

NOTES FROM THE

JULY 13th, 2016 - THE “ONE WILPF” – ALL MEMBER CALL – 2nd call in the series.

I. WHO WAS ON THE CALL?

In this second call of the series we had a good showing (around 40), but less than the first call (around 60). It may be because it is Summer time and people are on vacation or traveling. Or it may be the first call was more of a **novelty** and we may see fewer regular attendees, though we hope that is not the case.

Our Pre-Registration LINK seems a bit deficient in capturing our data. I am ATTACHING the excel sheet we generated from all PRE-REGISTERED callers. There are gaps in information we'd like your help to fill in.

We are trying to develop a useable DIRECTORY for CALL ATTENDEES. This will make it easy for each of us to be able to contact one another for follow-up questions, to continue dialogue or to work independently on projects or strategies. WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Please take the time to download the ATTACHED CHART, and TYPE IN YOUR MISSING INFORMATION. Phone Numbers would be especially helpful and our Pre-Registration Link did not capture any of them. So please add that info. Anywhere you see a PINK area in fact, find your name and fill in the missing data. Thanks.

II. WHAT HAPPENED ON THE CALL?

1 We welcomed everyone and reminded all about the origins of these calls.

The idea for ways to connect members and branches came directly from the members themselves during the 2015 Branch Survey, and was re-echoed during last Fall. In early Spring the proposal for these calls was made to the WILPF US Board who approved the calls to go forward, with the caveat that Marybeth Gardam organize them. No one else wanted to take it on.

These are Board approved, but MEMBER LED calls. The ground rules we follow are to be positive, solutions-oriented, future-looking and working to help members connect to grow their work, their branches and WILPF US by sharing strategies and materials and doing collaborative planning together.

2 Everyone was invited to attend the WILPF US Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 19th.

The reminders for the meeting and call-in instructions were emailed to ALL MEMBERS in advance of the call. If WILPF US does not have your email address, please send it to our Membership Coordinator in Boston, Ariane at info@wilpfus.org or call the office at 617-266-0999. Board meetings are held bi-monthly.

3 Instructions for the call were given and a CHEAT SHEET as a reminder of the easy to follow instructions for participating in the Social Webinar part of the call (using your computer in addition to your phone) was posted on the TEXTPAD displayed in the center of the computer screen. The AGENDA was also posted there, so people could track progress during the call. Folks were reminded that in the GENERAL part of the call, all mics are muted and we use a ‘stack’ to call on folks who have questions or comments. And folks were reminded that a SOAPBOX opportunity would follow the call, with chances to continue the dialogue, ask more questions or express opinions about the call.

Everyone is able to hold side conversations during the call, without interrupting the facilitator or agenda, by clicking on the PROFILES of the names on the left and accessing **CHAT BOXES**. A general Chat box lets people share information with the whole group or ask questions there.

4 BREAK OUT ROOM procedures were reviewed:

Once in a Break Out Room, folks were reminded these sessions would not be recorded and it would be necessary to appoint a note taker and facilitator. Everyone in the break out room can use the **TEXTPAD** to make notes or ask questions. People were asked to practice a **Step-Up/Step-Back process**, where no one talks too much and the facilitator calls on people who have not yet spoken. When the time is up, a ding will signal we are about to rejoin the GENERAL meeting.

BREAK OUT ROOMS for this call addressed these TOPICS which were pre-decided on the last call, with one new topic added because of its timeliness. The REPORTERS for each BORoom are listed in Section ___, along with participants in each.

RECRUITING STRATEGIES - Eileen Kurkoski, Boston MA

SHARING RESOURCES, MATERIALS & STRATEGIES – Ana Grace Schactman, St. Louis MO

PLANNING REGIONAL MEETINGS - No one attended this, it was cancelled.

ENHANCING MEMBERSHIP THROUGH TRAINING – No one attended this, it was cancelled.

Newly added: **ADDRESSING COMMUNITY RACISM AND MILITARIZED POLICE FORCES** – Joan Goddard, CA.

PLANNING 1-2 SOLIDARITY EVENTS A YEAR – Nancy Price, ALg, Davis CA

5 MEMBER 360 ROUND UP - Everyone had the opportunity to describe what they or their branches are working on.

ELLEN THOMAS (At Lg – NC) described the Nuclear Free Future Tour she and her DISARM COMMITTEE Co-Chair Carol Urner made through the west coast, east coast and will be continuing in the Midwest. She asked for branches or members in the Midwest to invite them to visit and speak in a public forum or branch meeting. Contact Ellen at et@prop1.org. You can learn more in the June P&F, pg. 12.

