# A VIEW FROM FEW

# AN ORGANIZATION FOR OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

Space Coast Chapter, Kennedy Space Center, FL

July & August 2003

#### SPACE COAST CHAPTER, FEW

#### 20034 - 2004

#### **Officers and Committees**

President	Barbara Powell
Finance	Clara Anderson
Newsletter	Sharon White
NTP/RTP Planners	Dawn Partlow and
	Patti Rissman
Nominations	Jean Grenville

Parliamentarian Carolyn Burnham

President Elect Dawn Partlow
Seminar Jean Grenville & Vickie Hall
Compliance Gail McLean

Diversity

Webmaster Debbie Ward

Vice President Patti Rissman
Programs/Publicity Patti Rissman
Community Outreach Aneta Ott
Bylaws Past Presidents

Treasurer Karin Biega Membership Becky Denis Environmental Aneta Ott Sunshine Karen Jansma

Secretary Jane Eitel

Scholarships

Legislation Marie Argana Historian Jean Grenville

Past President Connie Dobrin
Nat'l VP for Training Becky Fasulo
Regional Nominations Jane Eitel
Regional Legislation Marie Argana

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Barbara Powell



Here it is the first day of August. Our new Chapter year has started. The Board of Directors has met and our new year has almost been completely mapped out, thanks in part to Jean Grenville. Jean got so inspired in Chicago at the National Training Program that she sat down and put all of her thoughts to paper. She provided suggestions for programs and group activities that would more than fill the coming 2003-2004 year for the Space Coast Chapter. The roadmap was used by the Board to brainstorm and fill in some of the areas still needing polishing. There are a few details to be cleaned up, but nonetheless I'm excited about the plans that have been suggested for this year.

Just a word on NTP 2003 in Chicago. It was interesting, educational, and the networking with other FEW members from all over the world was great. I walked one morning with a member from Germany. I think everyone came away with wonderful memories. Now with that behind us it's onward and upward to 2004 in Nashville, TN.

Next. I'm looking for a few good Chapter Members, and I would like to encourage some of the newer members to step up and volunteer. There are two vacancies on our Chapter Organizational Chart. We need someone to Chair the Diversity Committee. The duties of that Chair will develop as the year goes along, but we need to always be mindful of Diversity. The Scholarship Committee Chair is also open. Jane Eitel has been the Chair so long she though this year would be a good time to give someone else the opportunity. The secret to being Chair of the Scholarship Committee is timing, and Jane will be more than happy to fill you in on more details, and walk you though the activity. During the year we will also be looking for volunteers to help with other activities and as those opportunities arise I hope you will consider putting your hand in the air and volunteer. Speaking of volunteering, I was so proud

of our membership and the support that we provided FWPWG during the Take Our Children to Work activities. We were well represented at the badging and on the day of the activities. Speaking of represented, Fred Soto was the guest speaker in the Training Auditorium this past Tuesday and Wednesday. He was sponsored by the Equal Opportunity Office, and was teaching several classes on "Preventing Sexual Harassment". During his presentation he mentioned the value of his membership in FEW, and how much he owes FEW for his position in today's world. What a plug, and it made every member of the Chapter present in the auditorium proud. We all cheered.

Thank you all once again, for re-electing me as your President. With just a few exceptions, all of the Officers, and most of the Standing Committee Chairs maintained status quo, and for that I thank them as well. What a dynamic group to work with, and I'm truly looking forward to another exciting year. COME JOIN US.

The following article appeared in the July 15<sup>th</sup> issue of FedNews OnLine and covers the recent NTP meeting held in Chicago.

Office of Personnel Management Director Kay Coles James recently addressed the need for the federal government to continue to reach out to women so that it can maintain a strong, vital workforce. James also stressed the benefits associated with an educated federal workforce.

The address, which came during the 34th National Training Program for Federally Employed Women, an organization dedicated to the needs and concerns of female federal employees, allowed James to remind the audience that the government needs women now more than ever.

"We have an urgent need for talented, energetic, and creative people to do the work of government in the 21st Century," said James. "And it is those who I see before me that I know can handle the job."

James recognized the concerns of federal women by saying, "I know you want the government to reward performance and excellence, to provide more training and to do more to address poor performers." James issued the challenge to all women to use their talents and creative energy and vision to break through the glass ceiling. The government-wide Candidate Development Program, which was launched by OPM

earlier this year, will aid in creating a diverse and effective Senior Executive Service.

