

## MID-CONTINENT REGIONAL BOARD

MID-CONTINENT  
NEWS

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May 2009

### ***Manager's Musings***

To All Mid-Continent Region Members,

I'd like to once again, thank everyone who made our Regional Training Program a success. Although we had fewer participants than we'd hoped, the training and events were excellent.

As decided at the Board meeting the following day, our next RTP will be a joint effort by all the chapters in the region. This will lift the burden of only one chapter hosting the RTP. This is a new venture for the Region. I recall that we discussed the Omaha area for the event. There will be much more on that as we start the planning for fall of 2010.

The current goals for the Mid-Continent Region include:

- Chartering of new chapters (strive for at least one chapter each year)
- Increasing visibility of FEW and FEW Memberships
- Providing quality training programs
- Supporting Chapter Presidents and their Chapters
- Communicating to all FEW members within region
- Providing mentoring opportunities
- Continuing involvement in annual/national "Make A Difference Day"
- Building Cultural Diversity Awareness Programs

We have some available positions on the Regional Board. The Compliance Chair and Legislative Chair are vacant and the Membership Chair could use a replacement. Right now I am fulfilling the responsibilities of these positions.

- Nothing is being done with Legislative, as the National VP and lobbyist send out Updates and Alerts to Chapter Legislative Chairs for further dissemination to members.
- The Compliance area is still a little vague, but from the National level, is responsible for following up locally on issues that have been brought to the National VP that she thinks needs face-to-face attention and she isn't able to do it herself.
- The Membership Chair has been handling promoting, collecting data and announcing winners of the annual Region membership contest.

All of these positions need more attention within the Region. The vacant chair positions will be filled by appointment. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please let Joan Chopp or I know as soon as possible. Your support is needed and will be very much appreciated.

As we renew our efforts to publish a region newsletter, I'd like to invite all those Region Board members who did not provide an item for this first issue, to look at their responsible area and see if there would be something you can have included in the next

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**Gloria Sherman**  
**Mid-continent Region**  
**Manager**

Have a great and safe summer. Hope to see lots of you in Orlando at the NTP!

**“As Zachary Scott states, ‘As you grow older, you’ll find the only things you regret are the things you didn’t do.’ Attend the 2009 NTP so you will have no regrets. Because it is a superlative, re-energizing and unforgettable experience.”**

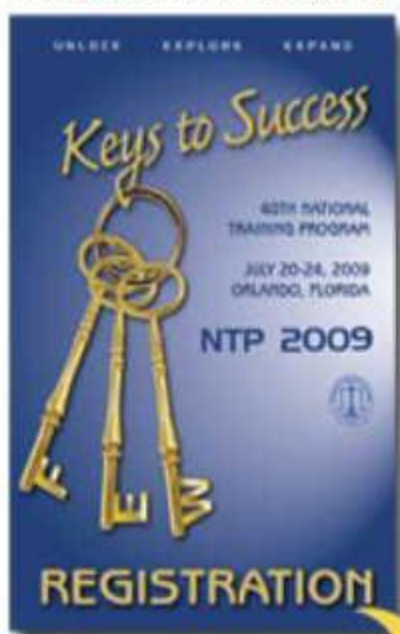
January 27, 2009, (post-poned from Jan 13 due to winter storm) CCCC observed the birthday of Carrie Chapman Catt and the 20th anniversary of the Chapter's organization. Eighteen members and guests enjoyed an evening of entertainment, education, conversation and Chapter history. Anniversary Committee Chair, Barb Kesl, opened the gathering with introductions. Acting President, Chris Rasmusson, welcomed the group. Members recognized the recent loss of member Donna Cummins after a long battle with breast cancer with a moment of silence. A program on the life of Carrie Chapman Catt was presented by chapter members Racheal Conrad, Terri Klein and Sally Hanna.

It was narrated by Chris Rasmusson. Ms. Catt, namesake of the chapter, was born Carrie Clinton Lane in Pison, WI, and raised in Iowa. She trained as a teacher, briefly studied law, and was appointed a high school principal after graduation from Iowa State College. In 1885 she moved to California after marrying newspaper editor Leo Chapman. He died shortly after that leaving a new wife to make her own way. She began working as a newspaper reporter. She soon joined the women's suffrage movement and moved back to Iowa. In 1890 Ms. Catt was a delegate at the newly formed National American Woman Suffrage Association. Carrie Chapman Catt was one of the founders of the Women's Peace Party during World War I and helped organize the League of Women Voters after the passage of the 19th Amendment. She represents the character, strength and courage our members strive to represent. The chapter is proud to carry her name. At the celebration bulletin boards displayed photos of Chapter activities through the years and legislative information from Chair Susan Dykshoorn. Membership information was distributed to guests. Many long time members and retirees who have been unable to attend in the past were present and enjoyed "catching up" on FEW. Chapter members provided a delicious soup supper and Carrie Chapman Catt birthday cake.

