

NTP 2003: We're Gonna Blow You Away



Attendees at the 2002 NTP were invited by the Chicago Convention and Tourism Board (CCTB), representing the City of Chicago, and NTP Chair Patt Franc, on behalf of FEW members everywhere, to attend the 2003 NTP in Chicago, July 7-11, 2003.

Waving fans printed in the 2003 colors of bright green and blue, 2000 NTP goers gave Chicago a roaring welcome! The CCTB presented "Destination Chicago" a video highlighting the sights and sounds of The Windy City. The 2003 NTP Committee is hard at work on plans to make FEW's 34th NTP another unforgettable experience.

The 2003 NTP Newsletter, "**FEW's FUTURE - The NTP of Tomorrow**", was distributed at the Closing Session in Orlando. If you missed the session, or were unable to attend the 2002 NTP, you can download your own copy by visiting our website www.fewntp.org Click on the Conference tab and select the Special Edition!

In concert with OPM's Leadership Competencies, the "2003 New and Improved Training Curriculum", will allow FEW to provide a unique opportunity for government employees to meet the challenges of the evolving workplace. Training tracks will provide a new tool for attendees to develop the characteristics and competencies essential to the new leadership culture in the federal government and will feature courses consistent with the training philosophy of OPM. Advanced level as well as introductory level classes are planned. Jeni Bungert, Training Team Leader is finalizing the solicitation for workshop presenters and will be posting the call for trainers on the website soon.

For the first time, the NTP Exhibit Hall will be managed by a professional exhibition management company. "**Trends and Technology Expo: A Showcase for Quality Government**" is the theme for the exhibit portion of the NTP. Corcoran Conferon Exhibitions is hard at work soliciting exhibitors and sponsors. For more information on exhibiting, email george@corcexpo.com and for sponsorship information, email schapin@corcexpo.com Plans are to feature a cyber café as a part of the Expo to offer attendees a place to check their email. By providing outstanding opportunities for showcasing agency programs, industry products and services, promoting the programs of coalition groups, and FEW Regional and Chapter fundraising and member recruitment attendees will definitely want to make the Exhibit Hall a frequent stop during their day!

Final negotiations with the hotel to lock in rates are ongoing and as soon as a firm rate is put into the contract, the hotel can start accepting reservations. We are working with Conferon, Inc. our meeting planning company, on identifying ways to structure the reservation system so that FEW can avoid paying costly attrition penalties that arise when more folks make reservations than attend the NTP. In past years, attendees ever-hopeful of securing approval to attend have gone forward with housing plans. When approval to attend the NTP isn't forthcoming, rooms are canceled and those that remain unsold can cost FEW dearly. The 2003 NTP Committee is looking at finding new ways to safeguard FEW's finances in a way that will keep us from incurring these costly penalties.

Ann Garber, Human Resources Team Leader, will be working with the volunteer recruitment program. Volunteer opportunities are being developed in preparation for the recruitment of FEW members to work on-site. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about NTP administrative and management operations. Who knows? One of FEW's NTP volunteers is likely to be a future NTP Chair or Team Leader.

The Information Management Team, headed by Billie Jo Benjamin, is working to develop a database of Agency contacts throughout the federal government. This information will assist us in marketing and getting out information about the NTP. A database of Federal Women's Program Managers is also being developed that will not only help the NTP Committee, but will be useful to the National Board and Regional and Chapter leaders.

Anna Rosario is leading the Agency Forum Team will be working closely with the 2002 NTP Committee to begin making contact with those agencies who held meetings in Orlando. Historical data on agencies that have held meetings in the past will be examined and contact made with agencies to encourage them to use the two days prior to the NTP as an excellent opportunity to bring staff together from across the country (and overseas!) to discuss issues of nationwide importance.

The 2003 NTP Website is up and running! Visit www.fewntp.org to learn more about NTP plans. The website has a feature that allows visitors to register for a Newsletter which will automatically notify them via email when new information is posted. Discussions with the web developer were held and a system selected to ensure that the subscriber's email addresses belong solely to FEW and will not be shared or sold with outside interests, eliminating the possibility of unwanted spam messages.

We are excited about all of our plans and encourage you to visit the site and send us email messages few2003ntp@att.net about your NTP ideas and concerns. Although we may not be able to respond to every suggestion, your ideas are important to us in creating the NTP of the Future.

Mark your calendars, work on your Individual Development Plans, and begin discussions NOW with your agency managers to help ensure you are with FEW in 2003, where we will be "Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today" in Chicago, July 7th -11th.

