

Peace & Freedom

MAGAZINE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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Elections '08: Taking Back Our Democracy



WILPF's Member-Driven Governance and You:

- Strategic Planning
- Board Elections
- U.S. Section Congress



Children at an elementary school in Tokyo are learning about war and peace through the Jane Addams Peace Association. See page 15.

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Cover: Cartoon courtesy of Signe Wilkinson.

Health care is just one of the major issues that will be significantly affected by the person who wins the White House in November 2008. U.S. WILPF has clearly stated its support for "a comprehensive national health care and maintenance program for everyone," a position grounded in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

WILPF is part of a national movement joining with other organizations across the country to pass universal, single-payer health insurance as embodied in H.R. 676, introduced by WILPF sponsor Rep. John Conyers, D-MI. H.R. 676 calls for a National Health Insurance Act, an expansion and improved version of "Medicare for All."

The new legislation, if passed, would save billions of dollars now spent on unnecessary duplication and administrative costs. It would eliminate profiteering health care. Under the law, individuals would have the ability to choose their own physicians. It would include coverage for home health care, nursing home care, dental, vision, mental health, hospitalization, office visits, physicians' fees, and rehabilitation. It would also cover prescription drugs for everyone and remain in place even if one lost a job or retired.

H.R. 676 needs active support from the grassroots. Consider how your branch can build commitment for this proposal among your state's congressional delegation and among different constituencies in your area.

To read the full "Resolution to Endorse H.R. 676," prepared by the Advancing Human Rights Issue Committee and (adopted by WILPF's U.S. Section in April 2006), visit www.wilpf.org/hr676 or www.wilpf.org/humanrights_health.

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The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has been working since 1915 to unite women worldwide who oppose oppression and exploitation. WILPF stands for equality of all people in a world free of racism, sexism, and homophobia; the building of a constructive peace through world disarmament; and the changing of government priorities to meet human needs.

National Program: WILPF envisions a world free of violence, poverty, pollution, and domination — a genuine new world order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 2005-2008 program cycle has two key campaign areas: Women Challenging U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East and Save the Water.

WILPF has sections in 37 countries coordinated by an international office in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches, coordinated by a national office in Philadelphia. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (non-governmental organization) status.

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Taking Back Our Power

By Chris Morin, president, U.S. WILPF

“If you think you have the power and you don’t, you do have the power. If you think you don’t have the power and you do, you don’t have the power.”

I don’t know the source of this quote, but it has stayed with me ever since I read it years ago. Power and influence are not something given to us, but something we ourselves must assert.

In November 2008, we will be electing the next U.S. president. The United States prides itself on being a democracy in which leaders are elected by the power of the people. But fewer and fewer people are voting. Slowly, over the years, as we have given up the power held in our right to vote, our democracy has been eroding.

Two major reasons for low voter turnout are lack of trust that a candidate will fulfill his or her campaign pledges and lack of patience with negative

We distinguish ourselves by being an international league that understands that the roots of violence lie at the intersection of oppressions. WILPF needs to lead the way in raising such issues — before and after the 2008 campaign season.

campaigning. When we vote for candidates based on their campaign pledges and they then repeatedly fail to fulfill those pledges, we begin to lose faith that our vote matters. Why go to the polls if even the politicians we support let us down? Running negative campaigns, meanwhile, is an active strategy meant to turn off voters and discourage turnout — and it works.

Again and again, and not just in this administration, we have seen the abuse of power by our elected officials. We have become weary and numb and feel powerless to change. We need to take back our power.

But getting out to vote is just one step. The G.W. Bush Administration has created such a divide between the rich and the poor and has abused power in such myriad ways that many on the left believe that a Democrat will or should be elected our next president. This outcome might bring some relief to

the partisans, but it’s important to remember that Democrats voted in favor of the war in Iraq, as well as for the USA PATRIOT Act, and even as a majority have never been organized (or brave) enough to challenge policy and corruption.

Though WILPF and many other peace organizations share the same ideals, we distinguish ourselves by being an international league that understands that the roots of violence lie at the intersection of oppressions. This truth is rarely publicized in schools, politics, or the news media; WILPF needs to lead the way in raising such issues — before and after the 2008 campaign season.

WILPF already has the tools and the passion to bring women into the international peace arena. We are a highly visible NGO at the United Nations, well respected for our political analysis. We have ties with our sister sections the world over. We are leading the way on women’s issues with Resolution 1325 and the *Feminist Guide to Challenging U.S. Policy in the Middle East*, and we have just created a Peace Table Tool Kit to use in our coalition work. And in June 2008, we will hold our National Congress (*see registration form, page 10*) which will give us the opportunity to discuss and plan where WILPF fits into the national political picture and the part we can play in shaping the agenda of the newly elected U.S. president. I urge you to attend.

Let’s take back our power. You can start here and now by helping to elect WILPF’s National Board and officers. Members of WILPF’s governing board are elected by position: Positions open for election are described on page 7. Please consider nominating yourself or another member whom you respect and admire to fill one of these important offices within our organization. The deadline for nominations is February 28; ballots will be distributed by mail on March 15. Watch for your ballot and use your vote to build a strong and resourceful National Board for the 2008-2011 term! ❖



WILPF's Strategic Plan: What's It All About?

.....
By the WILPF National Board
.....