(See attached file: 14940040.jpg) Anniversary Planning Chair, Barb Kesl, welcoming members and guests.

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Registration Now Open!



Available to Download

Registration Brochure

## 2009 NTP Scholarship Article

### NTP09 Opportunity

Take advantage of the opportunity to attend the 2009 National Training Program, July 20-24, 2009, Orlando, FL, with dollars from the Mid Continent Region. The application for the 09 NTP Regional Scholarship has been distributed to all member members through their chapter presidents. Mid Continent Region will pay expenses for six nights, ½ of the NTP room rate, airline costs, out-of pocket registration, transportation to and from the airport from your home and in Orlando, FL. This is a value of approximately \$1,200.00. The winner is required to attend the Friday afternoon session of the FEW National Board of Directors meeting. The application is simple to complete and needs to be mailed or e-mailed by Friday, May 22, 2009, to Mary Souers, Scholarship Chair, 22607 720<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Colo, IA 50056 or [mary.c.souers@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:mary.c.souers@aphis.usda.gov). The winner will be announced in early June. Good luck to all applicants.



## Message from Gloria Sherman

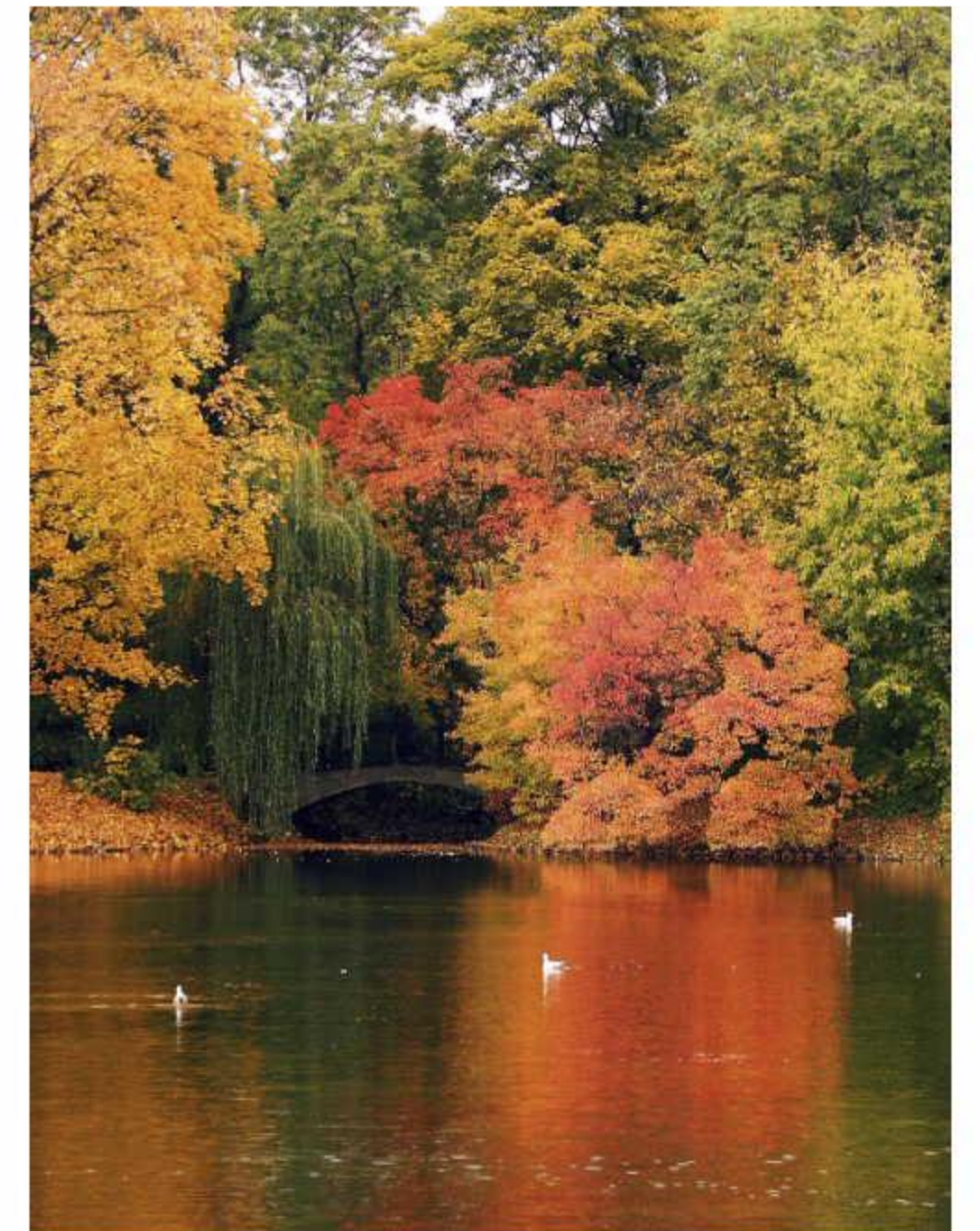
All,

I did finalize arrangements to have our Fall Board Meeting at the same location as the Spring we just completed. There is a block of 15 sleeping rooms at \$107 + taxes for Oct 2 & 3. Reservations can be made now under 'FEW Regional Board Meeting' block at 816-741-2300.

Credentialing will begin at 1230 on Oct 2 and meeting at 1pm. We will break about 5pm to consume a box sandwich meal and get checked in, if still needed. The box meal is \$12.95 each.

Reminder that the Heart of America chapters' "Diva Day" is Oct 3 at the Diastole House - <http://www.diastole.org/>

2501 Holmes, Kansas City, MO. Plan to stay over and participate in their fun and informative day.



## Inside Story Headline

**“Sandra Day O’Connor, How the First Woman on the Supreme Court Became Its Most Influential Justice “ by Barb Kesl**

Biskupic, Joan. Sandra Day O’Connor, How the First Woman on the Supreme Court Became Its Most Influential Justice. Harper Collins, New York. 2005



