



## MID CONTINENT REGIONAL BOARD NEWSLETTER January 2011

### MANAGER'S MUSINGS

To All Mid-Continent Region Members,

Happy New Year!!!!

We really do accomplish things for the region during our board meeting weekends, as well as have a bit of fun, and that we did in Omaha in October.

We still have some available positions on the Regional Board. The Regional Representative, Legislative Chair and Membership Chair have been filled but the Compliance Chair and Historian are still vacant. There are also other positions that have same person as more than one position and could use a replacement for one or the other. The vacant chair positions will be filled by appointment.



Melissa Mayeaux is the new Regional Representative, replacing Joan Chopp whom National had an issue with since she became National Secretary. If you are interested in serving in one of the vacant or duplicate positions, please let Melissa or I know as soon as possible. Your support is needed and will be very much appreciated.

Joan will remain a member of the board as Immediate Past Regional Manager and Regional Assistant, which is okay with National. We just won't let her off the hook.

Next, the favorite Quarterly Report submission - Please mark on your Chapter Calendars:

**November 2010 thru January 2011 – report due NLT February 10, 2011**

**February 2011 thru April 2011 – report due NLT May 10, 2011**

**May 2011 thru July 2011 – report due NLT August, 10, 2011**

**August 2011 thru October 2011 – report due NLT November 10, 2011**

### Mark Your Calendars for FEW Events for 2011:

- March 24 - 27, 2011 FEW National Sponsored - Chapter Presidents and Regional Manager Leadership Forum at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Embarcadero Center, and San Francisco, CA.
- July 18 – 22, 2011 – National Training Program “Your Future Let it Ring the Sound of Success” in Philadelphia, PA

Next board meeting will be in April. Date and location still pending.

## Our History is our Strength



Women's History Month 2011  
By Pam Makovicka

The stories of women's achievements are an important part of our history. Knowing these women's stories provides essential role models for everyone. Role models are genuinely needed to face the extraordinary changes and unrelenting challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I want to share my research into women who are Nebraska Role models.



Ruth Etting, born in David City, Nebraska on November 23, 1897, was renowned for her great beauty and her gorgeous voice. She starred on Broadway, made movies in Hollywood, had numerous hit records, and was known as America's Sweetheart of Song. Ruth left home at age 17 for Chicago and art school. She got a job designing costumes at a night club and when the tenor became ill, she was pulled into the show since she was the only one who could sing low enough. That led to dancing in the chorus line and eventually featured solos.

In 1926 she was discovered by Columbia records, which led to her nation-wide exposure. In 1927 she went to New York and was an instant success. Irving Berlin hired her for the Ziegfeld follies and she starred in Whoopee and Simple Simon on Broadway. Ruth had over sixty hit recordings. Among her best, "Button Up Your Overcoat," "Mean to Me" and in the depression, "Ten Cents a Dance." Her versions of "Shine on Harvest Moon," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "You Made Me Love You" and "Love Me or Leave Me" became her signature songs.

Ruth Etting made her first record in 1926 and her last in 1937. In 1955 her story was made into a movie, “Love Me or Leave Me,” ultimately nominated for six Academy Awards and winning the Award for Best Story.



Another interesting subject is Louise Pound, a distinguished scholar, renowned athlete and a feminist pioneer. She was a member of a distinguished Nebraska family and completed her undergraduate education at the University of Nebraska. When American Universities would not admit her for graduate studies, she went to obtain a PhD in Heidelberg, Germany. She returned to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to teach in the English department for the next forty-five years.

As a scholar Louise crusaded for the serious study of American English and founded the field’s leading journal and fought tirelessly to open athletic and professional opportunities for women. She was, in short, what some called a universal woman. She also befriended and played an influential role in the life of Willa Cather during Cather’s years at the University of Nebraska.



The final woman I am featuring is former Governor Kay Orr. Kay Orr began her political career when she volunteered as a Republican Party worker in 1964. Her early political view was to curb big government in Washington and increase support for local government. Early in her political career she worked for Richard Nixon, Carl Curtis, Roman Hruska and Nobby Tiemann. In 1969 she was named an Outstanding Young Republican Woman in Nebraska. In 1984 she made Republican Party history when she was named co-chairman of the GOP National Platform Committee.