THE IMPETUS TO CHANGE

While we are all proud to belong to WILPF, the oldest continually active women's peace organization in the world, many of us have been disappointed by WILPF's recent low profile. Since 1915, WILPF has created analyses and organized actions that challenge the root causes of oppression, firm in its understanding that the intersections of these oppressions form the underlying cause of violence. These efforts have percolated through and strengthened many organizations, in turn fueling the power of the peace movement both nationally and internationally. Yet, during the past 10 to 15 years, WILPF's own membership has dwindled and media coverage of our organization has been dismal. The base of financial support for WILPF has also contracted. The members we do have feel well supported at the branch level but lack a sense of connection with the organization's national staff and board. In order to maintain and build our organization, there must be a more vital, more reciprocal relationship between members and the National Office and among branches.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

WILPF's strategic planning process (discussed in the Fall 2007 issue of *Peace and Freedom*) began in November 2006 when the National Office staff and board participated in an extended brainstorming session led by members Mary Zepernick and Virginia Rasmussen. Work on defining which areas of operations would be the focus of strategic changes continued in April 2007 under the guidance of Debbie Liardet, a professional facilitator with the Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz, CA. Between April and August, board and staff worked together to conduct research, including interviews with the staffs and boards of other social-justice organizations. Then, beginning in August, the board conducted two surveys of WILPF's membership, using both e-mail and regular mail, to determine the range of alternatives acceptable to our members.

IDENTIFYING AND IMPLEMENTING PRIORITIES

Though some strong disagreements among our members emerged during the survey stage, ultimately the board identified five proactive themes as priorities for strengthening WILPF.

WILPF members say they want:

1. WILPF to be front and center in policy debates on issues that match our mission and vision, and to be visible in the leadership of national coalitions and movement organizing;
2. WILPF to have a presence in the nation's capital in Washington, D.C. as well as at the United Nations in New York;
3. More communication resources from the National Office, particularly the information needed to mount short-term actions and documents providing political analysis;
4. More face-to-face statewide or cluster gatherings to refresh branch members and expand their networks;
5. Field organizers dedicated to organizing around specific issues.

Our strategic planning reflects research on all aspects of WILPF's structural base, and is focused on three primary areas: board structure [*see page 7*], office operations and staff structure, and program structure.

OFFICE OPERATIONS AND STAFF STRUCTURE

During November 2007, the board worked hard to identify an office operations and staffing plan that would deliver outcomes matched to the above priorities. But by the end of the month, it had become clear that the organization's financial footing had slipped. [*See the report from our treasurer, Ellen Murtha, on page 6.*] This reality further constrains the options available for implementing the strategic plan while simultaneously adding to the urgency of doing so. Following are descriptions of important plan elements and their anticipated scheduling, if known.

The WILPF National office is responsible for keeping current contact information on all members and for using this information to ensure timely distribution of information relevant to building and sustaining WILPF's educational, advocacy, and organizing activities. The office also keeps our financial records, tracking membership dues, pledges, and contributions and reporting on how these monies are used. These functions need to continue, but in a streamlined fashion that allows branches and issue committees easy access to such membership information. Therefore, we created an ad-hoc committee to research and make recommendations for the best and easiest-to-maintain technology interface to link our member database, website, and e-mail listservs. We hope to implement the committee's recommendations in conjunction with a major membership drive in late spring 2008.

We have also decided to integrate our organizational communications functions more deeply into the core of WILPF's national operations. Therefore, we plan to consolidate the existing positions of web manager, *Peace and Freedom* editor, and E-News editor into the single position of communications specialist and fill this position within the next few months. Our communications specialist will

also be charged with media outreach and developing the tools local organizers need to be heard in the press and in policy circles.

We recognize the need to prepare a new generation of leaders in WILPF. WILPF must become an organization that not only attracts younger members but also gives them an opportunity to be mentored as well as space to initiate their own ideas. Therefore we are planning to launch Young WILPF [Y-WILPF; see page 8] in the United States at this summer's National Congress in Des Moines [see page 10].

Y-WILPF is the international network for members 35 and younger within our organization, created in fall 2005 by WILPF International. Later this year, we intend to hire a dedicated organizer specifically to recruit younger members and build a new generation of WILPF leaders. She will also work with leadership at the branch level to assist them in making their meeting and organizing practices more welcoming to younger women.

Eventually, we want to hire a national director to serve as the voice of WILPF and be a presence at national meetings and coalitions, as well as a field organizer to work more broadly with WILPF branches and issue committees. By amplifying our message on the root causes of violence in these ways, we will establish a strong public presence and plant the seeds to both nurture existing donors and develop new sources of financial support.

NEW PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT OUR MULTI-ISSUE ORGANIZATION

WILPF members cherish the elasticity of WILPF's mission, using it as an umbrella that covers both single-issue campaigns and targeted political actions. Knowing that all injustices are interconnected, WILPF helps to build a broad movement for change and attracts a wide range of potential allies. However, our focus on root causes has also made it difficult for our members to focus their energies on addressing just two or three priorities at any given time. Every issue is a priority for someone.

WILPF's political work gets done through members and branches. Some focus on the national campaigns and issue committees, but most dedicate themselves to issues at the local level. For example, many branches have invested significant energies in actions opposing the Iraq War, yet work to end the Iraq War has not been integrated into the work plans for either of WILPF's 2005-2008 campaigns, nor has it been resourced in any meaningful way through our National Office or recognized as a priority by U.S. WILPF. WILPF needs to develop the means to respond more immediately and more effectively to foreign policy crises, the eruption of armed conflict, and the egregious



STRATEGIC PLANNERS: Standing, left to right: Board members Audley Greene, Cindy Domingo, Laura Roskos, Ann Pendell, Georgia Pinkel, Cynthia (CJ) Minster, and strategic planning consultant Debbie Liardet. Kneeling, Board members Ellen Murtha, Nancy Munger, Darien De Lu, Pat O'Brian (behind), and Chris Morin. Sitting at front left, strategic planning consultant Nancy Heischman.

abuse of human rights.