James also noted her thanks for those who have gone before. "I am so supportive of the work you do. I just want you to know, as a federally employed woman, I stand on your shoulders because you paved the way and made it possible for so many of us who are here today."

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#### **A Special Group of Women**

Thank you to our Chapter members who volunteered to register and distribute badges for the Bring Our Children to Work Day. As usual when there is a need, we step forward!!!

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## KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE Arden Belt

- 1. The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do!
- 2. If a robber asks for your purse, DO NOT GIVE AWAY. Toss it away from you. Chances are the robber is more interested in your purse than in you and will go for the purse. RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!
- 3. If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back taillights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you but everybody else will. This has saved lives.
- 4. Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc. DON'T DO THIS! The predator will be watching you, and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go. AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK THE DOORS AND DRIVE AWAY.
- 5. A few notes about getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage:
- a. Be aware: look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor, and in the back seat.
- b. If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers

attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars.

- c. Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger side. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, you may want to walk back into the mall, or work, and get a guard or police officer to walk you back out. IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.
- 6. ALWAYS take the elevator instead of the stairs. (Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot).
- 7. If the predator has a gun and you are NOT under his control, ALWAYS RUN! The predator can only hit you (a running target) 4 in 100 times; and even then, it most likely WILL NOT be a vital organ. RUN!
- 8. As women, we are always trying to be sympathetic: STOP IT! It may get you raped, or killed. Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well-educated man, who ALWAYS played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked "for help" into his vehicle or with his vehicle and that is when he abducted his next victim.

#### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Patti Rissman

Mark your calendars now for our August Meeting. It will be held at Kelsey's in Port St. John on Tuesday, August 26 at 4:30 PM. We will order from the menu. This meeting will be a celebration of Women's Equality Day. Past FEW National President Marie Argana is conducting the program.

Questions or comments, please contact Patti Rissman, 784-1818.

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### So You Think You Know Everything?

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
Now you know everything! .... Maybe!

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#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**



We are truly glad to have our members support our Chapter and if anyone has any questions, call Becky Denis at: 321-867-4104 (voice), 321-867-1458 (fax) or E-mail at Rebecca.M.Denis@nasa.gov

If you haven't yet sent in your membership dues, please send your check to our Treasurer, Karin Biega.

Please remember, when you use the Global FEW Membership list, it only includes the folks that are on-site. Individuals need to create a **FEW**Membership Distribution list in their personal address books and add in those folks that are offsite.

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# **COMPLIANCE**

Gail McLean

You may sometimes wonder if women are really getting anywhere in this old world, so I wanted take this opportunity to introduce you to a website for women in politics. Visibility to events like this can open your eyes to new opportunities (if not for you, then for your daughters).

This bulletin currently highlights Asia Pacific women's involvement in politics, governance, decision-making and transformative leadership. On this bulletin you will find summaries of the data and information <a href="http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org">http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org</a> plus announcements of events and other women-

focused news stories from around the world. Have fun, and I hope this information is of value to you.

# ARE YOU SURPRISED? Oprah Website

Make your salads *healthy*! Studies have shown the average woman ingests more fat from salad dressing than from any other food!



# **SUNSHINE** *Karen Jansma*

#### Celebrating birthdays in July and August:

Karen Jansma	July 01
Arden Belt	July 15
Sandy McCandless	July 26
Peggy Seiler	July 28
Charlotte Becker	July 31

August 03
August 06
August 07
August 08
August 08
August 21
August 26
August 26



Our Chapter would like to continue to remember our FEW Sisters Birthdays as well as any other significant events in our members' lives, so please send information to Karen Jansma at

<u>Karen.S.Jansma@nasa.gov.</u> Also, if your big day comes around and it is not noted in the monthly Newsletter, please let Karen know.

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#### **Be Aware of Internet Hoaxes**

According to the Department of Energy's Computer Incident Advisory Capability (CAIC) website, the warning about cell phones causing gas pump fires is an Internet hoax. There is a real Petroleum Equipment Institute, and according to their website, they do not have any records of a cell phone igniting a fire at a gas pump. http://www.pei.org/faq/static.htm

# 25th ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Jean Grenville

Planning is coming along for the Silver anniversary of Space Coast Chapter's Annual Training Program (ATP) scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 and Thursday, March 4, 2004 at the Holiday Inn in Cocoa Beach, FL. Set-up for exhibitors and committee will be from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight Tuesday, March 2, 2003.