JEAN VERTHEIN (At Lg – NYC) noted that she has been working with the North Manhattan Natives for Peace and Economic Justice group. She served for years as our WILPF US rep at the UN.

BLANCA GERARD (Essex Co NJ) explained that she is the new Membership Chair. They met recently with Montclair HS students and registered about 90 eligible seniors to vote.

LYNN SABLEMAN (St. Louis MO) noted that her branch has been active on Middle East issues and she is just learning, as a newer member, about the structure of WILPF. She would like more information and mentoring.

NANCY PRICE (At Lg – Davis CA) greeted Blanca warmly and noted that she had graduated from Montclair HS! Nancy is convener of the Earth Democracy Issue Committee of WILPF US.

DAVID ROTHHAUSER (Boston MA) discussed his concerns about the events occurring in Japan, where he has direct information that the Government and the Shinto religious cult are working together to overturn Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution which prevents Japan from waging war. The current collaboration between government and Shinto reps is dangerous and is especially concerning because they are somehow convincing young women to adhere to a more conservative role in society, going back to pre-WWII customs which prevented women from taking a strong role in national politics.

We discussed the fact that our International President from Japan is going to be in the US in September at the World Beyond War Conference on the campus of American University in Washington DC. She will make a few stops across the country. We will attempt to get her to be the featured speaker on our Sept. ONE WILPF Call, to learn more about what WILPF US can do to help WILPF JAPAN with this situation.

FLORIE FRESHMAN (Phoenix AZ) is Branch President and works independently on issues of health and environmental threats from chemtrails, electro-magnetic pollution, smart metering and compact fluorescent bulbs.

NATASHA BECK (Portland OR) was just re-elected Co-President with Brandy Robinson. They have a new Membership Chair and have been working consistently with partner organizations, especially in the LGBT and other minority organizations locally. They are currently working on internal reorganization that better defines ROLES of their officers and members, with JOB DESCRIPTIONS for roles like NEW MEMBER DEV CHAIR and such.

EDITH BELL (Pittsburgh PA) Her branch has been partnering with other organizations to advance a city-wide CEDAW Ordinance. They are meeting next week with the City Council and making good progress. She attributes much success to their collaborative partnerships. They marched in a local parade holding posters of women's history leaders on a float. It was very effective. They continue to face challenges with recruitment.

ROBIN LLOYD (Burlington VT) Her branch has been working hard on the upcoming Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial Event. They work closely with Mayors for Peace. She recommends this as a peace tactic, to meet in a WILPF and partner delegation with your Mayor and ask him to join Mayors for Peace and sign on to their mission (copies available at the Mayors for Peace website). She warns that Obama is spending millions on new nuclear weapons and to upgrade old ones, while stating he wants to abolish them. We need to hold him accountable for this double-speak.

BARBARA TAFT (Greater Phoenix AZ) They are also working on a Hiroshima Day event. Theirs will be held at a lovely home of one of their members that includes a Japanese Garden and water feature where they will conclude the ceremony by floating candles. She noted that author Susan Southard lives in Tempe AZ and her book with interviews of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors is very powerful.

MARCIAN HEATH (Santa Cruz CA) They've been working this summer on Climate Justice+Women+Peace project of Earth Democracy Issue Committee. They've been doing the background planning for the upcoming year, with 6 new officers on their Branch Council. They are defining roles and planning an upcoming calendar of events. They are looking to WILPF US and other branches for help with recruiting, nurturing members and training.

6 BREAK OUT ROOM WORKSHOPS - We divided into the Break Out Rooms by topic. Here are the participants of each Break Out Room. And here are the notes from the REPORT BACK after each unrecorded Break Out Room group.

RECRUITING – Facilitated by Edith Bell. Reporter Eileen Kurkoski.

Attendees of this Break Out Room:

Mary Dooley (dubhmaire@gmail.com); **Lynn Sableman** (St. Louis MO -Lynnsableman@att.net); **Natasha Beck** (Portland OR - nbeckpdx@yahoo.com); **Flori Freshman** (Greater Phoenix AZ - florisrena@gmail.com); **Eileen Kurkoski** (Boston MA - eileenfoto@verizon.net); **Lois Fiedler** (San Jose CA- loisfiedler@sbcglobal.net; **Anne Henny** (anneth16@sbcglobal.net); **Edith Bell** (Pittsburgh PA -- edith.bell4@verizon.net)

Report: Thanks to all the women who worked on this and provided such GREAT ideas and inspiration!