Because we believe such local-level work is at the core of fulfilling the vision and mission of WILPF, we envision a national program structure that better recognizes and supports the work initiated by branches and members. Our present structure utilizes volunteer leadership teams, aided by national staff, but lacks the resources and time to develop projects that can make a significant impact on national and international affairs. Thus our new program structure will be designed to be fluid rather than restrained by the current three-year board/campaign cycle. Our goal is to make it easier to channel our organizational resources — women power and money — into powerful interventions that will create the changes we want to see.

Therefore, our existing and subsequent program funding will be reallocated into a “mini grant” program to make monies available on a rolling basis to branches, issue committees, and members who have a clear, focused project or intervention mapped out. Our decision to work in this way is based in part on the success of the Racial Justice Grant program piloted in fall 2006, which provided critical seed money to support the Boston Branch's coalition work to stop the construction of a Level 4 “bio-weapons” facility and to the Rockford (IL) College Branch to create a documentary film on the race segregation in Rockford Public Schools, among other activities.

In addition to financial support for WILPF programs at the local level, we will continue to encourage WILPFers to

Continued on page 6 ➤

► PLANNING *Continued from previous page*

coordinate on the national level to develop analyses and create actions on national and international policy through issue committees. Our Program Committee will continue to convene national activists and create a space where our national program leaders can develop unified communication vehicles, such as the Program Updates and E-News,

to convey information about WILPF activities. By supporting program work initiated on the local level with funding and staff, our campaigns and national actions will unfold organically, in a way that is less tied to WILPF's Triennial Congress schedule. Further details and applications for the mini-grant program will be available by June 2008.

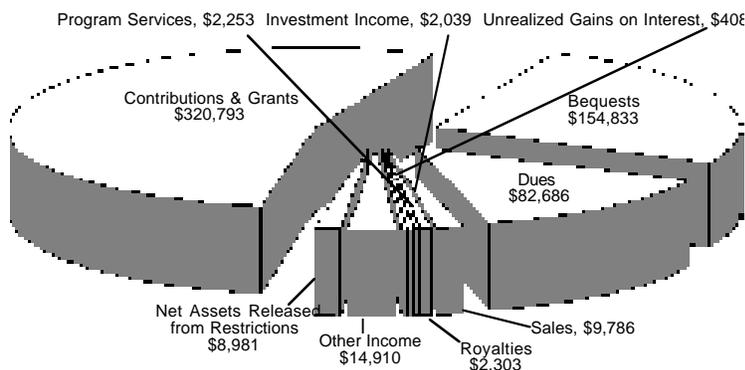
Following through with these priorities will lead the way to a new and vibrant WILPF. Please join us in volunteering any and every way you can! ♦

U.S. WILPF Comparison of Income

Between Partial Year 2007 (not audited) and 2006/2005 (audited)

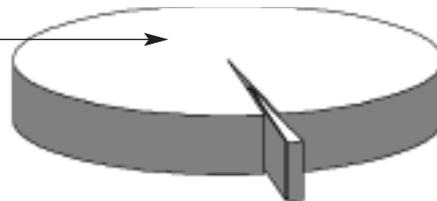
	2007 (10 mo. partial year)	2006 (audited)	2005 (audited)
Contributions & Grants	239,736	320,793	379,972
Bequests	70,150	154,833	145,644
Membership Dues	58,300	82,686	114,260
Sales	7,879	9,786	9,161
Royalties	1,953	2,303	2,496
Program Services	5,000	2,253	1,753
Contributed Legal Fees	0	0	1,463
Investment Income	3,548	2,039	577
Unrealized Gains on Interest	0	408	163
Other Income	14,947	14,910	7,914
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	8,981	0	0
Total	\$401,513	\$590,011	\$663,403

Revenue (Total: \$598,992) Statement of Activities 2006



Expenses (Total: \$555,217) Statement of Activities 2006

Operating Expenses: \$549,290
 Cost of Sales: \$5,709
 Interest Expense: \$167
 Realized Loss on Investments: \$51
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$555,217



Balance Sheet (as of 11/30/07) and Cash Flow Projections (simplified)

Assets (includes checking, savings, Pax Fund, bequest savings, petty cash) \$52,250

Liabilities (includes credit card debt, Philadelphia City taxes, loans) \$31,511

Projected expenses for December 2007 (payroll, taxes, benefits, postage, printing, assessment, program, utilities, phone, Internet, etc.) \$50,346
Balance - \$29,607

Operating Expenses - Breakdown Statement of Activities 2006

Salaries \$205,953	Office Supplies/Expense \$6,358	Conferences/Travel \$32,806
Payroll Taxes \$23,553	Maintenance/Repairs \$5,145	Interns \$13,195
Employee Benefits \$49,517	Equipment \$9,117	Bank Charges, Merchant Fees \$2,572
Professional Fees \$41,310	Depreciation \$1,799	Books \$116
Legal/Accounting Fees \$4,300	Computer Service \$98	Special Events \$14,310
Printing \$25,944	Insurance \$8,424	Advertising/Promotion \$1,710
Postage \$19,654	International Assessment \$25,740	Misc. \$881
Rent & Utilities \$20,970	JAPA Commissions \$21,685	
Telephone/Communications \$7,374	Coalition/Membership Dues \$6,759	
		Total Operating Expenses \$549,290

Run for WILPF's U.S. Section Board!

Positions Available for Self-Nomination

WILPF's U.S. Section is now seeking candidates to run for the organization's National Board. Serving on the board is an opportunity to represent the membership in making important decisions about WILPF's future, to help steward and build its resources, and to share and develop your leadership and technical skills.

