

Next ONE WILPF All Member Call
scheduled for MONDAY *(note different night)*
SEPTEMBER 19th - 4pm P-pacific, 7pm E-eastern.

FEATURING.... *(drum roll!)...*

President Kozue Akibayashi of International WILPF.

Kozue will be calling in from Detroit, during her US Tour, to participate in the call.

We anticipate her presenting **at the beginning of the call, around 4:10pmP/7:10pmE.** She will speak for about 15 minutes about what is going on with International WILPF and how she sees the US Section engaging more closely with other sister Sections. *(at least that's what we're asking her to talk about).* Then we will have a **Q&A session** for another 15 or 20 minutes featuring questions from YOU our members.

If you would like to send questions in advance, please send them before Sept. 17th to: 1wilpfcalls@gmail.com.

*We can not guarantee that ALL the questions will get answered, but we will do our best in the time we have available. **We will group questions by issue, so as to avoid repetition.***

NOTES FROM AUGUST 18, 2016 ONE WILPF CALL

These notes are long but are packed with helpful information, ideas, questions and connections designed to help our members connect and collaborate strategically. Please read carefully.

The list of Call Participants appears at the end of these notes.

The audio recording is here, if you missed the call or want to listen again:

<http://mcrecordings.s3.amazonaws.com/6A68F88PLJHUNJKFZQTX0A8YSPH4U2GB.mp3>

NOTED: CRITICISM RAISED AND ADDRESSED

Because the first 2 parts of the Call ran over, **we were only able to allow 20 minutes for the Break Out Rooms.**

There were MANY complaints about this in the Soapbox segment, along with complaints of the call running longer than advertised. **We are rededicating ourselves in future calls to**

- **KEEPING THE CALL TO THE ADVERTISED TIME LIMITES (shooting for 1.5 hours)**
- **OFFERING NO LESS THAN 30 MINUTES FOR BREAK OUT ROOMS in the future. (with 15 for call back reports) *Because we have a special guest scheduled in September, we will return to longer break out rooms starting in October.***

1 CHAT ROOM GROUPS --

For the first 12-15 minutes of the call members were placed in random chat rooms to mingle and get to know one another a bit better.

2 FEATURED SPEAKER -- NANCY PRICE presented about the Earth Democracy Issue Committee and how Members can engage more strategically with the work of ED –

THE BEGINNING OF EARTH DEMOCRACY & STRUCTURE –

The Earth Democracy Issue Committee arose at the 2011 in Congress when the decision was made to move from Campaigns to Issue Committees. The SAVE THE WATER Campaign then morphed into Earth Democracy, to have a broader environmental mandate to respond to the broader interest of branches and members to work on a variety of environmental issues.

In order to better manage the larger overarching theme of Earth Democracy, four subcommittees were formed under the Earth Democracy banner. They include

- The Human Right To Health & Safe Food Campaign,
- Food democracy and local economies
- The Rights of nature/Future Generations and Guardianship, and
- Global Warming/Renewable Energy.

The 4 Subcommittees were integrated under **The Precautionary Principle**, which also guides the environmental (anti-chemical) efforts of the European Union. They were framed within the theme of Guardianship of Future Generations as outlined by environmental attorney and activist, Carolyn Raffensperger. All of this information and much more is available on the WILPF US website at <http://wilpfus.org/our-work/earth-democracy-0>.

Recently the Earth Democracy Issue Committee has joined with the Corporations v Democracy Issue Committee to work on two very important initiatives in which members and branches are encouraged to engage and help lead.

LOCAL AND GLOBAL EMPHASIS -

The HUMAN RIGHT TO HEALTH & SAFE FOOD Campaign was unanimously approved at the 2014 Detroit Congress and at the 2015 International Congress at The Hague. Our other large project, **CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE** was also approved by resolution at the 2015 Congress at The Hague. So we have a broad mandate on these two projects and the full endorsement of WILPF International's Environmental Working Group (EWG). Unfortunately to date we have not had a lot of success connecting with International's EWG to move forward on collaborative work with other Sections of WILPF. We continue to work towards that.

Currently International WILPF and our UNO Programs have been focused on promoting the need for a new secretary General at the UN who is a woman and a feminist. There has never been a female Secretary General, and 80% of the office holders at the UN are male. This is unacceptable in 2016. But more than just having a woman at the helm, International WILPF, along with many other feminist and peace organizations are campaigning for the new Secretary General to commit herself to releasing the UN from the corrupting influence of big transnational corporations and the international military industrial complex.. to de-militarize and de-corporatize the UN so it can once again better protect the world's people and the planet.