A woman nominated for the Supreme Court! Finally! I remember feeling excited to hear that a woman had been nominated and approved to serve, but I had never taken the time to learn more about her and how her appointment developed. Not only did I want to learn about Mrs. O’Connor, but also more about the Supreme Court. Rarely did I hear or read about the highest court in our land.

In her book about Sandra Day O’Connor, Ms. Biskupic explains significant events in Ms. O’Connor’s childhood, college years, and early career that contribute to her being selected by the Reagan administration for a Supreme Court justice. I found her recollections of growing up on the Lazy B ranch on the border of Arizona and New Mexico very interesting. How her early environment influenced her career was mentioned numerous times throughout the book. Education and hard work were highly regarded in the Day household, and Justice O’Connor started college at Stanford when she was 16 years old!

Stories of how Justice O’Connor dealt with court issues and more so how she dealt with other justices was fascinating. While it was difficult for me to keep all the names straight, I really did enjoy learning more about basic operations of the court and how strong personalities find a way to work together. Also, I enjoyed recalling significant moments in history and learning more of their background and implications. Most of the court case stories were quite brief including the Thomas-Hill hearings, but it kept the story of her career and life moving. Several years ago I had checked out a book on Thurgood Marshall, but was not able to finish the book before needing to return it to the library. I plan to try get through that one again, but it is a much more complex biography.

If you enjoy history and admire Justice O’Connor like I do, I highly recommend the book.

**Gloria Sherman**

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Please send me information for the newsletter

Federally Employed Women

**Mid-Continent  
Regional Board  
May 29, 2009  
See page 4 & 5**

## **NE HEARTLAND NEWS:**

The Heartland Chapter has completed all the Focus areas for 2009. Our latest endeavor was the annual training day for all women in Nebraska. It was a great success with training from Joy Huber "You Go Girl", Sarah Browning "Recycling", Jill Brown "Careers and Skills", Kim Moore, "I'm Back". We also had a very successful silent auction. We were involved in voter registration this past year. We have four members attending the NTP and I hope that you all try to attend. It is a great training experience.

