

Allie B. Latimer

1968-1969

Allie Latimer, FEW's first President, worked hard to put building blocks into place for a strong national organization, with the major objective of equality of opportunity for all. The idea was born out of a desperate need to concentrate on FEW's objective for women in government with the hope that this leadership would benefit others in state and local government. Allie led the team of women, who in 1968, joined together in establishing "TOO FEW -- The Organization Of Federally Employed Women."



“May FEW continue to be a moving force for equality of women and all humankind for many, many years to come until we can truly say the need has, indeed, disappeared.”

Daisy B. Fields

1969-1971

Daisy Fields, FEW's second President, experienced exciting, challenging, and frustrating years. Exciting because the Executive Order was in place mandating equal opportunity for women, challenging because unless women organized they would continue to be ignored and frustrating because the prevailing 'old boys network' attitude quaked at the prospect of sharing power with women. FEW got exceptional press coverage; seeing and hearing women stand up for their rights was a strange phenomenon. Daisy established the first Chapters; designed FEW's logo, published the first newsletter *FEW FACTS*; and lobbied for the passage of the ERA.



“Never before in the history of civil service has it been more imperative to unite on issues and make our voices heard before every benefit of civil service employment is completely eroded. May FEW go down in history as the catalyst for change in public service.”

Esther Lawton

1971-1972

Esther Lawton, FEW's third President, doubled the number of Chapters and members during her term. She traveled to distant locations making speeches and pioneering for FEW. She oversaw the first big national conference where FEW planned for 125 and 175 attended. Organizers, called the 'Family in FEW', had to hold back so conference goodies would go around. Esther presented awards recognizing Senators, managers and FEW members for the most active support and also gave a gag award to a person for the least support.



*“RIGHT ON!
We must become
stronger than
ever to overcome
the resistance
and attitude of
the present
administration.”*

Priscilla B. Ransohoff

1972-1974

Priscilla Ransohoff, FEW's fourth President, was instrumental in developing a Regional structure for FEW, paralleling that of the Civil Service Commission, with the addition of the D.C. Metro Region and appointed the first two Regional Coordinators. She decentralized the National Training Conference from the D.C. area. Priscilla developed strong leadership in her officers and board members, created a Long Range Planning Committee and was noted for her infamous Conference Songfests, singing familiar songs with feminist lyrics.



“May Regions be strengthened to the point that our national office will merely coordinate the work out of the Regions. Hopefully, we might find Regions consisting of smaller area organizations, thereby increasing membership by getting us closer to the grassroots.”

Janice K. Mendenhall

1974-1976

Janice Mendenhall, FEW's fifth President, saw FEW grow from 52 to 125 Chapters. She presided over the first National Training Conference held outside of D.C. where attendance increased from 900 to 1,250. She developed a sound financial base and accounting system for FEW. Janice implemented FEW's current Regional structure and oversaw the election rather than appointment of Regional Managers. Janice was instrumental in working to establish the FEW Legal and Education Fund (FEW-LEF).



“Volunteer work is vastly underrated, but the experience I gained in FEW was extremely valuable to me in my management career with the government and especially as a charter member of the SES.”

Mae (Walterhouse) Morris

1976-1978

Mae Morris, FEW's sixth President, expanded member services by computerizing FEW's membership information, publishing handbooks, and holding national meetings throughout the country. She took a very strong stand for the Equal Rights Amendment. She established FEW's Advisory Council and chartered 48 new Chapters. Mae was highly visible at the national level of government, holding regular meetings with President Carter, Vice President Mondale and their staffs. She testified in support of all major women's issues and raised funds to purchase a home for FEW which is still an unfulfilled dream.



“Whatever reason made each of us join FEW in the beginning is still valid today, and probably more now than ever before. We need FEW and we need each other.”

Dorothy E. Nelms

1978-1980

Dorothy Nelms, FEW's seventh President, greatly increased FEW's legislative profile through the hiring of FEW's first lobbyist. She organized the "Coalition for the Modification of Veteran's Preference" where FEW took the lead role working with other women's organizations to look at the status of women in the military and the effect the length of the 5 point veterans preference had on women being RIF'd. Dorothy testified before Congress on many issues and pursued an active public relations campaign including FEW's first media spots and public service announcements. Dorothy was very visible throughout the U.S. making numerous appearances and speeches to Chapters and Regions.