In 1977 she became campaign coordinator for Charles Thone in his fourth-term bid as first district representative. The next year she directed Thone’s campaign for the governorship and was appointed the first woman Chief-of-Staff to a governor after his election. In 1982 she became the first woman ever elected to a statewide constitutional office in Nebraska, that of State Treasurer. In 1986, Kay Orr emerged victorious to become the first Republican woman in the nation’s history to be elected as a governor.

These are stories of just a few of the Nebraska women who are role models for all and this makes their history our strength.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## FEW Board of Directors Meeting in St. Louis

The FEW National Board of Directors (NBOD) Meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri 17-19 February 2011 at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, downtown St. Louis.

This meeting is providing a wonderful opportunity to create excitement about FEW in our area. We are planning a number of agency visits to garner support for more FEW chapters in the area.

The Mid America Chapter is also proud to announce that we will be hosting a reception in conjunction with this meeting on Thursday Feb 17, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency. We are excited to give the chapter members, prospective new FEW members, and local dignitaries this opportunity to meet the FEW Board.

I encourage anyone interested in attending a NBOD meeting to join us. For more information contact Marion Stevens, President Mid America Chapter at [marionstevensm@charter.net](mailto:marionstevensm@charter.net) or (618) 632-1695.

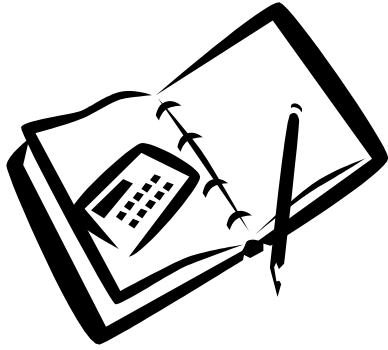
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## Mid America Chapter Host Annual Training

The Mid America Chapter Federally Employed Women is hosting its 18th annual training program on Wednesday May 18, 2011 at the Regency Conference Center, O'Fallon, IL. The program is a full day of training with nine seminars, continental breakfast, a full lunch, and lots of vendors and information tables. We hope you will consider joining us for this day of information, networking, and fun.

Registration packages will be available in February. For more information contact Marion Stevens, President Mid America Chapter at [marionstevensm@charter.net](mailto:marionstevensm@charter.net) or (618) 632-1695.



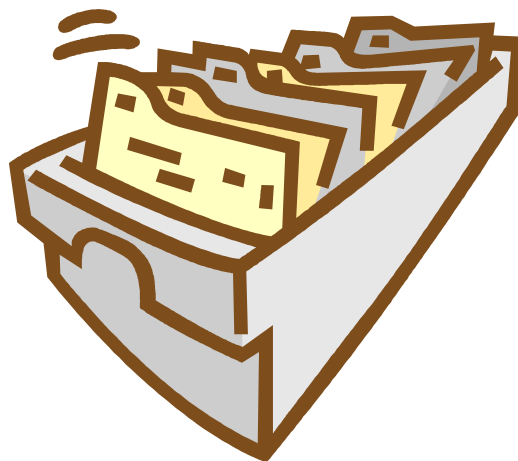
## **Are Your Chapters Records Up-to-Date?**

As Region Treasurer and Treasurer for the Mid America Chapter there are a number of financial things I need to do after the end of the year. Maybe you need to do some of the same things.

Illinois requires the chapter to file an annual report as a charitable organization. Do you have such a requirement in your state? Also each chapter must file an e-Postcard Federal tax return. It is very simple to go online to do this. Instructions are on the FEW website.

If you are changing Treasurers you will need to have an audit of your books. I recommend that you have your books annually even when you do not change Treasurers. It is a way to ensure that all funds are accounted for and auditors can provide important training to your Treasurer.

Please let me know if you have questions on any of these items. Marion Stevens, Region Treasurer, [marionstevstm@charter.net](mailto:marionstevstm@charter.net) or (618) 632-1695.



BOOK REVIEW: “TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD”, Author - HARPER LEE



By Pam Makovicka

The book “To Kill a Mockingbird” turned 50 this year and I would like to reflect on its message of courage and kindness. I read this book as a teenager for a school book report and I believe this book helped shape my life. Many people see this story as a civil rights novel, but it transcends that issue. It is a novel about right and wrong, about kindness and meanness. I wonder how many other people have read the pages of this book and returned in some way changed.