Committee Chairs are being filled and we have the following in place to date.

Seminar Chair: Jean Grenville Co-Chair: Vickie Hall Treasurer: Karin Biega Recorder: Jane Eitel Programs: **Becky Fasulo** Co-Chair Barbara Powell Gloria Vigilante Registration: Co-Chair Courtney Borowski **Exhibits:** Karen Jansma Co-Chair Patti Rissman Graphics: Cindy Gooden Co-Chair Vacant

Facilities: Gina O'Shaughnessy

Co-Chair Vacant Hostesses: Lee Furis Co-Chair Vacant

Hospitality: Carolyn Burnham

Co-Chair Vacant

Publicity: Sandy McCandless

Co-Chair: Karin Biega Membership: Becky Denis

50-50 Drawing: Vacant

Co-Chair Vacant

FWPWG: Kandy Warren

The Kick-off Meeting for the 25<sup>th</sup> ATP will be held Thursday, August 7, 2003 at 11:30 a.m. in the Headquarters building, room 1460. We hope to select a silver anniversary theme for the seminar at this meeting. Bring your lunch and ideas and join us! All members are welcome! I would like to give a special invitation to our new members to join a committee and let us get acquainted with you.

#### **GOVERNMENT NEWS & LEGISLATION**



#### **COMPENSATION/PAY EQUITY \*\***

Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD) introduced S 76, The Paycheck Fairness Act, Companion bill – HR 1688, introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). Amends the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex. <u>STATUS</u>: S 76 has twenty co-sponsors and was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; HR 1688 has 80 co-sponsors and was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

\*\*The Paycheck Fairness bills are one of FEW's high priority Grassroots efforts – please visit http://capwiz.com/few using your HOME COMPUTER for more information on how to get involved. We need more participation. Thank you.\*\*

### Retirement/Pension Benefits\*\*

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced S 349, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2003,; Companion bill – HR 594, introduced by Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA). Would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. STATUS: S 349 has 20 co-sponsors and was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance; HR 594 has 249 co-sponsors and was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

\*\*Repeal of the WEP and GPO have recently been approved by the FEW Board of Directors as one of FEW's high priority Grassroots efforts – please visit http://capwiz.com/few using your HOME

COMPUTER for more information on how to get involved. Thank you.\*\*

#### **CONTRACTING OUT**

The White House has backed off its goal to have half of all commercial-type federal jobs considered for possible conversion by contractors, a policy the administration had touted as a cornerstone of improved management practices but which quickly became a lightning rod for criticism from employee groups and some in Congress. The goal had its origins in the 2000 presidential campaign, and while no timetable ever was set--beyond competing 15 percent of such jobs by the end of this fiscal year—

critics of contracting practices denounced the initiative as creating a goal that agencies would have to follow regardless of whether it was good management practice. Legislative proposals to bar the use of numeric goals led to several battles between the White House and Congress. The administration says it will now let individual agencies set their own targets and will judge them on how well they are meeting those goals and how quickly they get the comparisons

Meanwhile, Congress is continuing to seek restrictions on contracting-out policy as part of the annual spending bills for the upcoming fiscal year, setting up potential fights with the White House when those bills come up for final voting. The House Appropriations Committee has approved language as part of the Transportation-Treasury spending measure requiring agencies to report on how much they spend on consultants to operate cost comparisons between in-house and possible contractor performance.

The House has passed bills that would restrict contracting-out at the Interior Department and Forest Service and the Agriculture Department by denying funding to conduct privatization studies, while the Senate added limiting language to a bill covering the Defense Department that would require the agency to allow employees of functions employing 10 or more people to reorganize into the "most efficient organization" before that function is considered for contractor performance and gives those now performing the function a 10 percent cost advantage in the comparison; current policy imposes those requirements only on functions employing 65 or more. That provision also prohibits considering health benefit costs in the competitions, to remove an incentive for contractors to win by not providing their employees with those benefits. In each case, further

action is needed before the bills are in final form. The Bush administration has said it "strongly opposes" attempts to restrict the contracting-out program, to the extent of threatening to veto bills containing such provisions.

#### **Personnel Issues**

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld used a Washington Post commentary to call on Congress to pass the Defense reorganization legislation. He stated, "The Department of Defense cannot meet the challenges of the future with an organization anchored to the past."