"I had taken early retirement from the government, and was in law school full time. Serving as FEW's National President was two of the greatest years of my life."

Marylouise M. Uhlig

1980-1982

Marylouise Uhlig, FEW's eighth President, saw FEW mature in coalition tactics and financial status as a true professional organization. FEW leaders finessed their skills in conciliation, persuasion, and moderation backed by firmness, persistence and aggressiveness. FEW provided a unifying and collective strength to women overcoming discrimination, harassment, unfairness, and major cuts. Marylouise was the first FEW President to visit a foreign nation in her official role. The sisters she met in the U.S. and overseas were living FEW's mission at all levels of their agencies.



“The strength, adaptability, and communication we developed in these tough times will last into better times. FEW will set the tone and pace for change like a thermostat. Our future is bright!”

Dolores P. (De) Burton

1982-1984

De Burton, FEW's ninth President, was the first to be installed by an American Indian complete with a full ceremony. She worked with President Reagan's administration to establish the Women's Executive Leadership Program and lead FEW's involvement in the "Women Vote Project". De also served as the chair for FEW's 1980 NTP, where over 5000 persons attended from around the world, and was the first NTP to provide an on-site child care center. President Jimmy Carter, confirmed NTP speaker, was not able to attend due to the Camp David Accord.



“Never forget...one person does make a difference.”

Marie G. Argana

1984-1986

Marie Argana, FEW's tenth President, provided the direction to adopt FEW's Legislative Agenda as the structure for the three-tiered legislative program. Tier I addressed issues that directly impact federally employed women; Tier II addressed issues that affect all federal employees; and Tier III addressed issues that affect women in general. Marie testified on numerous issues, including the support of parental leave, pay equity, a new retirement system, and alternative work schedules. FEW can take much credit for the permanent authorization of flexitime and in family and medical leave programs.



“Volunteers are the glue that hold an organization together.”

Freda W. Kurtz

1986-1988

Freda Kurtz, FEW's eleventh President, worked to see the expansion of the interpretation of federal law which made possible the use of government funds not just for job oriented training but for mission oriented training. She became FEW's first representative on the Employee Thrift Advisory Council of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board as the result of legislation mandating a woman represent women as one of the 14 members of the council. This was the first recognition by Congress of the importance of women in the federal government. During this time the TSP grew from 0 to 1.5 million participants and from 0 to 7 billion dollars in funds.



“It is extremely important that women receive training to help them compete in the 21st Century.”

Dorothy I. Spinks

1988-1990

Dorothy Spinks, FEW's twelfth President, began the automation of FEW's National Office. This effort was designed to conserve funds and make it easier for Chapters to submit quarterly reports. She worked with OPM Director Constance Newman to develop a relationship agreement between OPM and FEW. Dorothy commissioned a Task Force to look at the status of women in government and the Federal Women's Program. She battled the IRS who had determined that FEW's 501(c)(3) status had been violated because FEW had printed the voting record of elected officials. Rather than have its legislative activities restricted, FEW elected to move to its current 501 (c) (4) status.



“FEW gave me the opportunity to lead, I worked hard and we’re still moving forward.”

Jean M. Christiansen

1990-1992

Jean Christiansen, FEW's thirteenth President, worked to develop a national agenda for FEW that would increase visibility at all levels. She strengthened relationships between FEW, federal agencies and the private sector, and increased outreach to attract more women to join FEW through promoting the importance and visibility of the NTP. Her legislative staff established the legislative breakfast series. Jean testified before congress on "glass ceiling" issues and worked to implement the findings in FEW's Survey on Women in Government and the status of the Federal Women's Program.



"I am so proud to have commissioned the production of 'Through the Eyes of its Leaders' a video of FEW's history told by its National Presidents so that members everywhere can take pride in our many accomplishments."