The board meets twice a year in person and also holds several conference calls. Terms run three years, from the June 2008 Congress through the 2011 Congress.

To nominate yourself, request an application from Nomination Committee member Chris Morin (funforlife1@mac.com; 757-229-3384) or Pat O'Brien (patob777@verizon.net; 617-576-0649).

The deadline for completed nomination applications is February 28, 2008. All candidates must run for a specific position.

Election ballots will be mailed to the entire membership March 15, 2008, and results will be available no later than May 10. Position descriptions in accordance with by-laws are as follows:

The **treasurer** is the chief fiscal officer of the section and chair of the Finance Committee and, with the committee and staff, works on preparing and monitoring the budget. The treasurer presents a written report to the National Board on an annual basis and to the U.S. Section Congress in the year it meets. In addition to chairing the Finance Committee, the treasurer is also a member of the Steering, Development, and National Congress committees, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

The **secretary** collects all minutes from each board meeting. She works to insure that minutes are coherent, corrected, and readily available for reference. She maintains a full record of policy decisions taken by the board, ensuring that these decisions are disseminated within the organization to all relevant subgroups and individuals.

Additionally, in co-operation with staff, she works to maintain consistency of board actions with existing decisions and policy. The secretary is a member of the Steering Committee, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

The **program chairs** (two positions) oversee the Program Committee (comprising themselves and representatives from each issue committee plus relevant staff), which has responsibility for ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of WILPF's programmatic activities, including fostering broad participation of the organization's mem-

bers in these activities. In addition to chairing the Program Committee, the program chairs are also members of the

Steering and National Congress committees, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

The **personnel chair** oversees the Personnel Committee (comprising the personnel chair, operations director, a representative appointed by staff, and members in the Philadelphia area and elsewhere

appointed by the board in consultation with staff members), which has responsibility for ensuring that all personnel policies are implemented, particularly in the areas of staff evaluations and career development, and for making recommendations regarding personnel issues, including revisions of the personnel policies, as needed to either the Finance or Steering committees. In addition to chairing the Personnel Committee, the personnel chair is also a member of the Steering Committee, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

The **development chair** oversees the Development Committee (comprising the development chair, relevant WILPF and JAPA staff, and WILPF members who have some experience and interest in fundraising appointed by the development chair with board agreement), which is responsible for ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of WILPF's development activities, including fostering broad participation by the organization's members in activities intended to expand WILPF's financial resources and support base. In addition to chairing the Development Committee, the development chair is also a member of the Steering, Finance, and National Congress committees, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

The **Nominating Committee chair** is responsible for overseeing the Nominating Committee (comprising the Nominating Committee chair and WILPF members with interest in expanding the number of people involved in the national leadership of the section as appointed by the nominating chair with board agreement), which secures nominations for delegates to the International Congress, the International Board representative position, elected board positions, and any other ad hoc positions that may arise. Her goal is to encourage member participation in WILPF at the national and international levels and to help expand our leadership circles. In addition to chairing the Nominating Committee, the Nominating Committee chair is also a member of the Steering and National Congress committees as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees. ♦

NOMINATE YOURSELF

Request an application from either
Chris Morin
(funforlife1@mac.com; 757-229-3384)
or
Pat O'Brien
(patob777@verizon.net; 617-576-0649)

WILPF Launches Network for Young Peace Activists

**Become a part of Young WILPF (Y-WILPF),
the international network for
activists 35 and younger!
June 24-29, 2008 in Des Moines, IA**

In the fall of 2005, a proposal from our European WILPF sisters established the Young WILPF (Y-WILPF) network in London. Last summer, Y-WILPF continued to grow and self-organize at WILPF's Triennial International Congress in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Now, Y-WILPF is inviting you to join us as we officially launch the U.S. affiliate of this unique network for young activists at the U.S. Section's National Congress in Des Moines, IA this coming June.

Everyone interested in building Y-WILPF in the United States is invited to gather on June 24 for a day of strategizing prior to the formal opening of congress. This meeting offers an opportunity to explore and enhance our skills and vision while learning more about WILPF's history and mission. Most important, it provides a forum in which to strengthen the connections among WILPF members 35 and younger, and to create the means by which we can stay in touch and help build WILPF as a membership organization.

The goals for the Y-WILPF gathering include:

- Choosing two representatives for the National Board
- Expanding WILPF's outreach on college campuses and beyond
- Developing young members' organizing skills
- Igniting a multi-racial, multi-class, multi-gendered movement
- Building on WILPF's unique history

Why the Y?

There is a **Y** in our name, and this is what it means:

Yes — we have European sisters who kicked off Y-WILPF in London in the fall of 2005, inspiring our work to bring more young women into our activism

Yes — we are ready to build a movement in the United States

Yes — we are different from other women's groups

Yes — we educate, advocate, and agitate for the right of women the world over to live free of violence by addressing the root causes of war.

Y? Because WILPF has been inspiring, exhilarating, and organizing young women for 93 years!

What better time than now to
Become a part of Young WILPF (Y -WILPF),
the international network for
activists 35 and younger?
June 24-29, 2008 in Des Moines, IA

The \$375 fee includes registration, all meals, and housing and covers both the Y-WILPF gathering and the National Congress. Scholarships and sliding-scale fees are available. To register, please use the form provided in this issue of *Peace and Freedom* [see page 10] or contact the National Office at wilpf@wilpf.org or 215-563-7110 and ask for a registration form. Deadline to register is May 16, 2008. Reply now to help organize the event! ♦

Have you considered honoring a foremother or WILPF role model with a tribute in the Congress program?

