to make sure we are agile and ready to face the challenges of fundraising and activism in the modern world.

Communications Committee

Our hard-working Communications Committee members are looking for writers for our publications and for social media, as well as experts on negotiating the ins and outs of setting up webinars and innovative meeting technology.

All of our national Issue Committees are seeking empowered enthusiastic new leaders for innovative work!

Contact us at info@wilpfus.org and use the subject line "PUT ME TO WORK"

We'll connect you with someone who can match your skills and passions, time constraints and personal goals with our needs. Let us help you help us!



NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

SAN DIEGO BRANCH DELVES INTO LOCAL HISTORY

The San Diego Branch took to the streets in March with a WALKING TOUR of the 16-block historic Gaslamp Quarter District. With guides explaining the importance of 93 architectural treasures the tour illuminated the history of some of the city's most illustrious women of the past: those who lived in the district, those who helped those living in the district, and those who helped to 'clean up' the district.

This sounds like it could evolve into a great fundraiser for WILPF San Diego, and be a model for other branches for similar kinds of events, even adding characters who pose as some of the historic local women! Could be fun and raise dollars! Mini-grant proposal for seed money???

WHERE DOES MY DUES MONEY GO?

The WILPF Board just authorized returning to the \$35 minimum annual dues by member ballot, because let's be clear, WILPF US is obliged to contribute \$15 to International WILPF for every paid member of WILPF US. When members only pay us \$15, we have no means of supporting our US Section branches, program or operating expenses. Over the last few years that has hurt us.

Because we can only ask for a small percentage of administrative support from big foundations or charitable organizations, we have to depend on our members for much of the operational costs that keep WILPF strong and resilient. So some of your membership dues goes to our operational costs, which include a number of designations for Program Support. Our APPEALS, our MAJOR GIFT SOLICITATIONS and our FOUNDATION GRANTS mostly support Program.

Here's where your dues money goes NOW:

If you pay \$35 in dues:

minus \$15 for International, leaves \$20/yr to support WILPF US. That \$20 per member has to pay for all our printing and publications, mailing costs, our staff, our office space, our program support, our website support, book keeping, and insurance.

If you pay \$15 in dues:

(and this is still available as a scholarship or fixed income dues amount) International WILPF takes ALL of it, leaving us with nothing else to support our other costs. In recent years too many people have reduced their dues to this unsustainable amount.

If you pay \$50 in dues:

International takes \$15, leaving \$35/yr to cover more of our real costs. If you pay \$75 in dues: International takes \$15, leaving \$60/yr, much more sustainable cost basis.

If you pay anything more than \$75/year:

we can use more of that money to strengthen program and branches, support recruitment, improve communications and make WILPF more agile & resilient.

PORTLAND OR BRANCH MAY FILM EVENT: RACISM AND WOMEN ORGANIZERS FEATURED IN AWARD-WINNING FILM

Brandy Robinson is organizing a screening and discussion of *Sista in the Brotherhood*, a short about a black Portland tradeswoman who faces contempt at a new jobsite. "Sista" won both top audience awards for short subjects in the 2016 Portland International Film Festival. The event is tentatively scheduled for May 10th. An inspiring idea for other branches for a program meeting!!

Contact Brandy for more info at brandygrobinson@gmail.com