Other federal agencies are also working towards achieving some major government reform plans. The House Science-Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee approved a measure that would give NASA greater flexibility in attracting and retaining employees. The panel approved the measure (HR 1085) in a voice vote, despite the opposition of Democrats. One impetus to passing this provision was the fact that a quarter of the NASA workforce will be eligible for retirement in five years.

Under the bill, NASA would be given flexibilities, including:

- Recruitment, redesignation, retention, and relocation bonuses worth up to 50% of an employee's salary. Current law limits such bonuses to 25% of salary.
- A \$10 million annual scholarship program under which NASA would pay for a student's tuition in return for a commitment to work for NASA after graduation.
- Authority to hire employees at any step of a grade for employees with superior qualifications and additional duties.
- Buyouts of up to 50% of an employee's salary. The current limit is \$25,000.
- The ability to provide new NASA employees with no prior federal service to accrue leave at the same rate as federal employees with similar levels of experience.

Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH) has introduced a similar bill in the Senate (S 610).

#### **VISIT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

Congress has adjourned for the summer recess. Now is a good time to visit your local Representative and

Senators in their home offices to meet them and talk to them about issues of concern.

# **Great American Women Shirley Chisholm**

"We, American women, will no longer be denied our rights as human beings; we are equal in all respects to men."

Chisholm was the first woman of African-American descent to be elected to the US Congress. She was also the first woman to be a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination. During her tenure in Congress, she sponsored programs for minority education and introduced legislation for publicly supported day care centers. Her philosophy was for minorities to have access to higher learning, to be able to fully participate in the economic and political arena they must succeed from their earliest days. Educations paramount to Chisholm; she earned a bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education form Columbia University. Chisholm was a nursery school teacher, director of a day care center, and consultant for the New York Department of Social Services before entering politics.



Florida Coastal Cleanup: Space Coast Chapter of Federally Employed Women is participating in the Ocean Conservancy Coastal Cleanup 2003 on **September 20, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon** at Alan Shepard Park, Cocoa Beach (located at the

end of SR 520). This is not strenuous duty. Please participate in this community event sponsored by Keep Brevard Beautiful. Please forward your name, phone number, your T-shirt size, and time you would like to work, (8-10- or 10-12) to Aneta Ott at Aneta.Ott-1@ksc.nasa.gov.

Thanks you those of you who have already signed up for this event.

We all try to make a difference each day, but each year there is a special day designated for **Make A Difference Day.** This year October 25, 2003 is the special day. If you have something near and dear to your heart you would like to see the Chapter participate in, send me the details as well as a point of contact for the project. The project selection will be made at the August meeting. Hope to see you there.

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **August**

- The Florida Space Coast Filipino American Charitable & Educational Foundation Inc., (SPACEF) is planning a benefit show at the Maxwell C. King Center Performing Arts, Melbourne, FL
- 25 29 Blacks in Government 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Training Conference, Denver, CO
- 26 Women's Equality Day
- 26 FEW Monthly Meeting, Kelsey's, PSJ

#### September

- 9/15 10/15 Hispanic Heritage Month Hispanic Awareness Luncheon with Speaker and entertainment planned
- 18 20 World Congress & Exposition on Disabilities Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL
- 20 FEW Florida Coastal Clean Up, Cocoa Beach

#### October

- 22 National Disability Employment Awareness
  Month (NDEAM)
- 23 25 Make a Difference Day



Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend the Federally Employed Women's National Training Program in Chicago. The thanks go to so many of you who helped make this possible. A special thanks goes to Jean Grenville and Vickie Hall for nominating me for the Member of the Year Award. Thank you to those of you who took the time to nominate others for Member of the Year, and then thank you to all of you who took the time to vote. I felt privileged to be honored with the other Nominees.

At the 34th FEW NTP in Chicago, the value of life was reaffirmed so eloquently with our Key Note Speaker, Merri Dee ... her sense of humor, zest for life, and not allowing her pain or victimization to rule her life ... shamed our petty complaints and inspired us beyond our self-centeredness.

The training classes were informative and reemphasized, in some cases, things already learned. I believe the training session on "How To Be Successful in a Job Interview," summed the entire experience so wisely ... "Yesterday is a cancelled check, Tomorrow is a promissory note, Today is Cash in Hand, Spend it Wisely!"

Ilona Nickels's, "The Way Congress Really Works," allowed me to gain a broader appreciation and understanding of our United States Government Legislative governing processes, reconfirming and building upon what Marie Argana and our previous Legislative Officers have reported.