Special pricing for branches and members:

\$350 full page (8.5" x 11"); \$125 for half page; \$75 for quarter page; \$50 for eighth page. Color and/or layout assistance extra.

**Contact Maggie McGill, 2104 75th Street, Des Moines, IA 50322.
Phone: 515-278-5156; Email: maggiemcgill2@msn.com**



Location Motivation Quiz

for WILPF's U.S. Section Triennial Congress 2008*

By Mary Hanson Harrison

1. Where can you listen to one of the top summer opera companies in the world?
2. What city still offers a chance to sit and watch an outdoor movie?
3. Where can you visit North America's largest research center for the study of the cognitive and communication abilities of the great apes? (Extra credit: List the four species of great apes. Hint: Three are from Africa, one from Asia.)
4. What is the name of the gorgeous arboretum and flower garden planted in 1906 adjacent to our Congress 2008 site?
5. Where can you stroll through an internationally acclaimed art museum designed by famed architect I.M. Pei, among others? (Extra credit: For what particular type of art is the museum known?)
6. Where in Iowa (yes!) can you find an award-winning winery?
7. Where can you find a prized example of an American Tudor Gothic castle modeled on King's House in Salisbury, England?

* You'll find the answers below. Surprised? We hope so.



Above and below: Buildings on the campus of Simpson College.

Photos: Mary Hanson Harrison

The Des Moines Branch of WILPF cordially, emphatically, and energetically invites all of you to share the Heartland of America with us. Save June 25-June 29, 2008 for our U.S. Section Triennial Congress at the campus of Simpson College in Indianola, IA, where we can congregate, concentrate, and motivate our way to a better, bigger, and more brilliant future for WILPF and progressive action across the nation.

Simpson College (www.simpson.edu) offers us an opportunity to be near Iowa's capitol, Des Moines, yet have a corner of the world just for ourselves. All accommodations are within a block or two of each other. Come and get to know the "new," global Iowa — full of diverse communities and ready to welcome you. ❖



ANSWERS

1. Simpson College campus (the Des Moines Opera Company)
2. Indianola, Iowa
3. Des Moines, Iowa (the Great Ape Trust of Iowa) Bonus question: Africa: bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas; Asia: orangutans
4. Buxton Park
5. Des Moines, Iowa (the Des Moines Art Center). Bonus question: Contemporary art
6. Indianola, Iowa (Summeret Winery)
7. Des Moines, Iowa (Salisbury House)

Moving Forward, Making Peace

WILPF U.S. Section Triennial Congress

.....
 Wed. June 25-Sun. June 29, 2008, Des Moines, IA

REGISTRATION FORM

Space is limited. Pre-registration must be received by May 16, 2008 to ensure meals and lodging.

Name _____ Branch _____ At-Large Member _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Email _____

____ Please don't include my telephone number or email on the list of Congress attendees.

The Congress fee of \$300.00 includes registration, event materials, all events, all meals (lunch Wednesday through breakfast Sunday), and lodging in a double-occupancy room in a Simpson College residence hall.

The Young WILPF Gathering fee of \$75 includes all activities, all meals (lunch Tuesday through breakfast on Wednesday), and lodging in a double-occupancy room in a Simpson College residence hall.

To request scholarship assistance: Please contact the WILPF Congress registrar at congress@wilpf.org.

Note: There is no lodging available without the meal plan. Meals can be purchased without lodging if you register in advance. A few meal tickets for individual meals may be available "first come, first served."

I would like to room with: 1st choice _____
 2nd choice _____

Special meal requests: vegetarian ____ vegan ____ other (specify) _____

Special accommodation needs _____

Young WILPF Gathering — 1 day (June 24) and 1 extra night: \$ 75.00 \$ _____

ENTIRE CONGRESS — 5 days, 4 nights includes all lodging, meals, and registration: \$300.00 \$ _____

Single-room supplement, per night: \$15.00 Number of nights _____ X \$ 15.00 \$ _____

"Congress Day" including lodging, meals, and registration

(A Congress Day is 11 a.m. one day to 11 a.m. the next. Check all that apply.)

Wednesday - Thursday	\$ 75.00	\$ _____
Thursday - Friday	\$ 75.00	\$ _____
Friday - Saturday	\$ 75.00	\$ _____
Saturday - Sunday	\$ 75.00	\$ _____

Meals and registration only — no lodging

Entire Congress	\$ 205.00	\$ _____
Wednesday — registration, lunch, and dinner	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
Thursday — registration, lunch, and dinner	\$ 55.00	\$ _____
Friday — registration, lunch, and dinner	\$ 55.00	\$ _____
Saturday — registration, lunch, and dinner	\$ 55.00	\$ _____
Sunday	\$ 0.00	\$ 0

Registration only — no meals or lodging

Entire Congress	\$ 125.00	\$ _____
Wednesday	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
Thursday	\$ 35.00	\$ _____
Friday	\$ 35.00	\$ _____
Saturday	\$ 35.00	\$ _____
Sunday	\$ 0.00	\$ 0

I would like to become a WILPF member (individual, 1 yr) \$ 35.00 \$ _____

Scholarship donation \$ _____

Registering after May 16 (\$25 additional) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO WILPF. PAYMENT VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS (Visa, Master Card, or Am Ex only)

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ TOTAL _____

IMPORTANT DEADLINES: Registration must be RECEIVED by May 16, 2008. Late registrations require a \$25 late fee.

Refund requests will be granted (50%) if received before June 10. No refunds honored if requested after June 10.

