

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Triangle, NC
Chapter



Newsletter Summer / Fall 2015

WILPF: WE ARE 100 YEARS YOUNG! *Triangle Branch of WILPF is 80!*

The Triangle Branch of WILPF will hold a Big Birthday Bash on **November 6th, 2015** and we want YOU to come! Bring a friend along as we gather with allies to celebrate the 100th anniversary of National WILPF, and to commemorate our local Branch's eightieth (80th!) birthday – we will celebrate with song, conversation, food, and of course, cake! (*See party details at end of this article*).



WILPF 100

US Delegation to the International Conference of Women for a Permanent Peace, The Hague, 1915. (Source: WILPF.org)

Our history starts in 1915, when 1,200 women from diverse cultures and speaking many languages came together in The Hague during the First World War, to study, make known, and eliminate the causes of war. At that time, as well as now, the purpose in founding WILPF was to have an organization through which women could work for peace and freedom by claiming women's right and responsibility to participate in decision-making on all aspects of peace and security.

Our own local history is no less impressive! The Triangle WILPF branch is one of the first in the United States; since 1935 we have worked as women united against injustice wherever we see it in North Carolina and around the world. You can find out more about our founding mothers and read our current mission statement on the website: www.trianglewilpf.org.

TRIANGLE WILPF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

Date: November 6th 2015

Time: 6:00-8:30PM

Location: Church of Reconciliation, 110 N Elliott Rd, Chapel Hill, NC

RSVP: For more information and to RSVP, contact Lori Hoyt at 984-999-4069

LABOR COMMITTEE REPORT: *Triangle Branch Supports Migrant / Low-Wage Workers' Rights* From Miriam Thompson

WILPF's primary labor solidarity work has focused on low wage workers and the public work force right here in our own backyard. Some recent activities in Chapel Hill and the surrounding area include:

Supporting NC Migrant Farm Workers, most of whom are undocumented. We were critical in getting our local NAACP Branch and national organizations to support the Farm Laborer Organizing Committee's effort to win the right to freedom of association – which entails the migrant workers' right to join a union to collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and decent, safe living and working conditions.



FLOC is pressing the giant Reynolds Tobacco company to sit down and negotiate and live up to its commitment to protect the human rights of its workers.

Supporting the National RaiseUp15 Movement. Triangle WILPF members have frequently been visible on vigils in support of the struggle to raise the minimum wage for low-wage workers, including those who work in fast food and home care industries, as well as college adjuncts.

Supporting Local Public Workers. Together with the Labor Committee of our local NAACP Branch, Triangle WILPF has been successful in pressing the Town of Chapel Hill to create a more respectful environment for its public workers, including better due process protections; opportunities for skill upgrading and job promotion; and a greater voice in workplace policy, practices and service delivery.

For more information about how you can join the Labor Committee's solidarity efforts for worker justice, contact Miriam Thompson at thompiriam@gmail.com or call/text (917) 825-0884.





MORAL MONDAYS: WILPF Members Continue their Non-violent Protests against Harsh NC Legislation & Voter Suppression Laws



WILPF members Ruth Zalph, Lori Hoyt and Miriam Thomson at a Moral Monday rally in Raleigh, NC. (Photo Credit Richard Perry)

Triangle WILPF continues to actively support the Forward Together/Moral Monday Movement in North Carolina. WILPF member Ruth Zalph and NC NAACP Executive Director and WILPF member Michelle Cotton Laws were among those re-arrested for bearing witness in April, 2015.



Jean Chapman and John Wagner (holding banner) were among those representing WILPF at Moral Monday / Wednesday for Women's Rights, June 10 (Photo Credit Kevin Smith)

FORWARD TOGETHER - NOT ONE STEP BACK! Walking the Walk for Justice

This summer, the NAACP led the historic **Journey for Justice** from Selma, Alabama to Washington DC. Several WILPF Triangle Branch members laced up their sneakers and joined the North Carolina portion of the journey, marching through our state from August 29th to September 6th. These active citizens for Justice who literally "walked the walk" include Ruth Zalph, Jean Chapman, Lib Hutchby, and Vicki Ryder.