The group spent time reviewing the notes from the June call for this Break Out Topic. Here are some techniques they identified that could be useful.

MOST DANGEROUS WOMEN PLAY - Using the video or film of **Most Dangerous Women** seems to be a popular and effective means of attracting new members. Edith is willing to provide a copy of their DVD for a \$5 donation. Other video versions of this play are also available around the country.

*(Editor note: The Greater Phoenix Branch has had arguably the most success using **Most Dangerous Women** by not just showing a video but by getting a copy of the SCRIPT and MUSIC from the author and actually collaborating with a drama group and women from their community to produce the play and have their own local 'celebrities' and members act out the parts.)*

This seems like more work, but also may potentially yield a deeper commitment to WILPF going forward than simply showing the video would accomplish. Check with Barbara Taft (beejayssite@yahoo.com) from Phoenix branch if you want more information.)

RAGING GRANNIES - This time-honored and fun group-tivity seems to bring fun and humor to the work WILPF does and often is a way of attracting new members who want to WORK on the issues they sing about. Be sure to have a sign-up sheet and invite them to your meetings when they show up to sing!

CEDAW WORK - Working for the CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) appeals to many younger women and intersects with local issues of domestic violence, violence against minority women, violence against LGBT women, women threatened by violence in war and human trafficking and women refugees. There are many ways to use CEDAW work to connect with these populations and individual organizations to form collaborative partnerships (that still manage to keep WILPF visible) and attract new members. At least 2 of our branches have a lot of experience with this kind of organizing. Pittsburgh PA and Portland OR have successfully worked on becoming CEDAW CITIES. Contact Pittsburgh's Edith Bell (Here are some links to more information about CEDAW:

<http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/status-update-cities-cedaw> CITIES FOR CEDAW is a great organizing strategy.

<https://www.worldpulse.com/en?gclid=Cj0KEQjwoau9BRDMvsnv5MCh24UBEiQAKOqcfWvnZY4xDfuFNbnNeQoG8qhWwxtTlaCh4eTCFTCrPycaAvzw8P8HAQ>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_on_the_Elimination_of_All_Forms_of_Discrimination_Against_Women

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

SELLING POINTS: Eileen reported on a statement from Marie, a member of the Triangle NC Branch, who noted that she was enthusiastic about joining WILPF because our 'big tent' covers so many of the issues she cares about and has an International component that other organizations lack. This would be a tremendous set of selling points for a RECRUITING BROCHURE. Also because we are (for the most part) a women's organization, another selling point is that women tend to listen to one another and experience being heard more than in groups that include or are dominated by men.

USING EVENTS: Many branches have successfully used community events to raise the visibility of WILPF, including events like **MLK Day**, where it is increasingly possible to lift up MLK's anti-war work and anti-poverty work to emphasize WILPF's long term work on connecting human rights and economic justice to the roots of war. Also **MOTHERS' DAY** offers some good opportunities to expand the visibility of WILPF by doing more light-hearted or upbeat kinds of events. The MAINE branch, for instance, hands out flowers on street corners to mothers... with a small card that has their branch meeting schedule and contact information on it. Des Moines IA Branch has held colorful **PARADES** in the downtown that invite

Mothers to participate. While others use Mother's Day to [create art work](#), including performance art that connects Mothers and Peace. An example at one branch was an effort to gather women at a public park space, and at a given moment, to have them strike a pose that exemplified for them what PEACE or non-violence would look like. Their frozen poses were held for 5 minutes. The media was invited to capture the images. Everyone walked away with invitations to the next WILPF branch meeting.

FOLLOWING UP IS CRITICAL - Most branches are great at capturing sign-in information from people who attend their events, but they too often fall short of FOLLOWING UP with them. The most successful branches contact event attendees and invite them personally to meetings. Sometimes they are invited by specific members to a pre-meeting coffee or lunch or dinner, so they get to know and discuss WILPF and at least one member, so they have one contact before they show up at a meeting. Sometimes it's as easy as asking if they need a ride to the meeting or child care. Follow-up is too often the missing piece in recruiting.

USING THE ARTS - PORTLAND OR reported that a local composer wrote a part of [a Symphony to accompany the MOST DANGEROUS WOMEN play](#). If that music is available, how neat would it be to approach your local Symphony and ask them to produce that piece, perhaps with some of your members in costume to read a few lines from the play, or to perform the Symphony piece AT the performance you produce of the play??!