IMMEDIATE GOALS -

The immediate short term goal of the **Human Right To Health & Safe Food Campaign** is to support the **Oct.14-16 PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL ON MONSANTO**, to be held at The Hague. Not a judicial proceeding, the Tribunal will still utilize the judicial processes common to the International Criminal Court. They charge Monsanto with Ecocide and Crimes Against Humanity. Monsanto is also supporting lobbying for the DARK ACT which will end country-of-origin labeling and GMO labeling, so Americans can know what they are eating and where it came from. They also plan a People's Assembly to gather testimony against the big ag chemical giant. They are examining what kind of future we need to adequately feed people and protect the planet's biodiversity. The answer is NOT chemicals and death-dealing big ag corporations. The answers lie in healthy food regimes that are not politicized or corporatized, and in supporting women as the major growers of food and protectors of water and the environment worldwide.

The Earth Democracy Issue Committee is urging WILPF members and branches across America to sign on to the **MONSANTO TRIBUNAL** at <http://seedfreedom.info/campaign/peoplesassembly-at-mt-the-hague/> and to use this as an organizing action that brings community attention to the serious charges being brought against Monsanto.

The **last WILPF ENews**, which is archived on our WILPF US website, held many great suggestions for actions WILPF branches could take to support the efforts of the **MONSANTO TRIBUNAL**. You can read it here -- <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/calling-all-members-against-monsanto>

There are also a variety of suggested actions and many resources for study and action at our **HRTH&SF wordpress website**. <https://humanrighttohealthcampaignswilpf.wordpress.com/get-busy/> Members can find sample letters to the editor, ideas for actions, sample conversations, and even a community survey to assess the kinds of herbicides being used in public parks and school grounds in your community. **There are very rich resources on that website**. Check them out and plan some kind of action around the Monsanto Tribunal. **For starters:**

- Order copies of the **Human Right To Health & Safe Food** Infographic cards from WILPF US and use them to educate your community about the health threats of glyphosate, especially for women and children.
- Look for environmental events, farmers markets, health expos where you can table using the card and educating people about the PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL.
- Live stream the People's TRIBUNAL at churches or public venues where the public can find out about these proceedings. Mainstream media will not cover them.
- Write letters to the editor and op-eds about the charges against Monsanto.
- Go to our website for more ideas and resources for action. _____

CLIMATE, WOMEN & WAR - The other Big Project of Earth Democracy is the **CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE Project** which includes anti-TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) Trade Agreement work. WE MUST DEFEAT THE TPP.

Our last ENews also had many details about what WILPF members must do between now and the end of the Congressional Recess **to encourage your elected representatives to vote NO on the TPP**: <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/one-more-push-be-sure-we-defeat-tpp>

We can also go to the POPULAR RESISTANCE website and sign on to support their NO LAME DUCK UPRISING at ...

<https://www.popularresistance.org/?s=No+Lame+Duck&submit.x=0&submit.y=0&submit=Search>

Or here: <https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/petitions/sign-to-tell-the-dnc-platform-committee-no-lame-duck-vote-on-tpp>

Or THIS one at: <http://www.flushthepp.org/pledge/> ...

to **keep the TPP from being approved during Obama's lame duck season**. This website lists events and actions near you that you can support and join between now and November. VERY IMPORTANT to take action, and an opportunity for branches to form strong partnerships that raise our visibility in communities and on the national stage.

Hillary Clinton is now saying she does not support the TPP.... But in the small print she says she does not support it "in its current form". It is very telling that she appointed Ken Salazar to head her Transition Team. Salazar supports fracking and big energy and is a big proponent of the TPP and International Trade Agreements. No matter what she SAYS, appointing Salazar is a troubling hint of her support for FREE trade, not Fair Trade.

3 Q&A and Comments for Nancy:

COMMENTS:

ANY member of WILPF can join the Earth Democracy Issue Committee... and all are encouraged to join. Nancy particularly invites participation in the LEADERSHIP TEAM which holds regular (usually monthly) 1-hour phone calls. The calls have been on Wednesdays at 8am pacific/11am eastern. They are working on a schedule that would allow east coast and Midwest working women to participate.

