



NTP UPDATE – March, 2003

They say that time flies when you're having fun, and the NTP Planning Committee can hardly believe we're only four months away from the start of the 2003 NTP! All systems are go, and the 2003 NTP promises to be another outstanding conference. Here's a quick update.

REGISTRATION: The Registration Book has gone to the printer and mailing is scheduled to begin March 27. All members will receive a copy based on the information contained in the national membership database. Check with your chapter president to make sure your dues are current and that your mailing address is correct in the database. We'll also be posting the entire book on the NTP website at www.fewnntp.org. This year the NTP will feature a on-line reservation system for attendees paying by credit card; mail and fax registration forms will also be accepted for people registering via training form check or credit card.

We're excited about moving the registration process into the future with the use of technology! For planning purposes, tuition information is posted on the NTP website now. In keeping with the long-standing tradition of offering affordable tuition for members paying fees without agency support, the Tuition-Out-of-Pocket (TOP) rate of \$200 will be available. TOP Forms will be distributed via email to Chapter Presidents in mid-March.

TRAINING: We know you'll be impressed with the new course offerings and the connection between all of the NTP Workshops and OPM's Leadership Competencies. Feedback from the national review team looking over the course descriptions was extremely positive. You'll see many new trainers and workshops. Take time to read through the Registration Book when it arrives and we know you'll be excited about the new classes too.

AGENCY FORUMS: Several agencies have already confirmed to hold meetings on the days preceding the NTP and we've posted the current list on the NTP website. If your agency is interested in holding a forum, you can review and print the Agency Forum Prospectus right from the Agency Forum tab on the NTP Website.

EXHIBITS: Over 50% of the Expo Hall has been sold and work continues to recruit and market. We've given a name to this year's Expo Hall "Trends and Technology Expo: A Showcase for Quality Government" and you'll see many new exhibitors and returning favorites there. The Expo Hall hours were shortened and concentrated around the hours participants won't be in classes. Activities, events and meal functions are all taking place in and around the hall to allow the maximum interaction. We're hoping for a good showing from the FEW Regions and many have already reserved booths. In addition to providing membership recruitment and general FEW information, the National FEW Booth this year will feature a FEW Store with logo items for sale. Make sure you bring an extra suitcase, because we know you'll want to take home items that will show others how you support your organization!

SPONSORS: Once again, Blue Cross Blue Shield and GEICO have continued their strong support of the NTP through sponsorship programs. We're in the process of recruiting more sponsors for some new features too, and are hopeful that one or more of the computer giants will partner with us to host a cyber café. Participants at the 2002 NTP provided a lot of input into what kinds of things they'd like to see at future NTPs, and having a Cyber Café was at the top of the list.

TOURS: We've planned several optional tours for attendees wanting to see some of the city. The Chicago Cubs will be hosting the Florida Marlins on Monday, July 7, in a showdown of NTP2002 meets NTP2003, and FEW has a block of tickets to the game. We'll travel like native Chicagoans via the EL to Wrigley Field for a night of baseball at its finest. Architectural River Cruises and a Motorcoach Tour of Chicago's Highlights will also be offered on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday evening features a night of Chicago Classics: Deep Dish Pizza and Second City Theater, the home where many of the Saturday Night Live stars got their start. The tours are not included in the cost of registration and reservations must be made separately. Information on registering for tours is included in the Registration Book. Unfortunately, the Oprah Winfrey Show does not film in July, much to the dismay of organizers and attendees alike!

OPENING and CLOSING RECEPTIONS: The NTP will open with the traditional Opening Reception Tuesday night. The NTP Committee is keeping the format and activities close to the vest, but we know you'll be pleased with the outcome. On Thursday night, we'll close the NTP with a Leadership and Networking Reception immediately following the end of classes from 5pm-7pm. Make sure your travel plans don't take you away before you have a chance to engage in some real networking opportunities where trainers, exhibitors, agency heads, FEW leaders and attendees can meet and make contacts that will last a lifetime!

FEW FRIDAY: This year we developed a special day just for FEW members. We'll start the day with a Member's Only Brunch featuring an update on FEW by the National President, presentation of FEW National Awards, information on legislative issues and other topics of interest to members. After the Brunch, we'll hold a Member's Forum where more in-depth information about FEW's programs will be discussed. This forum will afford members across the country a unique opportunity to talk about issues important to members and Chapter Officers. National Officers will meet concurrently with the Member Forum in a workshop designed to address issues important to the National Board. After these sessions, the National Board meeting will convene. There is no cost to members to participate in all of the day's activities! Members can register for FEW Friday by checking the boxes on the NTP Registration Form.

After a week packed with training and networking galore, Friday evening will feature a relaxing night out aboard Chicago's Little Lady for a dinner cruise on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. The cruise is the only activity on FEW Friday not offered as a complimentary event. The cost for the 3-hour cruise and dinner is \$100 and reservations can be made by calling the NTP Hotline at 303-825-1177.

The NTP Committee has worked hard to make the 2003 one filled with opportunity, education and excitement for participants. Make plans now to attend. We promise you won't be disappointed. See you in Chicago, July 7-11, where we'll be ***Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today!***