Carolyn M. Kroon

1992-1994

Carolyn Kroon, FEW's fourteenth President, worked to strengthen FEW's focus on cultural awareness. As a result of her efforts, a National Bylaws amendment elevated Cultural Awareness to a voting position on the National Board of Directors. She signed relationship agreements with National IMAGE and Blacks in Government and served on OPM's Hispanic Employment Advisory Group and their Interagency Glass Ceiling Committee, both studying problems women and minorities have in advancing careers. During Carolyn's term, FEW added women's health to its National Agenda.



“FEW provided me with so many opportunities I would have never had on my job.”

Janie B. Taylor

1994-1996

Janie Taylor, FEW's fifteenth President, was known affectionately in government as Miss Upward Mobility, for her efforts to design a program to help people in "dead end" jobs to move upward in the Federal Government. Janie led the charge for the development of a guide for women to go by to prepare them to move up in the Federal Government. Janie marched from agency to agency to get the Upward Mobility programs started in most federal agencies. Most organizations thought their business was too technical to allow for Upward Mobility programs, but Janie showed them how it could be done.



"Most women knew more than the jobs they were doing would let them show and they need to be prepared to move up the ladder and be the leaders of tomorrow."

Dorothy E. Nelms

1996-1998

Dorothy Nelms, FEW's sixteenth President, orchestrated the first National Awards Banquet in conjunction with FEW's 30th Anniversary in Washington, D.C. She presented FEW's first Presidents' Award to Donna Shalala, the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Dorothy oversaw the upgrade and redesign of FEW's News & Views giving it a more professional appearance and content. She held meetings with NCEPS partners to renew commitments to Affirmative Action/EEO and the National Performance Review's impact of downsizing on women and minorities



“Let’s work harder to become an organization where all women can look at FEW and see themselves at every level, working and succeeding in this great organization.”

Jeanette S. Miller

1998-2000

Jeanette Miller, FEW's seventeenth President, met with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and her staff. As a result of Jeanette's efforts, FEW signed a partnership agreement with OPM, during the 1999 NTP, clearly demonstrating OPM's support and sanction of FEW training programs. Publicizing this partnership helped ensure that more women in government knew about the NTP and, as a result, attendance increased. Jeanette worked with EEOC to review and update the rules processing for the federal complaints process.



“FEW must remain vigilant in its cause for equity, and be the force in the 21st century for the advancement of women in government.”

Jenifer L. Bungert

2000-2002

Jeni Bungert, FEW's eighteenth President, performed all the clerical work for FEW during her term because there was no national office nor staff due to financial issues. She had to inform the National Board of Directors that they would need to fund their own travel to meetings and activities because there simply was no money. Everyone was committed to FEW and agreed to do whatever was necessary to keep FEW going. She held training for the board consisting of non-profit fiduciary responsibilities and non-profit board management. As a result of Jeni's hard work and efforts, FEW accomplished much and was solvent again at the end of her term.



“I believe FEW’s future is in its members. We need to work to find the focus to bring in more young members to FEW.”

Patricia M. Wolfe

2002-2006

Pat Wolfe, FEW's nineteenth President, presided over two firsts; the inaugural Chapter President Leadership Forum held in Washington, DC and the first-ever Career-Education Fair in Atlanta, GA. She testified before Congress on two of FEW's top legislative priorities: The Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provisions of Social Security and Diversity in the Senior Executive Service. Pat re-opened FEW's National Office and entered into contracts for key administrative, financial, membership and legislative support services. Membership grew by more 65% during her tenure.



“Chapter Presidents hold the most important positions in the organization for they are FEW’s public face across the nation and the key to advancing FEW’s goal of helping women reach even higher career goals during the next 40 years.”

Rhonda M. Trent

2006-2008

Rhonda Trent, FEW's twentieth President, represented FEW members while testifying before Congress on two occasions in support of the SES Diversity Assurance Act. FEW had a large part in this groundbreaking piece of legislative history that will ensure women and minorities are considered more fairly in the SES selection process. Rhonda also had the pleasure of representing FEW at over sixty-eight Agency Visits to continue to ensure that FEW is well-known throughout government agencies and that agencies continue to support FEW's mission.



“May FEW always educate and provide career advancement opportunities for women, while continuing the fight for women’s equality in government service ”