

## **FEW adopts a Resolution to address the status of Federal Women's Program**

FEW adopted a resolution to address the status of Federal Women's Programs (FWP) at its Annual Membership Meeting held in Anaheim, CA on July 18, 2008.

When FEW was founded in 1968 the mission was and still is to work exclusively to end sex discrimination and advocate for the advancement of women in federal service. During its 40 year history, FEW has worked with OPM and Federal Agencies to keep the FWP strong. A recent survey administered by FEW to 28 departments and agencies resulted in less than a 7% return rate which gives a strong indication that the FWP is indeed moving into oblivion. With the adoption of the resolution a task force has been established to implement and carry out a Strategic Plan of Action to:

- Determine the status of the Federal Women's Program in all major departments and agencies through whatever means is necessary
- Construct and maintain a current contact list of the Federal Women's Program Managers (FWPM) in these major departments and agencies, both in Washington, D.C. and throughout federal installations in the U.S. and abroad;
- Communicate with these FWPMs to obtain annual documentation
  - o Of FWP activities
  - o Agency funding for FWP activities
  - o FWP training and development plans
  - o The current status of women in these major departments and agencies
- Reissue the recent Survey on women and the Federal Women's Program, and study and publish the results;
- Complete this Plan of Action and report back to the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting held during the 2009 National Training Program in Orlando, Florida next July; and
- Publish monthly progress reports to the membership beginning in September, 2008 on the actions taken to complete this resolution on FEW's website [www.few.org](http://www.few.org) and bi-monthly in FEW's News and Views.

Recently, the task force held a conference call to discuss its plan of action and the first step will be to schedule a meeting with the Commissioner of the EEOC to discuss federal agencies submissions of MD-715 which speaks directly to statutory/regulatory EEO related Special Emphasis Programs-Federal Women's Program. The next step will be to establish a more formal relationship with federal agency's EEO and Civil Rights Offices and discuss with them our concerns. Finally, the task force would like to host a round table summit and invite agency leaders from OPM, EEOC and federal agencies.