Have a great summer. Pam Makovicka

### **NTP 2009 Registration & Hotel Accommodations**

Dear FEW Members,

NTP 2009 is just two months away and we are gearing up for an exciting program. Both registration and hotel accommodations are booking fast. In an effort to ensure registered NTP attendees are able to secure hotel accommodations, FEW is asking members to assist the organization by completing one of the tasks below:

1. If you have booked hotel accommodations at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort (OWCM) but have not yet registered for the NTP, please do so immediately. Or let us know your intention to register at [few@few.org](mailto:few@few.org). You can register online at [www.fewntp.org](http://www.fewntp.org) <blockedhttp://www.fewntp.org/> .
2. If you have booked hotel accommodations at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort (OWCM) and you can not attend the NTP please cancel your hotel reservations immediately. This allows a registered FEW member the opportunity to book a hotel reservation and attend the NTP.
3. If you know of any non-members planning on attending, whom have not made reservations, please share this important message with them.

The Orlando World Center Marriott Resort is selling out quickly and FEW has identified numerous members who have booked hotel reservations, but are not registered to attend the NTP. Conversely, there are registered NTP attendees currently waiting to access accommodations at the hotel.

## **Diversity and the World**

By Sharrilane Barnhart

Diversity: The practice or quality of being different. Different could be socioeconomic - poor versus rich. Different could be cultural, religious, age, gender, disability, education level, race, and just about any characteristic that could be compared between two items.

Diversity is all around us every day. Are we respectful of others differences?

Today we have three candidates running for president. We have a woman, a black man and a war veteran that meets the age difference. At no time in history have we had such differences, such diversity for options in choosing the next president.

Quote: We are committed to celebrate our differences and to respect individuals each with their own personalities, backgrounds, beliefs and ideas. The strength of our diversity combined with a dedication to common purpose leads us to tremendous success. Types of Diversity:

Capabilities, disabilities, socioeconomic, background, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, race, gender, and age.

When I was little I remember asking my mom, "why am I different"? Now, as a little girl wanting to be picked for volleyball, I always seemed to get picked last. I always asked why I can't be picked first. Why am I different?

Then when I became a teen-ager I felt different in such a clique environment. I never felt like I fit in. Sure I made the honor roll and read a lot. But when the other girls sat together they had pretty clothes and money for lunch. My socioeconomic environment was definitely different. I came from a single parent and no money for extra luxuries. I felt different and was treated different.

Once I graduated from high school, I started working and also got married after my beau came home from Vietnam. This time was different. People protested against the war. When my beau came home he was labeled a "baby killer". Men had long hair and from the back side you never knew if it was a girl or a boy. I wanted to be like my friends who were getting married because at that time - women got married, had the white picket fence with 2.5 kids and lived happily ever after. I was different. I did not have any kids and also did not have the white picket fence. I wanted to fit the box but I found out I was different.

My life experience always seemed to make me feel I was different. I never quite measured up to expectations, to capabilities, to race, to gender and now to age. I just wanted to fit, to be normal, to be accepted, to count and then.....I began to understand what different and being diverse meant.

Maybe just maybe it was okay to be different. Maybe if the world was more accepting of being different, allowing diversity in all walks of life, the world would be a place for exciting opportunities, colors, cultural differences, ethnics and we could share the differences among us to better educate and support each other.

I have been educated in the subject of diversity and having the diverse opportunities to choose in life has made my life journey so much more exciting. If I travel I can pick from lots of different cultures, religions, people of ethnic background, educational level, etc. I can talk to a farmer and at the same time in a different area may be able to discuss a subject with a CEO of a company. I can work to get my doctorate or settle for a master's degree. I can exchange ideas for promoting diversity in the workplace with others that could share from a diverse array of talent, experience, or education.

I am glad I am different as I feel that I have experience a great amount of knowledge in the subject of diversity. Diversity is limitless in its descriptive words. Diversity could be well-rounded in conversation topics. Diversity in the markets offer a wide selection of interesting, around-the-world products. Diversity in education could be offering classes from various languages to speak, cultures to study and understand, sharing values and ethics that are different but could be agreed and understood as monumental accomplishment in the acceptance for better global relationships.

Diversity is what we want to in our experiences. Share your differences with others and watch the gifts come to fruition. We can learn from each other, share with each other, and build a better world for all to walk down their path in life journey. Thank goodness for differences between us - diversity among us, it would be a very bland world if we all fit out of the box.

## Regional Training Program Photos

*Taken by Marianne Gronstal*