**E-mail any questions regarding registration to congress@wilpf.org. Mail completed registration form and payment to:
 Ellen Schwartz, 9629 Bradhugh Ct., Sacramento, CA 95827**



BranchAction News

By Dannelle Hauser, Branch Action editor

Branches reporting: Cape Cod, Central Vermont, Des Moines, Los Angeles, Madison, Milwaukee, Minnesota Metro, Monterey, Peninsula, Philadelphia, Portland, St. Louis, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Triangle, Tucson.

Fellow WILPF Members: Currently I have the privilege and pleasure of reviewing all of the branches' information and activities. Please continue to send all your newsletters to the National Office for review. – *Dannelle Hauser*

MIDDLE EAST

Minnesota Metro, Philadelphia, Portland, and Triangle attended the anti-Iraq war mobilization in Washington, D.C. on September 15, which called for an end to the war and for the impeachment of members of the Bush Administration. **Madison** attended a rally and march to the U.S. Capitol steps to “End the War and Impeach for Peace” on September 22. **Philadelphia** hosted speaker Louisa Swartz on September 30, presenting an “Eyewitness Report from the Middle East: Assessing Prospects for Peace.” **Central Vermont, Los Angeles, Madison, Peninsula, Philadelphia, San Jose, St. Louis, Triangle, and Tucson** all participated in and promoted United for Peace and Justice’s National Day to End the War in Iraq on October 27. **Portland** held a “Get on the Bus” demonstration to stop the war and to recruit participants for the event. **Los Angeles** endorsed an event presented by the American Friends Service Committee titled “Beyond Borders: The Iraqi Displacement Crisis and What Can Be Done to Stop It.” **Peninsula** hosted speaker Phyllis Bennis, senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, at the Church of Palo Alto to discuss “Talking Points: The Middle East.” **Tucson** is holding study/ action groups on the Middle East as well as running an Israel/ Palestine group. **St. Louis** and **San Jose** are holding weekly peace and/or Women in Black vigils. **Cape Cod, Minnesota Metro, and Santa Cruz** hosted speakers/ events addressing the conflict in Israel/ Palestine and held discussions on attaining a culture of peace.

SAVE THE WATER

Des Moines convened for informal water study sessions in September, decided to narrow their focus to the local water



ABOVE: The Milwaukee Branch was part of a coalition of groups that participated in a rally at City Hall on behalf of International Human Rights Day on December 17, 2007.

BELOW: Veteran WILPFer Rose Daitzman spoke at the rally.

Photos: Sue Ruggles



situation, then held informational sessions for the public on Tuesday nights in September and October. **Cape Cod, Los Angeles, and Minnesota Metro** promoted “Blue October” and challenged corporate control of water. **Cape Cod’s** program included celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. On December 1, **San Jose** held a peace fair in conjunction with the San Jose Peace Center and the Veterans for Peace Iraq Water Project. **Santa Barbara** held an event titled “Water, Drought, and Conservation” featuring speakers from various local water departments. **Tucson** developed a “Water Bill of Rights” and is working to have it adopted into the city charter to promote cleaner water.

DISARMAMENT

Central Vermont, Minnesota Metro, Monterey, St. Louis, and Portland commemorated the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan on August 6, 1945. On August 6 (Hiroshima Day 2007), the Tucson City Council

Continued on page 15 ➤

Water and Elections

By Linda Park

When properly run and with an informed electorate, elections advance our democracy. Unfortunately, we cannot say with any confidence that either of these criteria were met in the recent elections. We in WILPF need to demand substantive news coverage and real public debate on the pertinent issues of our time so that we are sufficiently informed to cast an educated vote.

In the area of water security, two questions need to be asked of every candidate:

- Will you adequately fund the Clean Water Act?
- What is your position on the privatization of water systems?

If we do not get the right answers to these questions, we must do our best to ensure that such candidates are not elected. The “right answers” are committing substantial new funding to the act and a pledge to keep water systems public.

KEEP THE CLEAN WATER ACT AFLOAT

The 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA) states that “it is national policy that Federal financial assistance be provided to construct publicly owned treatment work.” This commitment to fund water infrastructure was reiterated in the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Over the first 12 years of the CWA, the U.S. government funded the act to such an extent that it became the largest non-military public works program since the Interstate Highway System. During the Reagan years, this funding was phased down with the intent to eliminate it. For example, in 1987, Congress changed the CWA’s funding method, introducing State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs) to provide seed money to states to lend to local communities for water projects.

These funds were made available to both publicly and privately owned water systems and remained in effect through the 1990s. In 2000, the Clean Water SRF’s budget was \$1.35 billion. In fiscal year 2006, funding declined to \$887 million, and the current administration’s goal is to eliminate the fund by 2011. Funding for the Drinking Water SRF has stagnated at \$840 million per year despite the requirement that communities upgrade their water-

quality standards to reduce arsenic and other contaminants.

The current House of Representatives has taken a step to halt this downward trend with the passage in March 2007 of HR 720, which sets the SRF funding level at \$14 billion, to be spread over the next four years. However, the Senate has not acted on this bill since it was referred to committee. Moreover, there remains an estimated \$22 billion per year gap in the funding needed to bring our water and wastewater systems up to the minimal standards set by the CWA. There has been some movement in Congress to address this dire funding need. Both houses passed the Water Resources Funding Bill in the amount of \$23 billion to coincide with the 35th Anniversary of the CWA. It was vetoed by President Bush on November 2, 2007. In an amazing show of unity, both houses of Congress overrode the presidential veto within one week and it became law on November 9. The downside to this success story is that the bill has never been funded.

