

## FEW Friday – A Special Day for Members



If you've ever attended an NTP, you know all about the traditional opening reception, the quality array of classes covering everything from career topics, to personal effectiveness, government systems and, of course, training specifically geared to FEW's objectives, programs, and leadership development, the networking opportunities and the excitement to be a part of the 2,000 network of people with similar goals. If you've never attended an NTP, this is your year! Not only will the 2003 NTP offer all of the traditional events...we've added one new and very special event this year. We're calling it FEW Friday, and are designing a day just for FEW Members. If you're not a member, now is the time to join, as only members are invited to this free and very special event!

Although it would be difficult to attend an NTP and not learn something about FEW, many of the people attending the conference are not members. Some of our activities, such as our Annual Awards Presentation, our update on national activities, and discussions of FEW's future often get lost during the week and don't receive the focus they should. Members and officers work hard all year planning programs, recruiting new members, strengthening member involvement, and finding new ways to carry out FEW's mission. Devoting an entire day to FEW's members is one way we can ensure that our members stay strong and involved, and come away from the NTP filled with new ideas and energy for the coming year.

FEW Friday will begin with a Member's Only Brunch. Although we're still fine tuning the details, speakers and

participants, the NTP Planning Group wants members to know what's in store so you can begin making plans now. This special event will feature an address from FEW's National President relaying the accomplishments of the year and plans for the future. Legislative activities will be discussed and we'll feature an exciting keynote speaker who will talk about current events and FEW's impact on government and legislative issues. FEW's National Awards will be presented at this event, and we'll devote time to allow award winners to address the assembly.

We'll break after the brunch and reconvene at the FEW Member's Forum. This afternoon event is the place for members to learn more about the organization from other members, and to get ideas about successful programs that work. Tentative plans include a general session with an overview of FEW's four focus areas (diversity, legislation, training and compliance). Breakout sessions are planned to allow members to form small discussion groups to talk about issues of particular importance, to identify problems and barriers to successful chapter operations, and to come away with ideas to create new programs and plans. Issues involving recruiting, retaining and reclaiming members, planning programs, obtaining agency support, publicizing activities in federal agencies and in the community, developing committees that work, developing leaders for the future, nominating and election issues, ideas for legislative programs, etc. can be discussed. Members will be encouraged to share ideas and develop networks with members in other chapters to use a mentors and resources.

Imagine being in a room surrounded by members from chapters around the world, who, like you, are committed to ending sex discrimination and advancing career opportunities for women in government! Sitting with

members of your chapter, or taking the leap and sitting with members you don't know to learn more about what's really happening in the trenches.

The NTP Planning Group, in discussion with national officers and members throughout the country, developed this day to respond to member needs and concerns that FEW needs to give back to those who make FEW what it is today.

Lots of people consider attending the NTP for all of its wonderful opportunities. As a member, you'll get all of this too. But one important reason to attend this year is to reward yourself for being a part of an organization that is making a difference. Take advantage of this opportunity reserved only for members, to appreciate yourself for your hard work and the work of others in your organization. We hope that this day will be one of information, rejuvenation, and renewal. We owe our members a lot, and FEW Friday is your day! Take advantage of this special opportunity and make plans to join us in Chicago!

For members who are being funded by their agencies, a special tuition rate of \$425 has been established. FEW understands that it's not always possible to obtain agency funding, and that members recognize the importance of self-development and investing in their own futures. Again this year, a very special rate of \$200 has been established for members who will be paying their own way to attend, or whose chapter or region is assisting with tuition. This rate includes all of the events, from the opening reception Tuesday night through the Member's Forum on Friday (and the National Board Meeting for those who wish to stay on through Saturday). Where else can you get a week of quality training and networking for such value?

Start talking about bringing a group to the NTP at your next chapter meeting.

Look for ways you can start making plans for your chapter to start a fundraising plan to assist members who are paying their own way. Many chapters offer scholarship programs, and have set aside chapter funding to help offset tuition and travel. Call your chapter officers and find out how you can get involved. I guarantee you won't be disappointed in Chicago! And you just might find that spark you've been looking for to boost your career and renew yourself in FEW!

Information on the NTP is on our website at [www.fewntp.org](http://www.fewntp.org) New information is posted frequently, and you can sign up to be notified via email when major changes to the website are posted.