



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Triangle Branch NEWSLETTER

April 2006

Contact Person:
Lori Hoyt 968-1888

Important News For WILPF Members

There will be a membership meeting on **April 29, 2006, 10:00-noon** at the Friends Meeting House on Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill. It will be to "Review/ensure leadership structure". Our three-person steering committee is ending, with Anne Ivey moving to Wilmington, Ann Powers increasingly being out of town, and Lori Hoyt needing a break after seven very active years as a co-chair.

We have had a mini-retreat on March 25 at Jean and Wes Hare's house, and a small committee meeting to discuss and plan from the consensus reached at the retreat. Following on that retreat a smaller group met at Lucy's house on April 15 to flesh out the sense of the retreat. Here are the minutes of that meeting.

Present: Lori Hoyt, Dick Paddock, Connie Gates, Marguerite Coyle, Lucy Lewis

As agreed at our recent retreat, several of us got together in advance of the April 29 WILPF meeting to "Review/ensure leadership structure". Our three-person steering committee is ending, with Anne Ivey moving to Wilmington, Ann Powers increasingly being out of town, and Lori Hoyt needing a break after seven very active years as a co-chair.

Following Dick's suggestion that we start by thinking about what a very different structure might look like, we came up with a proposed new structure that we think will better tap everyone's interests and strengths while significantly streamlining the role of a steering committee/co-chairs so that they are a much more doable and interesting position. Please review the following proposal, and think about what role you are able and willing to play for the next year as we try this approach.

1. A steering committee of 4-5 members will be responsible for overall direction and making sure that decisions/activities are being implemented. Lucy, Dick, and Marguerite have agreed to serve for the next year, and everyone is encouraged to think about whether you would be willing to join this group.

Committee responsibilities will include:

- ensuring that monthly programs are organized and planned (see #2),
- helping to ensure that Triangle WILPF goals and objectives are carried out (we will all be prioritizing and finalizing these at the April 29 meeting),
- facilitating discussion at least quarterly with the Branch membership about our work, getting input re goals, activities, direction.

WILPF C/O Ann Powers
250-100 S. Estes Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

2. All WILPF members will be asked to volunteer to take responsibility for one or more meetings for the next year.

This will involve:

- Organizing the program part of the meeting on a subject that you think is very important and/or are active with. The program could be a video, getting a speaker, organizing a panel, planning a workshop, etc. There would also be time for reports, announcements, and discussion related to our goals for the year. Possible topics include torture, El Salvador,

water, corporate personhood, politics and the arts, peace, anti-racism, immigrants rights, NC minimum wage, International Women's Day, etc.,

- either facilitating the meeting or lining up another WILPF member to facilitate,
- checking to make sure that Friends Meeting House is available and if not, lining up an alternative space at the Chapel Hill library or elsewhere.

3. We need a liaison with the WILPF national office, and an international liaison, to receive mailings, email alerts, etc. and keep our membership informed about national and international WILPF initiatives. The liaison should also serve to keep national and international offices informed about our local efforts, concerns, etc.

4. WILPF email contact person – Marguerite has agreed to continue to being the WILPF email person. Members can send her info that they want to go out to the general membership at marg_WILPF@msn.com

5. WILPF newsletter editor – Dick has agreed to continue being the WILPF newsletter editor. This is especially important for our members who don't use emails, but also for those who prefer hard copies for their refrigerator doors...Jennifer Lewis has agreed to act as a "reporter", providing brief write-ups for events she attends as a WILPF member. Dick could use help from everyone, forwarding a short article or quote that you would like to see in the newsletter. His email address is repaddock@nc.rr.com

6. WILPF website liaison – Lucy has agreed to regularly send updates to Jackie Helvey, the person who does our Website. If you have info that you think should go on the Website (not last minute news, but short announcements about upcoming events that we are sponsoring or cosponsoring, issues that we are working on, pictures of our members in action, please contact Lucy at lewis2001@earthlink.net

7. WILPF treasurer – Ann Powers has agreed to continue collecting dues, paying bills, and providing timely financial reports. She has also sent out fundraising appeals and letters.

8. TV show – Maria Darlington has been serving as producer and Tana Hartman has served as show host for this monthly program. Contact them with suggestions for guest speakers and/or good topics.

9. Vigil Coordinators – we need two volunteers to coordinate monthly or at least quarterly vigils. These Coordinators could then line up volunteers to coordinate a specific vigil. This includes:

- Planning a theme,
- Getting a permit,
- Arranging for materials (leaflets, petitions, signs) to be developed, or brought to vigil,
- Organizing WILPFers to vigil,
- Ensuring publicity.

10. Campaign/Issue Committees – In the past, we have sometimes organized committees to work on a specific national WILPF campaign or issue of local interest – i.e. Cuba, anti-nuclear proliferation, anti-racism. Two current WILPF initiatives are water justice and a just peace in the Middle East. A WILPF Triangle interest is International/El Salvador. If we have several people who are willing to work on an issue, we can reconstitute committees on these or other topics. Let us know if you are interested in organizing and/or working on a committee.

Editorial note from Lucy Lewis –

We live in difficult times, in the belly of the beast of empire. Working together, volunteering our time and our skills and abilities, we can collectively both make a greater difference and also provide mutual support and solidarity in these times when too many are feeling what someone at the retreat characterized as Chronic Disaster Fatigue. We can reach out to those who are angry, sick at heart, confused about what to do, and provide an opportunity to work for peace and freedom in the company of good sisters and brothers who are part of an international movement.

SEE YOU ALL ON APRIL 29, 2006 AT 10:00 A.M.