It would be important to identify leaders for the 4 subcommittees... it would give us the ability to make huge strides on those issues. (Subcommittees: Food and Local Economies, Human Right To Health & Safe Food Campaign, The Rights of nature/Future Generations and Guardianship, and Global Warming/Renewable Energy). Nancy asked members interested in taking on these leadership roles to contact her at nancytprice39@gmail.com. **You don't have to be an expert in these fields. You just have to be ready to help steer our work in those areas.**

Participation in Issue Committee calls is the way that regular members of WILPF help shape priorities and policies on issues at the National level of WILPF.

New DVD AVAILABLE ON FRACKING: Marybeth noted that Jean Hays reported that **Fresno WILPF** has completed their **new anti-fracking video CRUDE BEYOND BELIEF** and it is available for \$15 including shipping. Order it from Jean at skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net. This video was a project completed with the help of a WILPF Mini Grant and under the umbrella of the Earth Democracy Issue Committee.

Nancy noted that Earth Democracy is working hard on finishing up a **Study Guide** that can be used with the **CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE Project Infographic Cards**. Look for announcements in ENews.

QUESTIONS:

STATEMENT? **Robin Lloyd** (Vermont) asked if we plan to use the incidence of floods, fires and droughts to issue a strong statement about the impact of climate change and the need to address it. Nancy said a statement might be a good move.

Nancy noted that California branches particularly should be working to oppose Governor Brown's support for Fracking and Big Energy in California. He is beholden to fossil fuel companies. He is doing nothing to stop the toxic oil bomb trains through the state. And he is supporting expansion of development at the PORTS even though city councils and residents oppose it.

Marybeth thanked Nancy for her presentation and asked for any final Questions for Nancy.

Laura Dewey (Detroit MI) asked Nancy to identify a couple priorities branches should pursue. Nancy said that branches must develop their own priorities based on the situations, conditions and issues specific to their region, but that Nationally she would suggest **the two most urgent are the Monsanto TRIBUNAL in October and efforts to stop the TPP** between now and the end of the Congressional recess, and during the Lame Duck session, from Labor Day through the Election.

Lorna Paisley (Los Angeles CA) said she could not access the Infographic. Marybeth said she would share the link in the notes. **Here it is:**

<https://humanrighttohealthcampaignswilpf.wordpress.com/order-pre-printed-infographic-cards/>

Randa Solick (Santa Cruz CA) noted it is **so important for members to join the Earth Democracy issue committee**. They are working on a **Study Guide** which will be announced when ready on the ENews and posted on the Website. It will be downloadable and printable from the website, but a few hard copies will also be available.

Joy Hinz (Santa Cruz CA) agreed that working on climate change and climate justice is urgently needed.

Marybeth reminded folks that a part of working on climate is working to get representatives to endorse the **We The People Amendment** to get big money out of elections and away from deregulation and corporate profiteers.

Mary H Harrison (Des Moines IA) noted that it is a good strategy for branches to COLLABORATE, while keeping WILPF very visible, so that the burden of some of these priorities can be shared. WILPF does not have to invent or lead it all, but we have to be seen as visibly cooperating and promoting the work of our partners in these areas.

She pointed out that Des Moines branch connects and collaborates with about 15 or 20 different local groups. Those members who are most passionate about specific areas attend the meetings of the partners working in those areas and then come back to the branch with reports, news and actions to engage with. In this way of sharing the burden of activism, they are able to work on many more issues at once: Food Solidarity, Water Quality, Pay Day Lending, Disarmament, etc.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

L2G PROGRAM SEEKING 4 WILPF MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE -

APPLICATION DEADLINE Mid October.

The Local 2 Global Program offers spaces for 4 WILPF members to enjoy a week in New York City, March 11-18th, 2017 to participate in inspiring and illuminating meetings at the United Nations celebrating the Commission on The Status of Women (CSW). Great opportunity, most travel expenses paid, opportunity for intercultural and intergenerational exchange, and meetings with our UNO office staff at the Peacewomen Project and the Reaching Critical Will Campaign. An opportunity for a member to bring back this international overview to your local community. Applications are on the website at <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/apply-minigrant-fund-project>. **DEADLINE by mid-October... competitive so apply EARLY.** More info contact practicum-mail@wilpfus.org.

THE WORLD BEYOND WAR CONFERENCE, Sept 23-25

on the campus of American University in Washington DC.

WILPF's International President Kozue Akibayashi will be a featured speaker.

More details at: <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/wilpf-president-speak-world-beyond-war-conference>

The other speakers and agenda are viewable at <http://worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2016agenda>

If you plan to attend, please let us know, so we can connect you with other WILPFers who are attending. Contact our Managing Director, Lamia Sadek at lsadek@wilpfus.org or info@wilpfus.org.