Currently, taxpayers pay about 90 percent of infrastructure costs, and these rates are expected to grow at about 6 percent above inflation if costs remain at current levels, according to Food and Water Watch. But without federal assistance to help local governments meet the increasing need for additional water infrastructure and repairs to existing structures, water billing rates are expected to rise 123 percent over the next 20 years. This situation leaves the United States ripe for water privatization.

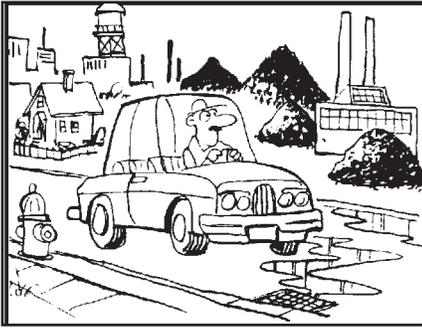
MAINTAIN WATER AS A PUBLIC RESOURCE

At present, private companies can obtain tax-exempt funding through a limited number of private activity bonds (PABs) to build water infrastructure. These PABs are limited to a certain number per state to limit corporate access to tax-free financing. Companies and some in the political arena have been lobbying Congress to increase the allowed



RESOURCES

See the extent of water privatization by visiting the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy web site at www.tradeobservatory.org. The “water issue” section features a national map showing the cities that currently have signed contracts to manage, or have sold, their water systems as well as those that have “fired” their water contractors.



number of PABs. A 2005 survey of city governments by the Urban Water Council found that 38 percent of those surveyed had used SRF funds, while only 0.8 percent had used PABs.

This trend seems to indicate a preference for public financing and ownership of water systems in those cities.

Alternatively, Food and Water Watch has suggested that the federal government establish a Water Trust Fund that could be used to pay the expenses necessary to keep our water clean and accessible to the public. This arrangement could be similar to the Highway Trust Fund, which guarantees a certain level of funding to protect a national priority, roadways. What priority could be more important than clean water for all? We all need water to survive, and because safeguarding this resource often requires crossing city and state lines, establishing a Water Trust Fund should be high on any candidate's agenda.

The United States is already in the midst of the struggle to keep water in the public domain. Several high-profile cities, including Atlanta and Stockton, California, have tried privatization and then changed their minds. Many others (including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles,

The government is the best guardian of the water commons because unlike corporations, which serve only their stockholders, governments are designed to serve their constituents — and all constituents are water users.

Denver, Seattle, and the District of Columbia) currently contract with private companies that either own or manage their water systems. Major multinational corporations involved in these contracts include Bechtel, RWE (its U.S. subsidiary, American Water), Suez (its U.S. subsidiary, United Water Resources), Veolia, and American International Group (AIG).

The Save the Water Campaign has previously written about why water should not be privatized, and it's worth repeating. As the American Water Works Association states, "historically in the United States, the public has demanded their water and wastewater service, so critical to life and preservation of the environment, be entrusted to public management and operation." We in WILPF believe

water is a part of the commons and must be protected for all. The government is the best guardian of the water commons because unlike corporations, which serve only their stockholders, governments are designed to serve their constituents — and all constituents are water users.

Water is a human right and must be protected. We must ask the right questions and demand answers that will bring us to the day when water is safe, readily available, and part of the commons.

Stockholders look for constant and increasing profits, which do not always translate to good service for all customers. If they are not earning the expected profits, corporations can walk away, as CH2M Hill did in East Cleveland, OH in 2004. Governments cannot leave. Their *raison d'être* is to serve the public. Thus it is essential to safeguard our water systems and remain vigilant to ensure that they stay in the public domain.

TAKE ACTION LOCALLY

Often, a local government will privatize the water system without informing the public of its intent to do so or of the nature of the contract being negotiated. Therefore, we must get involved in influencing our local governments and let our leaders know that water privatization is not an option. For example, if you see trucks marked with the names of the water companies listed above, call your local water authority and ask why these companies' services are being used. Attend committee meetings of your town or city council and keep track of proposals on the table.

The current federal SRF funding allows public dollars to be spent on public-private partnerships that give tax exemptions to the corporations involved. We must demand that this loophole be closed. And in the case of PABs, we should not give away taxpayer funds that could be better used by public agencies to private concerns. Corporations should not be allowed to receive directly the federal dollars for rebuilding water infrastructure, and regulations that allow this arrangement must be changed.

Water is a human right and must be protected by and for everyone. This fact demands that, come election time, we must ask the right questions of candidates and demand answers that will bring us to the day when water is safe, readily available, and part of the commons.

Linda Park is active in the Save the Water Campaign.

Illustrations in this article were developed by University of Wisconsin-Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, and Wisconsin Basin Education Initiative. See Water Resources Education at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/>



JAPA Holds Book Awards Ceremony

By Sandy Silver, Judith Joseph, and Joan Goddard

The Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA), the educational affiliate of WILPF, has made awards for children's books annually since 1953. Continuing its tradition, JAPA held the 2007 Jane Addams Children's Book Award (JACBA) ceremony October 19 before an audience of more than 125 people.

The books, selected from among hundreds of submissions, met the criteria for most effectively addressing themes or topics that promote peace, justice, world community, and/or equality of the sexes and all races. (For a list of winners, visit www.janeaddamspeace.org, or see the Fall 2007 issue of Peace and Freedom.) The inspirational



Members of a JAPA book award reading club, from New York City were some of the 125 attendees.

setting for this year's ceremony — overlooking the United Nations building with flags of different countries waving in the heavy breeze — was matched by the speeches given by the authors and illustrators of the winning books.

