



March 2008

Message from your President...
Carole J. Tolomeo

Greetings, FWC Members:

I would hope that each and every one of you will be attending the FWC Meeting of Member Organizations and Annual Meeting, to be held on March 17th at the Holiday Inn-Capitol East – 1355 Apalachee Parkway #850-877-3171. At the Annual Business Meeting there will be **discussion and action on proposed bylaw changes**, which include:

- The elected officers shall be President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- The president shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall have general and active management of the business and affairs of the corporation subject to the directions of the Board of Directors.
- The Semi-Annual Meeting, meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Board of Directors, and/or all committees are authorized to meet by electronic or conventional means including mail, telephone, fax, teleconference, video conference or other appropriate means, provided that all members have access to the information and/or debate through one or more of the means listed.

As noted in my January 2008 Newsletter, I addressed my concerns to your Executive Committee of the future of FWC due to the cancellation of our Semi-Annual Meeting, lack of support of members to serve on the Nominations Committee; to date, no one has stepped forward for a leadership role, etc. As of this date, we still do not have a slate of officers to present to the members on March 17th. My disappointment continues in that no one submitted a name for the Annette VanHowe “*Failure is Impossible Award*.” Well, we now have a dynamic woman who will be the recipient of this award due to the input of Patti Weasel, who holds the position of Director on your Executive Committee.

Also, due to the apathy of our membership your Executive Committee has voted to hold a visioning workshop at the FWC Annual Business Meeting to be held on March 17th. The purpose of this “Visioning Workshop” is to solicit input about changes FWC should make in order for the organization to become more relevant. The consensus of your Executive Committee was that such a workshop would be facilitated by a non-FWC member(s); therefore, Corporate Solutions, out of Tallahassee Community College, will be overseeing this session. Out of this workshop we may see additional changes in our bylaws proposed. So, if you want to be a part of the survival of this awesome organization, I strongly urge you to attend the Annual

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Business Meeting. The workshop will begin promptly at 11:15 AM - 3:30 PM., followed by the Annual Business Meeting. As noted in the January newsletter, there have been suggestions that we restructure to an "online" organization...that we truly follow our mission "to provide a communications network and coordinate activities of member groups." Please go to www.floridawomensconsortium.com website for more information on FWC's Membership and Annual Meetings.

My question to all of you, again, is...Are you ready to let the legacy of FWC go???? For FWC to survive, it needs YOU!!! The MEMBERS!!!

Primary goals of FWC:

Provide a communications network

Coordinate activities of member groups

Looking back I have been involved with FWC for some 12 + years...our first annual meeting and lobby days were held April 23-24, 1990 in Tallahassee. The Legislative Reception was attended by 150 people including three Florida Supreme Court Justices. Legislative priorities adopted: reproductive freedom, family medical leave, a Florida commission on the status of women and gender balance on appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees. We still are working on the passage of ERA. The first officers were elected April 24, 1990. Annette Van Howe, President; Diana Dawson, 1st VP, Suzanne Dalton, 2nd VP, Helen Landers, Secretary and Penny Penner, Treasurer. Eighteen years have gone by...are we to survive...this is the question I put to each and every one of you. Is FWC and its work still needed?

On a personal note, these past two years as your president have been awesome! I traveled around the state, attended meetings of numerous organizations (political and non-political), marched in both Tallahassee and Washington, DC, and met many influential individuals and, who could forget, you the members of FWC. Thank you for being there for me, but now you all must be there for the survival of FWC. My best wishes to each and every one of you, now in the future.

Your Executive Committee looks forward to seeing you in Tallahassee.

Carole

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March 2008

2008 Lobby Days Tentative Agenda

March 17, 2008

9:30 - 11:00 Meeting of Member Organizations, includes discussion of Legislative. Priorities. *Please bring with you the three (3) written top priorities on you legislative agenda and submit to the secretary, Ms. Sally Bailey.*

11:15 - 4:30 Annual Meeting

11:15 - 3:30 A Look In to FWC's Future, includes working lunch and facilitated strategy development, Facilitated by Corporate Solutions, Tallahassee Community College

3:30 - 3:45 BREAK

3:45 - 4:30` Business Meeting, includes discussion and vote on bylaws change

6:30 Legislative Reception Heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available; awarding of the Annette Van Howe *Failure is Impossible Award*.

March 18, 2008

7:30 - 9:00, Breakfast, Speaker Representative Elaine Schwartz, District 99

9:30 - 5:00 Lobbying

March 19, 2008

8:00 - 5:00 Lobbying

Attached is the FWC Registration for and scholarship application.



President Tolomeo

Here are three (of many) of my favorite quotes:

Gloria Steinem, American feminist

Someone once asked me why women don't gamble as much as men do and I gave the commonsensical reply that we don't have as much money. That was a true but incomplete answer. In fact, women's total instinct for gambling is satisfied by marriage.

Barbara Bush, First Lady

[at Wellesley College Commencement] Somewhere out in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow in my footsteps, and preside over the White House as the President's spouse. I wish him well!

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Because man and woman are the complement of one another, we need woman's thought in national affairs to make a safe and stable government.

And you favorite quote is?



REGISTRATION FORM

FLORIDA WOMEN'S CONSORTIUM 2008 ANNUAL MEETING AND LOBBY DAYS MARCH 17-19, 2008

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone # _____ Email: _____

Are you the designated representative of a member organization?

Yes: _____ No: _____

Check each event you plan to attend and mail this form, along with checks made payable to FWC, to Sue Banks, FWC Treasurer, 4335 Elm Ave., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

____ Yes, sign me up for the 2008 FWC Lobby Days and Annual Meeting in Tallahassee.
(Lobby Days and Annual Meeting registration fee includes the Legislative Reception)
\$60 for FWC members; \$70 for non-FWC members.

- To receive an early bird special of \$50 for FWC members and \$60 for non-FWC members, register by March 1, 2008.

____ Yes, I want to participate in the 2008 FWC Lobby Days. I am not a FWC member, have never participated in Lobby Days and am sponsored by a FWC member or organization for a scholarship, so please waive my registration fee.

____ Yes, sign me up for the breakfast to be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at a cost of \$20.00.

____ Yes, I am unable to make Lobby Days but sign me up for the 2008 FWC Legislative Reception ONLY.

* \$25.00 for FWC members and non-members

The DEADLINE for hotel room reservations is February 16, 2008.



Florida Women's Consortium

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

2008 LOBBY DAYS

March 17-19, 2008

REGISTRATION FEE WAIVED FOR A NON-MEMBER, FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANT

If you are not yet a member of the Florida Women's Consortium and have never participated in Lobby Days, and are sponsored by a FWC member or organization, the FWC will waive the Lobby Days Registration Fee for the first 20 Scholarship Applicants.

FWC MEMBERS: If you or your organization is a member in good standing, (2008 membership dues are current) and interested in sponsoring a first time, non-member Lobby Day participant, complete this form and mail to:

Sue Banks, Treasurer, FWC – 4335 Elm Avenue, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

NAME OF ORGANIZATION:

ORGANIZATION MEMBER TO CONTACT:

_____ NAME (Please Print)

Street
Code

City

Zip

_____ Telephone #

_____ Email

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORED:

_____ NAME (Please Print)

Street

City

Zip Code

_____ Telephone #

_____ Email