STRETCH YOUR LEADERSHIP WINGS: RUN FOR THE US BOARD OF WILPF --

Application Deadline September 18th. *(Don't wait till the last minute to start the paperwork.)*

Laura Dewey, the Nominating Committee Chair, noted that there are going to be FIVE openings on the Board in November and a ballot will be going out. Laura and her committee are trying to be sure there are at least 2 people running for each spot.

Here are brief overviews of each position's role:

- The **Treasurer** is the chief fiscal officer of the Section and chair of the Finance Committee.
- Similarly, the **Personnel Chair** chairs the Personnel Committee, which ensures that personnel issues, including hiring and evaluations, are addressed and all personnel policies are implemented.
- The **Program Chair** works with a co-chair to oversee the Program Committee and assist and direct it in its responsibility for ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of WILPF's programmatic activities, including fostering broad member participation in these activities.
- The **Membership Development Committee Chair** and committee support the growth, sustainability, and development of WILPF US membership and ongoing contact with branches.
- The **At-Large Board Member** board position is designed to attract younger and/or busier WILPF US members and give them the experience of board membership with a lower level of responsibility than other board positions. Although their duties are, intentionally, not specified, the At-Large members are encouraged to volunteer for various board committees and tasks that arise in the course of their term.

If you have any questions, contact the Nominating Committee at Nominatingcommittee@wilpfus.org.

More information is available at <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/stretch-your-leadership-wings-run-wilpf-us-board>

MONTREAL DECLARATION FOR A NUCLEAR FISSION FREE WORLD – An important DECLARATION ON ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS emerged from the US Social Forum in Montreal.

The statement will be posted on the WILPF Website and members should think about how they can strategically use this statement to promote the work of protesting Obama's new investment in NEW nuclear weapons which are smaller and more convenient to use, but much more lethal than the ones used at Hiroshima. The Montreal DECLARATION is inspiring and demands action to back it up.

Find it at:

<http://www.cnduk.org/cnd-media/item/2562-the-montreal-declaration-how-citizens-are-planning-to-eliminate-nuclear-weapons-nuclear-power>

Our DISARM/END WARS Issue Committee will be working on this. If you are interested in joining the

REPORT FROM THE USSF: Robin Lloyd attended the US Social Forum events in Montreal and filed this report. Of the hundreds of valuable presentations and grass roots organizing opportunities, she pointed to three important sessions that stood out.

- A- **WOMEN & LAND** was a presentation on the planned event in Africa in October where women will unfurl a banner on Mt. Kilimanjaro issuing their demands to address the inequity women face with land ownership laws in Africa. The land is always passed on to sons, even though it is the women who work the land and protect it. Speakers at the Social Forum also addressed the issues of land grabs that cause conflicts and resource wars and erupt in regional and international conflicts.
- B- **UPDATE ON SYRIA** – This emotional presentation included witnesses to the conflict from both side, the rebels and the Assad backers. There was high tension and emotions in the room which demonstrated exactly what the issues are and you could feel the anguish of all the participants.
- C- **THE NUCLEAR ABOLITION** presentation (described above) which resulted in the Montreal Declaration was the result of several such sessions during the week with many collaborating groups working to come up with this very eloquent statement.

Robin noted that these World Social Forums and US Social Forums are important for WILPF members to attend, and we really should try harder to have tabling and a wider presence because it is such a wonderful opportunity to connect with grassroots activists on all our issues from around the country and the globe.

MINI GRANT DEADLINE APPROACHES -- October 1st is the deadline for the next WILPF US mini grant which provides seed money for branches, members and issue committees to pursue projects that might not get off the ground except for this funding. Application and guidelines are available at the website at: <http://wilpfus.org/resources/minigrant-program>

5 BREAK OUT ROOM SEGMENT OF THE CALL...

5A UPDATES FROM WORK BETWEEN THE CALLS...

Only one of the topic groups met between calls: PLANNING 1-2 SOLIDARITY EVENTS A YEAR.

Barbara Taft, Nancy Price, and Marybeth Gardam met earlier in August to discuss the way forward for planning solidarity events across America that branches could all collaborate on. Barbara reported on their progress made between calls.