Attending the FEW Board meetings was very informative and enlightening. Being able to attend and observe the actual process was fascinating.

Again, thank you for the privilege of allowing me to attend the 2003 FEW NTP. And a special thank you to Barbara Powell for so graciously sharing your accommodations (and granola) with me.

#### **BREAST CANCER WEBSITE**

The Breast Cancer site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota of donating at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman.

It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "donating a mammogram" for free (pink window in the middle). This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammogram in exchange for advertising. http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/

Florida History and Culture Vickie Hall



## The Homefront: Government and Private Support

Florida's state government generally strongly supported the southern war effort. For example, in late 1862, the legislature decided to remove the carpet in the capitol so that it could be cut up and made into blankets for Florida's ill-equipped troops serving in cold winter camps outside the state. In a more substantive move, the legislature voted to provide much-needed assistance to the many families of soldiers who were left destitute by the war. Florida had limited resources to meet the huge demands of equipping troops and running a wartime economy.

Southern citizens and foreign investors demonstrated their support for the South by purchasing Confederate bonds. The South experienced a lack of hard currency to buy foreign goods, since many merchants would not accept southern credit or Confederate currency in payment for products.



We have been talking now for some time about getting together for another cruise. In order to plan a cruise and try to get a good rate, we need to know how many folks really want to go. I'm looking at the Sovereign of the Seas, 4-night cruise, which departs on a Sunday and arrives back in port on Thursday, 9:00 a.m., so you could come to work on Thursday if you wanted to.

## Possible Sailing Dates and Starting Prices (don't know if this includes Port taxes)

Date	Price From
August 24, 2003	\$299.00 (USD)
September 21, 2003	\$249.00 (USD)
September 28, 2003	\$309.00 (USD)
October 19, 2003	\$289.00 (USD)
October 26, 2003	\$259.00 (USD)
November 02, 2003	\$259.00 (USD)
November 09, 2003	\$269.00 (USD)

#### **Itinerary**

Day	Port	Arrive	<b>Depart</b>
Day 1	Port Canaveral		5:00 PM
Day 2	CocoCay (RCL)	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
Day 3	<u>Nassau</u>	7:00 AM	
Day 4	<u>Nassau</u>		1:00 AM
Day 5	Port Canaveral	9:00 AM	

Look at the above dates and if you want to go party hearty, send me an e-mail <u>Vickie.C.Hall@nasa.gov</u> with your name, preferred sailing date and number of people and rooms you would like to book by **August 15, 2003.** 

SPACE COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
Sharon White

This monthly publication is a means of sharing information and ideas. Please send news articles or items of interest for this Newsletter to Sharon White

New Applica	nt	Renewal	Previo	ous Memb	er	Change Membersh	
			Memb	ership		Birth	
Name			Numbe	-		Date	
Home A	ddress		·				·
City, Sta	te, Zip						
Home Pl							
Agency/	Company						
	e/Address						
City, Sta	te, Zip						
Work Ph	one			FAX #	+		
E-mail A	ddress						
Total Am	ount Due: so	ee schedule bel	METHOD OF (Credit Cards only a		-Mar)		
Cash or	Check	Check No.	Credi	t Card	Visa	Mast	er Card
Card Nun	nber			E	xpiration	Date (MM/YY)	
Print Ca	rdholders N	ame		Signature			
(as it ap	pears on ca	rd)		(Credit Cards Only)			
		at Sharon.L.Whi	te@nasa.gov				
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Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your friends. And for anyone interested, a Membership

Month	Amount Due	Month	Amount Due	Month	Amount Due
March	\$30.00	April	\$28.00	May	\$26.00
June	\$24.00	July	\$22.00	August	\$20.00
September	\$17.00	October	\$15.00	November	\$13.00
December	\$11.00	January	\$9.00	February	\$7.00

Application is attached as the last page.

Please place an X by the month dues are paid and pay the indicated amount.

The National Office requesting the following for statistics only:

Position/Title:	:			Series/Grade:			
Circle One:	SES	GM	GS	WG	Military	Other	

# FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN, INC.

# **Space Coast Chapter 009 Membership Application**

Circle if Applicable: FWP Full-time FWP Part-time EEO

Demographics				
Sex [F/M]:	Race:	Years of Service:	Retired [Y/N]:	