This Southern novel shows how conscience is instilled in two small children, Scout and Jem Fitch and how it operates in their father Atticus, a lawyer appointed to defend a Negro on a rape charge. I see diversity teaching at its finest in this book. There are handicapped, black, white, poor, wealthy, educated and uneducated people that are portrayed and Atticus demonstrates how diversity should work. He teaches his children and in fact the whole town of Maycomb, tolerance and justice for all. The novel is a wonderful mixture of humor, honesty and the irrationality of adult attitudes towards race and class.

My two favorite quotations from this book are:

“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view – until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” The simple wisdom of Atticus’s words explains to his daughter how to live with sympathy and understanding for others.

“Remember it a sin to kill a mockingbird,” “that was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maude about it”. “Your father’s right,” she said. “Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but make music for us to enjoy - That is why it is a sin to kill a mockingbird.” These words are the source of the book’s title and a key metaphor of the books idea of mockingbirds as good and innocent people who are destroyed by evil.

Harper Lee is an amazing author. It is hard to believe that the story is fiction and the characters are not real. She has an amazing talent to keep you riveted to the book and teaches the readers a number of useful truths about inclusion for all. It is difficult to image that 50 years ago people were fighting for acceptance of all people and we still are struggling with these same issues today. I encourage all to read or reread this novel for its depiction of childhood innocence, its moral condemnation of racial prejudice and its affirmation that human goodness can withstand evil. Please take the messages of this novel and teach all adults and children the importance of maintaining faith in the human capacity for good and a tolerance for the coexistence of good and evil.



**MoneySmart gives members tips of the trade**

*Submitted by Evelyn Anderson and Melissa Mayeaux*

Ever wish you had a magic wand that would help you save money?  
Well, how about a magic ‘mouse’?

On November 15, 2010, the Heart of America chapter was pleased to have Greg Housel present a program (FCIC MoneySmart Program), at our monthly meeting to give us tips and websites that would give us ways of saving money. Members who attended were very interested in what Mr. Housel had to say.

To help you wave your magic wand and help you increase your financial status, included here are some of the tips on budgeting tools and the on-line savings/shopping websites that Mr Housel provided:

Free and low-cost Online Budget Tools:

- [www.bankrate.com](http://www.bankrate.com)
- [www.budgetworksheets.org](http://www.budgetworksheets.org)
- <http://www.vertex42.com/ExcelTemplates/family-budget-planner.html>

Tips:

- Pay bill on time to avoid late fees
- Develop a Budget and stick to it
- Comparison Shop
- When shopping on-line avoid shipping and return charges

Websites:

- [www.shopzilla.com](http://www.shopzilla.com)
- [www.giftcardgranny.com](http://www.giftcardgranny.com)
- [www.couponcabin.com](http://www.couponcabin.com)
- [www.couponmom.com](http://www.couponmom.com)
- [www.bargainist.com](http://www.bargainist.com)
- [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)
- [www.savings.com](http://www.savings.com)
- [www.retailmenot.com](http://www.retailmenot.com)



**The Heart of America Chapter presents its DIVA DAY event!!**

On Saturday, May 21, 2011, the Heart of America Chapter will put on its *wildly* famous Diva Day!

Diva Day was developed to be a membership drive and general get-together for this Kansas City based chapter. It's a special day of training, fun and relaxation.

This year's event is still in the planning stage, but based on past Diva Days, it will be a day that will have you bragging to your friends that you were able to attend!

Past events have included training (e.g., How to Create Balance in Your Life, Are you A Leader?, and How to Write Winning KSA's/Resumes) and presentations from the League of Women Voters and Spa for the Spirit. Also available are vendors which usually range from Lia Sophia, Beauti Control Spa products, to Chair Massages. For entertainment the chapter has had a wine/cheese reception to a Belly Dancing presentation.

As you can see, through the years Diva Day has offered a wide variety of activities to enjoy and this years' event is sure to be even more exciting.

If interested in more information, please contact Melissa Mayeaux via email ([melissa.mayeaux@kcc.usda.gov](mailto:melissa.mayeaux@kcc.usda.gov)) or via phone (816-926-6900).

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Membership News



Congratulations to the past year's membership contest winners. Sharrilane Barnhart of Willa Cather Chapter got first place, Vivian Broadbent of Mid America Chapter took second and Mary White of Nebraska Sandhills got the close third.

A new contest year began September 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through August 31, 2011. New member's applications must have the Referred By line completed whether by web or paper. The National rosters as of August 31<sup>st</sup> will be used to determine winners.