They discussed

- A choice of having 1-2 events OR suggesting a list of possible QUARTERLY events (4 possible events a year) that branches could choose to participate in.
- Posting a WILPF WEBSITE EVENTS LIST of possible events that connect to WILPF issues. Events that branches are already doing, or which they have experience doing would be highlighted.
- Members could click on the BRANCH EVENTS to access EVENT BLUEPRINTS – exactly how the branches organized the events, including resources, printed materials that could act as templates, etc.
- Barbara also said we could HIGHLIGHT those SOLIDARITY events we would ask ALL branches to participate in on some level.

Hiroshima Day events and **Tax Day** events are the ones most frequently undertaken by branches... so they seem to be the ones with the most traction and potential to build on.

5B WE ENTERED BREAK OUT ROOMS WITH THESE TOPIC AREAS and these participants.

PLANNING 1-2 SOLIDARITY EVENTS A YEAR – Sandy Thacker (wilpfwilpfeastbay.org) 55, Judy Karas (jkaras@sonic.net), Marybeth Gardam (mbgardam@gmail.com), Barbara Taft (beeuayssite@yahoo.com), Ellen Schwartz (ellen@nicetechnology.com), and Linda Lemons (lemonslin@gmail.com).

RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES – Mary Hanson Harrison (harrison0607@msn.com), Joan Brannigan (joanbran@mac.com), Portia Gage (portia.gage@att.net).

SHARING RESOURCES & STRATEGIES BETWEEN BRANCHES – this group dropped off the call before reporting back. **Randa Solick** (rsolick@gmail.com) and **Leni Villagomez Reeves** (lenivreeves@gmail.com)

ADDRESSING RACIAL PROFILING & MILITARIZED POLICE – Shoshana Osofsky (heartpathaccupuncture@gmail.com), Robin Lloyd (robinlloyd8@gmail.com), Ellen Barfield (ellene4pj@yahoo.com).

EARTH DEMOCRACY – Continuing the Dialogue with Nancy Price. – Floris Freshman (florisrena@gmail.com), Anne Henny (anneth16@sbcglobal.net), Nancy Price (nancytprice39@gmail.com)

We are providing the emails and names of each of these topic groups in hopes that you all might ‘meet’ via email or phone between now and the September call to move the work along, if you are so inclined.

6 REPORTS BACK FROM THE BREAK OUT ROOMS:

PLANNING 1-2 SOLIDARITY EVENTS A YEAR – Linda Lemons (Des Moines IA) reported.

Linda noted that a poll was taken on this call in which folks voted their support for one of these 2 choices:

- a. TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF SOLIDARITY EVENTS, at least the first year, TO 1 or 2. **OR**
- b. TO OFFER CHOICES FOR QUARTERLY EVENTS.

The case was made that at least initially we should focus all our energies on ONE event, in order to make it as successful across the country as possible, and not to overload branches who already had other priorities and local events scheduled. **The vote was 4-1 in favor of 1-2 events a year.**

As a separate piece, these topic participants felt that we should also include the calendar list of events to show exactly what branches and members are planning throughout the year, with the links to detailed blueprint/HOW TO instructions, support materials, resources and printed templates that could be used by all, instead of re-inventing the wheel.

RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES -- Joan Goddard (San Jose CA) reported.

This group was a bit dispirited in that they recounted what is NOT working. In terms of ideas for resolving the issues, these ideas emerged:

- a. Sharing songs from the Raging Grannies and using the fun of the Grannies to recruit for WILPF.
- b. Producing a FILM SERIES which would engage the community. This was felt to be very labor intense, physically demanding, and possibly expensive.
- c. Adding the arts and an element of fun. Mary Harrison described the Des Moines Branch’s WOMEN DANCING FOR FREEDOM done one Mother’s Day. It was open to the public and got good media coverage because it was colorful and artsy, very inclusive of all.
- d. Sending WILPF MEMBERS out to speak at the meetings of other organizations.
- e. WILPF sponsored ESL programs (English as a Second Language) to help connect with immigrant communities.
- f. STRONG FEISTY WOMAN AWARDS given to non-WILPF and WILPF members once a year at a dinner event. Good fundraiser, also very rewarding to acknowledge the achievements of activists.
- g. BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS -- Mary Harrison suggested an excellent and inspirational book called THIS IS AN UPRISING: HOW NONVIOLENT REVOLT IS SHAPING THE 21st CENTURY by Mark and Paul Englert, sons of a Des Moines WILPF member. Other books might include SHOCK DOCTRINE (Naomi Klein), CONFESSIONS OF AN ECONOMIC HIT MAN (John Perkins), THE GREAT TURNING (David Korten), THE TURNING CHRONICLES (by WILPF member Judith Pedersen-Benn).