Through the years, WILPF branches have been very creative in using JACBA winners in their communities. [See page 15 to learn about how the books are used in Japan.] Featuring the books is a proven-successful method of promoting WILPF. It attracts new members, raises WILPF's visibility, and educates the community

about WILPF's mission and activities, as well as strengthening and building ties to sister organizations in the community.

The JAPA Peace Education Project Committee, using suggestions and ideas generously offered by WILPF branches throughout the United States, has prepared a toolkit to help make it easier for branches and at-large members

to make the most of the book awards. The kit contains a timeline for the children's book awards, promotional ideas and a variety of promotional materials, sample press releases, and invitations. We consider this kit to be the first edition, and are looking forward to hearing your suggestions and examples of past practices. The toolkit is sent automatically with each set of books ordered, and is also available on the JAPA website at www.janeaddamspeace.org.

All branches or at-large members that intend to donate JAPA books to libraries or schools in the name of WILPF and JAPA are invited to place their orders with the Jane Addams Peace Association office. A set of books costs \$70. This price includes postage and insurance. Send your check with mailing instructions to:

Jane Addams Peace Association
777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10017

JAPA will host this year's JACBA award presentation on October 17, 2008 in New York. Please join us!

Sandy Silver, Judith Joseph, and Joan Goddard are members of the JAPA Board of Directors.

The Jane Addams Peace Association currently has openings on its board of directors. Please contact Linda Belle at the JAPA office for nomination papers: 212-682-8830 or japa@igc.org. We are especially eager to recruit women with experience or interest in financial matters.



Award-winning author Elizabeth Winthrop speaking beneath a photograph of WILPF founder Jane Addams.

Photos: Heidi Trester

This Peace Education section is funded by the Jane Addams Peace Association.

► BRANCH ACTION

Continued from page 11

passed a resolution submitted by **Tucson** WILPF and others that commemorated the lives lost in the nuclear weapons attacks, and called on Congress to enact HR 68, a plan for worldwide nuclear disarmament. **Des Moines** held a peace fair downtown on September 22 in honor of International Day of Peace. **Cape Cod, Central Vermont, Los Angeles, Minnesota Metro, Portland,** and **Tucson** all recognized the 50th Anniversary of U.N. Resolution 2222, the treaty governing countries' use and exploration of outer space, by participating in Keep Space for Peace Week October 4-13. **Tucson** held a program called "Arsenal of Hypocrisy" at the Martha Cooper Library October 13. It presented information on the U.S. space program and the "military-industrial complex" in an effort to protest the government's plan to spend trillions to attain "full-spectrum dominance" of land, sea, air, and outer space.

LEGISLATION

Los Angeles expressed unwavering opposition to the revisions to the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) last August, which would extend and expand warrantless government spying and wiretapping authority. **Peninsula** urged its congressional representatives to vote "no" on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, and asked that they instead vote for more federal funds for schools with no strings attached. **Portland** and **St. Louis** have been promoting U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325, which addresses war's impact on women and women's contributions to conflict resolution, as well as HR 146, a bill to implement UNSCR 1325 that would help end the violence against women in conflict zones, the armed services, and during post-conflict reconstruction.

OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN

Portland celebrated Women's Equality Day (August 26) on August 5, the 87th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. On October 14, **Cape Cod** hosted a conference on human trafficking called "Dreams of Freedom." The event included art and performances celebrating freedom and empowerment for survivors. **Minnesota Metro** held a luncheon with several speakers on October 24. The event featured a screening of the documentary "The Devil Came on Horseback," about the situation in Darfur. On November 18, **Cape Cod** held a Susan B. Anthony Walkathon to raise money for WILPF and to help sponsor young women at the National Congress in June 2008.



The Santa Cruz Branch's Raging Grannies serenaded WILPF's Board last April.

Photo: Paul Johnson

RAGING AND ROARING WITH THE SANTA CRUZ WILPF RAGING GRANNIES: AN ACTIVIST'S SONGBOOK is a compilation of 39 witty and hilarious parodies written to the tunes of well-known songs, for and by the gaggle of grandmothers who make up the Raging Grannies of Santa Cruz WILPF.

Edited by Jan Harwood, a co-founder of the local gaggle, the book contains dozens of photos of Grannies in action. The last half of the book is devoted to a brief look at ten of the hundreds of other Raging Granny gaggles around the country and in Canada and includes photos, stories, and a few choice songs from each group. As Medea Benjamin, who wrote the book's foreword, says, this is a songbook to take "with you to vigils, demos, rallies — whatever — and singing your heart out for peace!"

The Granny songbook is available to WILPF members for \$12.95 for one, \$24 for two, or \$36 for three. Make checks payable to Santa Cruz Raging Grannies at P.O. Box 61, Santa Cruz, CA 95063.



At Kamida Elementary School in Neyagawa City, Osaka, Japan, New York artist Art Taro introduced "A Place Where Sunflowers Grow," a Jane Addams Peace Association Book Award Winner, to schoolchildren there.

Join Your WILPF Sisters to Pledge for Peace

Since 1915, WILPF has been working to create a global, lasting peace.

Join us as we make peace a reality in 2008!

If you pledge to WILPF, your membership status will remain current as long as you continue your pledge. No more renewals!

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My pledge will be on a monthly basis: __\$50 __\$25 __\$15 __\$10 __Other

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Expiration date _____ Signature _____

Option for credit card or debit card only!! Please check here _____ if you wish to make your monthly pledge to the U.S. Fund of the Jane Addams Peace Association. These gifts are fully tax-deductible.

With your pledge of support, you will receive a subscription to *Peace & Freedom*.

Mail to: WILPF, 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia PA 19107

For more information, call 215-563-7110 or email wilpf@wilpf.org.

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