FILMS that engage around a specific issue can be useful. Portland Branch presented a film called "SISTA IN THE BROTHERHOOD" about women in the labor movement. This would be a way to partner with local unions and possibly attract more younger working women to WILPF. Contact Brandy Robinson to find out more about all the great stuff Portland is doing: brandygrobinson@gmail.com.

(Editor's NOTES: NEED HELP with Recruiting Efforts?)

*The Fresno Branch had a wonderful **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** which used young college students to present a younger face to their community, and follow up on attendees at events. We will ask Fresno's Internship Program folks to present on an upcoming ONE WILPF Call about how to set up such a program. You can also contact Jean Hays for more information: skyhorse3590@gbcglobal.net.*

HISTORICAL TOURS are extremely popular in many tourist cities. But every city has some locations that are historically interesting. Why not organize a tour that accentuates WILPF's history along with your city's history. San Diego Branch did something similar. **They offered a 16-block HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR of their historic Gaslight Quarter**, citing some of the city's most illustrious women of the past: those who lived in the district and those whose work helped 'clean up' the district. This would raise awareness for your branch, attract new members and even raise some money for your branch. And it might be fun to dress up and be 'in character' for a weekend a year. Find out more from **Suzie Ditmars at suziejazaroo@gmail.com**. Dig a little!!!

PLANTING THE SEED: Some branches feel that it is pointless to invite younger college age women to join them because they graduate and move on. Perhaps they move on to join WILPF somewhere else, or start a new branch where we don't have one yet. Perhaps you could suggest that to them before they do move on!

MOOOOVE: Boston recently invited a college girl to their branch meeting who offered them a great idea... to hold their next meeting at a community center where young people gather. Consider changing it up a little!

PLANNING 1-2 SOLIDARITY EVENTS ACROSS THE US - Facilitated by Barbara Taft, Reported by Nancy Price.

Attendees of this Break Out Room:

Nancy Price (At L – Davis CA – nancyprice39@gmail.com), **Marybeth Gardam** (At L – Winter Haven FL – mbgardam@gmail.com), **Barbara Taft** (Greater Phoenix AZ – beejayssite@yahoo.com)

We need a **Master Calendar** to begin the work on this project. It should list the many dates that would lend themselves to branches organizing across the US on a single day. **That kind of solidarity event could raise the visibility of WILPF nationwide, raise media attention, and increase our Social Media reach.**

This group talked about how many events to propose, the frequency, and how to select them. They might be chosen to relate to what's happening locally... which would mean giving branches a choice about which dates they work on. Perhaps providing a list of 5-10 dates spread out across the year and finding which had the most appeal for the most branches.

Also possible to select 4 events, 1 in each season of the year, quarterly visibility for WILPF.

The group agreed to meet between ONE WILPF Calls and have a Master Calendar of events ready to present at the next CALL (Aug 18th). This could be a useful tool to put on our website for branches in a backend password-protected section just for members to access. It could offer members a way to click on specific dates/events to see which branches WORK on that event, who to contact for more info and even post materials/resource templates that all branches could use and customize for their name, location and date. We should get input from Program and Issue Committees too, to see what dates, if any, they propose for WILPF branch actions.

Everyone agreed that the Calendar should be available so that branches could plan well in advance of recommended Solidarity Events. **And we will need the cooperation of ALL our branches to disclose what kinds of events they already DO on a regular basis!**

ADDRESSING POLICE MILITARIZATION & RACIAL VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES – Reporter Joan Goddard.

Attendees of this Break Out Session:

Marcia Heath (Santa Cruz CA - marcia2435@gmail.com); **Blanca Gerard** (Essex County NJ - amygerard30@verizon.net); **Joan Goddard** (_____ CA joan@rujo.org); **Robin Lloyd** (Burlington VT - robinlloyd8@gmail.com); **Joan Ecklein** (Boston MA - joanecklein@comcast.net); **Mary Hanson Harrison** (Des Moines IA - harrison0607@msn.com).

Blanca Gerard noted that we need to be focusing on **training police forces how to deal with people with mental illness.** They should not resort to shooting first and asking questions later. There are training courses available. We can make the police in our communities aware of these courses and advocate for them to send officers through the training.

Robin Lloyd noted that in Burlington VT they have had some success **by forming strong coalitions between the Police Departments and local organizations** including Black Lives Matter, Justice For All,

and others... to create awareness and heighten the police sensitivity to their role of guarding and protecting.

Mary H Harrison noted that they recently had **an event that stressed collaboration** and advocated for community policing that puts the community members first.

This group noted that **GUN CONTROL is an issue where police and peace advocates agree** and it would be good to find common ground and work together on reforming the local laws and ordinances.