ADDRESSING RACIAL PROFILING & MILITARIZED POLICE - Ellen Barfield reported.

They discussed several tangents of this issue but felt in general they did not have enough time to come up with any clear proposals. Discussion included:

- a. Terrible police chiefs and the policies they promote -- An awful and violent NY police chief just relocated to work in Burlington VT, and the citizens there are watching carefully to see what changes occur.
- b. The need for white people to educate themselves on white privilege and how to deal with it.

- c. The call for support from the Black Lives organizers who have incorporated in their platform a Palestine. With attacks from the Jewish community, they are asking for support from groups like WILPF as they stand their ground on including the Palestinian issue in their platform demands. WILPF should endorse this...

EARTH DEMOCRACY with Nancy Price -- Nancy reported.

There were 3 participants and two of them asked to join the Earth Democracy Leadership team.

Florie Freshman (Phoenix AZ) wants to lead the Renewable Energy Subcommittee, and **Anne Henny** (East Bay CA) wants to work on putting together a kind of metaview of how Earth Democracy fits together with the WILPF goal of achieving peace and freedom. **Each will write up their perspectives and submit them for inclusion in the CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE Study Guide.**

THE NEXT CALL will be held on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, and will FEATURE our International President Kozue Akibayashi. **PLEASE ENCOURAGE ALL YOUR MEMBERS TO JOIN THIS CALL.**

The formal portion of the call adjourned.

7. THE SOAPBOX SEGMENT of the call, there were many criticisms of the timing of this call and the weight not given to Break Out Rooms. People felt they were short changed.

Barbara Taft (Phoenix AZ) noted that to resolve this and move momentum forward it would be good to keep meeting in Interim calls/meetings with participants or plan more over email. The notes include all the email contacts for the participants of the call, identified by the topic Break Out Room participants.

Folks are encouraged to KEEP WORKING between ONE WILPF CALLS, and use the ONE WILPF Calls as a way of reporting on progress being made. In this way, we can move forward more efficiently.

Sandy Thacker (East Bay CA) was particularly adamant that the calls not go over the advertised time limit, or we will start to lose the enthusiasm and engagement of callers. Also, in order not to short change the most popular part of the calls, the BREAK OUT ROOMS will not be held for less than 45 minutes of the planned agenda.

Mary Harrison (Des Moines IA) noted that on topics like RECRUITING, where so many have experienced failures or challenges, it is important to always offer success stories and practical "HOW TO" TIPS. We must remember we have a lot to offer new members and it is just a matter of how we get the word out to them. Despite the tone we hear, we are NOT losing members, we are gaining them. And we hope with more positive and practical support, branches can continue to grow. Be upbeat and inject enthusiasm, empowerment and inspiration. Now, as so many younger people are losing faith in the electoral system, it is the time to offer engagement in our part of the MOVEMENT for change.

Shoshana Osofsky (At Large, South Jersey) agreed that it would be easier to plan better if the calls stayed within the published time limit... but she is grateful to be able to connect with other members. She lives in a very conservative part of the state and has no other support network for progressive activism.

Participant List BELOW.

NOTE:

On our first June call, we had about 60 WILPF members participate.

In July, we had about 40 WILPF members participate.

On this call we had about 25 WILPF members participate.

It is not easy to assess exactly why the participation is falling.

It could simply be that this is the summer and many people are busy with travel, vacations, etc. It could be that these calls are not meeting the needs of the participants. We are anxious to tailor these calls to the needs of branches and members. That is the whole point.

These calls were requested loudly by members and branches for a long time... a regular and convenient way for members to share information, plan strategy and collaborate more closely across regions and the country. The **potential for the calls** is really limited only by our commitment and creativity in using them. They could allow us to increase our capacity and create a more robust WILPF US... while strengthening and inspiring each other. But to succeed we need participation.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR BRANCH MEMBERS TO GET ON THESE CALLS. It is especially important that our strongest and most robust branches participate, because they have solutions and strategies to share that are working and that can engage and inspire branches which are struggling. It's also important that our most struggling branches join, to access the experiences of those more robust branches. And it's important for At Large Members to join the calls, because this is really the only way we have to connect with you on a regular basis.

**Creating COMMUNITY within WILPF
is the way we move forward together... as ONE WILPF.
Thanks for being on these calls,
and thanks for all you do for Peace & Justice and WILPF.**

CALL PARTICIPANT LIST BELOW

PARTICIPANTS ON THE AUGUST 18th, 2016 ONE WILPF CALL included:

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