Barb Kesl will have a flier for the contest that will be distributed to chapters by the April Regional Board meeting if not sooner. Don't wait to promote contest and be sure to include referred by names on applications.

## DIVERSITY NOTES:

From Barb Kesl, USDA-APHIS, Ames, IA: Mid-Continent Region Board Network Chair

Last year at the April region board meeting, we had a training session on the book *Five Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni. If you are considering another good read to deepen your career intellect, below are some suggested authors who have written about workplace issues.

Recently we were very fortunate here at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories and the Center for Veterinary Biologics in Ames, IA, to have Dr. Samuel Betances of Souder, Betances and Associates, Inc., provide training for our diversity focus. His presentation “The Benefits and Values of Diversity in the Workplace” provided unique and pertinent insights into various aspects under the topic of diversity. Drawing guidance from extensive research, memoirs, and personal experiences, Dr. Betances included discussions on human nature, workforce situations (demographic, socialization and psychological), and faulty assumptions of what diversity means.

He graciously provided names of books and CDs that he recommended reading! Some include:

***Keys to the workplace: Skills and supports for people with disabilities / by Michael J. Callahan, J. Bradley Garner. 1997.***

***When Generations Collide: Who they are, why they clash, how to solve the generational puzzle at work / Lynne C. Lancaster and David Stillman. 2002.***

***The Diversity Toolkit: how you can build and benefit from a diverse workforce / William Sonnenschein. 1999.***

***The Wisdom of Crowds: Why the many are smarter than the few and how collective wisdom shapes business, economies, societies, and nations / James Surowiecki. 2004.***

***Drive: The surprising truth about what motivates us / Daniel H. Pink. 2009. CD***

An older book he referred to is *The Nature of Prejudice* by Gordon Allport. When I looked it up, I saw that there is now a fiftieth anniversary publication about it.

On the lighter side, if you are in need of some extra laughter in your life, I recommend Nora Ephron's, *I Feel Bad About My Neck*.



Membership ID \_\_\_\_\_



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

(Mail to)

Please Print Legibly

FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN

P.O. BOX 75551

BALTIMORE, MD 21275

**Join (New Member or Rejoining FEW)**       **Renewal**

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First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company or Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (Primary): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (Secondary): \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Grade (check):</b>	<b>FWP/EEO (check):</b>	<b>Gender:</b>	<b>Employer Type:</b>
GS 1-4 <input type="checkbox"/>	FWP Full-Time <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Government: <input type="checkbox"/>
GS 5-8 <input type="checkbox"/>	FWP Part-Time <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Local Government: <input type="checkbox"/>
GS 9-12 <input type="checkbox"/>	EEO <input type="checkbox"/>		State Government: <input type="checkbox"/>
GS 13-15 <input type="checkbox"/>	Other FWP/EEO <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Race / Nationality:</b>	Private Industry: <input type="checkbox"/>
GS 16+ <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>	American Indian <input type="checkbox"/>	Retired: <input type="checkbox"/>
		Asian/Pacific <input type="checkbox"/>	Unemployed: <input type="checkbox"/>
Job Series: _____		Black <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Explain): _____
		Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>	
Service Computation Date: _____		Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Federal Department:</b>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

PAYMENT: NATIONAL (\$45)       CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to join the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter. (Chapter Selection is Required)

Referred/Recruited By (one name only): \_\_\_\_\_

**I heard of FEW from: (select one)**

FEW Chapter Meetings / Programs <input type="checkbox"/>	Blacks In Government (BIG) <input type="checkbox"/>	Internet Search <input type="checkbox"/>
FEW Member Referral <input type="checkbox"/>	FAPAC Conference <input type="checkbox"/>	Friend/Co-Worker <input type="checkbox"/>
FEW National Training Program <input type="checkbox"/>	IMAGE Conference <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
FEW Regional Training Program <input type="checkbox"/>	SAIGE Conference <input type="checkbox"/>	

For more information about FEW or to Join Online, please visit: <http://www.few.org>

\* No refunds will be made upon the acceptance and processing of a membership application.  
 \*\* Contributions or gifts to FEW are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

Annual membership dues are \$45 total split between the National organization (\$25) and the chapter selected by the member. Most Chapter dues are \$20. Eligibility for Chapter membership is contingent on National membership.

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