ATTACKS ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD: NC Women United Spread the Truth

Tara Romano with NC Women United shares important updates on the most recent debates about Planned Parenthood, including threats to eliminate federal funding for the organization:

Despite the many essential health services Planned Parenthood offers the community, once again the organization is facing harassment and fear-mongering at the hands of anti-choice advocates and lawmakers. Under-cover video clips showing conversations held during Planned Parenthood meetings have been taken out of context to misconstrue the donation of fetal tissue, which is a voluntary, legal and valuable process. A NY Times editorial can provide some clarification on this issue, about which there is much misinformation and confusion among the general public.

To read the article go to:

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/22/opinion/the-campaign-of-deception-against-planned-parenthood.html?_r=2.

As we know, abortion services are just a small fraction of the overall care provided by Planned Parenthood, most of which goes to low- and moderate-income women and families. By far, the largest number of services involve the detection and treatment of sexually transmitted disease, as well as cancer screenings and contraception. [You can read some of the facts and figures about PP services at the Planned Parenthood website: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>].

Tara reminds us of the potential danger women face: "I keep wondering how people who feel uncomfortable upon hearing about routine, legal medical [abortion] procedures would feel listening to stories of women who have performed abortions on themselves when they can't obtain one safely and legally; because that is where we are headed back to when access is limited or removed altogether."

You can find ways to show your support for Planned Parenthood through twitter: #StandwithPP; and the PP Action Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/PlannedParenthoodAction>





FAITHFUL MEMBER OF TRIANGLE WILPF MOVES WEST: *Triangle Chapter Bids Fond Farewell to Steve and Janet Dear*

Steve Dear, WILPF member and Executive Director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty for 18 years was honored by the Triangle Branch on June 14th before



his family's move to Oregon. We laud the tireless work of Steve Dear in North Carolina and throughout the South – known as the Death Belt of the United States. We will strive to continue

Steve's legacy to keep our State from violating the US Constitution by imposing the most cruel and unusual of punishments: death at the hands of the State.

*"No doctors, no public information at executions.
What could go wrong?"*

Now more than ever we need all North Carolinians to raise our voices in protest against this barbaric method of punishment. Governor McCrory has signed into law the "Execution Secrecy Bill" so that matters relating to executions are not subject to rulemaking. The new law also authorizes a medical professional other than a physician to monitor lethal injections.

To find out what you can do to join the movement to stop the death penalty, visit <http://www.pfadp.org/>.



Your WILPF Triangle Branch Newsletter Editor is Ann Schwab. You can reach me at akschwab4@gmail.com or 919-270-7711. To subscribe to our electronic newsletter, please email Jenn Lewis at wilpfmail@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this Newsletter issue, and to all those working for peace and justice in ways big and small. See you in November at our WILPF Anniversary Celebration!

WILPF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO WORK FOR CLEAN AIR, WATER AND SOIL

Triangle Branch members Lib Hutchby and John Wagner continue to spearhead WILPF's commitment to environmental justice for all North Carolinians. Recent work has focused on illegal dumping of coal ash, anti-fracking, and protecting the State's water resources. For more information and to join the Committee's work, contact Lib at libhutchby@earthlink.net or John at john_wagner@sarbo.net.

To find out more about the anti-fracking movement in our state, visit www.frackfreenc.org



Let's work together for a Frack-Free North Carolina!



TUNE IN: to the *Latest Peace & Freedom News!* Listen to **WAKE-UP CALL** at **WCOM 103.5 FM**, WILPF's weekly radio show. The program features local newsmakers and trendsetters, and airs every Wednesday at 5:00 -6:00PM. Or you can stream the show live at www.wcom.org.



Our valiant broadcast crew includes:

- Ed King, Program Coordinator -- 919-933-4254 (call Ed to suggest guests and issues)
- Lori Hoyt – 984-999-4069
- Dick Paddock - 919-929-1786 OR email: repadd7@icloud.com
- Emily O'Hare - 919-933-8793

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WE GATHER TOGETHER

Triangle WILPF meets the 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-12 noon
Friends Meeting House, 531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE ONGOING WORK TO BRING PEACE & JUSTICE TO ALL!



WILPF c/o Ann Powers
6 Carolina Meadows, Apt. 102
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8528

MEMBERSHIP TIME!

It's always a good time to become a member, so join now!

TRIANGLE BRANCH: **Sliding Scale:** \$12 - \$30
Students: \$5

NATIONAL WILPF: **Individual:** \$35
Limited Income: \$15
Student: \$5

Make checks payable to WILPF-Triangle
Branch (specify National or Local dues on
check) and mail to: WILPF Triangle Branch,
c/o Ann Powers, 6 Carolina Meadows, Apt.
102, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8525