Joan Goddard noted that San Jose has also been dealing with gun control issues and organizing around that. They've had a past history of this and have reviewed what was done in the past as a way of beginning again this important dialogue in their community.

They are hopeful that on the August call they can get more people to share information about what's happening in their communities around Police Militarization. If folks want to report before that call, or in case you can't be on the call, contact Joan Goddard at Joan@rujo.org.

WORKING SMARTER/SHARING RESOURCES, MATERIALS & STRATEGIES BETWEEN MEMBERS & BRANCHES – Reporters Ana Schactman & Ellen Thomas.

Attendees of this Break Out Room:

Jan Corderman (Des Moines IA - jancorderman@msn.com); **Betty Traynor** (San Francisco CA - btraynor@att.net); **Barbara West** (Maine Branch - barbaraw@myfairpoint.net); **Ellen Schwartz** (Sacramento CA - ellen@nicetechnology.com); **Ellen Thomas** (At-Large Tryon NC - et@prop1.org); **Lauretta Freeman** (Essex County NJ - freemanlauretta@gmail.com) **Ana Grace Schactman** (St. Louis MO – a.grace@sbcglobal.net)

USING SOCIAL MEDIA EFFECTIVELY - Ellen Thomas said that any branch that wants to post information about events or news should send information (especially with photos) to her (Ellen Thomas – et@prop1.org) or Joan Bazar (joanbazar@sbcglobal.net). They post materials to the WILPF Facebook Page all the time.

Ana Grace Schactman noted that we must find ways to **share information so we don't have to keep reinventing the wheel**. If one branch or member has done a great job developing materials, we should be able to use them by posting them on Google Docs, on a Master Calendar or saving them in 'the cloud'.

They talked about **HOW TO SHARE INFORMATION** and for now, email works best...but we must make a commitment to continue to use Snail Mail or Phone when there is an urgent message for every member. Also planning ahead to put information into Peace & Freedom is important. **We need to get deadlines and format information to branches and members often and to more than one person in the branch.**

FOR BRANCHES IN THE SAME REGION, it's important to meet TOGETHER regularly, once or twice a year, in a mutually convenient location, so they can share new, materials, resources, program ideas, etc. For instance San Francisco and East Bay often plan events together, to gain more reach and media attention.

Ana asked if it would be possible to get mini-grants or other grants to promote events, since it is increasingly difficult to afford advertising, flyers, room rentals, etc. Barbara West was going to look into this.

ADJOURNMENT - Everyone said goodnight and promised to work on their assignments for the next call. Some people remained on the SOAPBOX segment of the call to chat informally.

REMINDERS:

Next call will be Thursday August 18th at an EARLIER time.... 4pm pacific/7pm eastern.

Why not put it on your calendar NOW!?

SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH EVERY WILPF MEMBER!

We want to hear their voices and benefit from collaborative planning!

FEATURED SPEAKER will be NANCY PRICE,

Convener of the Earth Democracy Issue Committee.

If your branch is wondering how best to get involved with **climate justice**, the upcoming **Monsanto People's Tribunal**, our **Human Right To Health & Safe Food Campaign**, working against the climate-busting **TPP**, anti-fracking, green-energy advocacy, or any other environmental effort, you won't want to miss this call.

There will be both a Q&A period with Nancy and a Break Out Room for you to start your own environmental organizing.

You can Pre-Register at this link:

<http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN>

NOTE: IF YOUR BRANCH HAS EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES related to either Peace or Climate/Environment, **please be ready to share that information during Nancy's Break Out Room!**

Just like the song:

See you... in September... See you... when the summer time is through...

SEPTEMBER's ONE WILPF All Member Call -

We are trying to sign up our International President Kozue Akibayashi from Japan to be our featured speaker. We'll keep you posted!

STAYING IN TOUCH BETWEEN CALLS.

Every good organizer knows the real work happens BETWEEN the meetings!

It's critical for you all to be able to connect to share ideas and resources and discuss issues between calls. We need your help to get accurate contact information collected.

PLEASE OPEN THE 2nd ATTACHMENT which is an excel sheet with the total attendees of our calls so far. We are trying to us this to create a useable directory or connecting between calls.

Please complete all the information that's missing in the PINK areas of the chart.

For example your branch or AT-L designation, location (City), add your PHONE number, make sure your email is correct – and if you see someone you know whose email is wrong on here, please correct it.

Also add the info about which call you've attended so far.

Our records fail to capture that. And we'd kinda like to track it.