



Empowering
Women in Development
New York

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear WID Colleagues:

What an incredibly stressful and difficult time this has been for all New Yorkers and especially for those working in the philanthropic sector! WID also has had a number of challenges. One of our primary revenue streams vaporized last fall and another shrank alarmingly but has recouped well due to a strongly focused and concerted effort, this year. As many of our standing contracts came up for renewal, the higher expenses related to our greater membership numbers caused a budgetary squeeze.

It has been a trying experience for leadership but WID has weathered the storm well so far, thanks to your membership support and record attendance at events. I hope that, in return, your membership in WID has provided you with the inspiration and encouragement, mentoring, networking and job opportunities that you may have needed to navigate your career through these turbulent times.

The support of smart and talented women is such a comfort, isn't it? WID has been fortunate in that regard. Despite the incredible pressures of their jobs, and crises in their careers, businesses and at their organizations, your board and your Executive Committee and Committee Chairs have, for the most part, stayed at their volunteer posts and by burning the candle at both ends these past months made the herculean effort to keep WID's programs as vibrant and dynamic as ever, if not stronger. The names of these fine professionals are listed on our masthead.

Gloria Kao, Treasurer, Kerry Walsh, Secretary, and JuWon Choi, Assistant Secretary serve with me on the Executive Committee which has shouldered much of the work and the short-term decision-making. Luncheon Programs are run by Donna Rich and Renee Greene, Special Programs by JuWon Choi and Beatrice Sampong, Career Coaching by Cathy Levy and Susan Marx, Membership by Mary Ann Routledge and Gloria

Kao, Nominating by Jeanne Sigler and Melissa Cohen, Women of Achievement by Pat Pollok and Jeannine Glazewski, Sponsorship by Alex Eising and Kimberly Datz, and Communications by Elizabeth Wagner. All are ably assisted by their Committee members. Please join me in thanking them all for their tireless efforts and raising a glass to toast their service at our annual Woman of Achievement luncheon on May 19th!

We continually strive for diversity of every type--sector, specialty, ethnicity, tenure etc. on our board. We hope that in the coming years, as your interest and involvement in this profession and in WID-NY increases, many of you will serve in these key positions.

WID has also tried to take the lead this year in partnering with other organizations in our field to bring you low or no-cost programming on topical issues to supplement our own offerings, and to test the waters in case there are more lean times ahead. Many of you took the opportunity to brainstorm and network with members of the Greater New York Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Planned Giving Group of New York at the Foundation Center in March.

In sum, like many of the nonprofits you serve, both our human and financial resources were greatly depleted this year, but we have strained every muscle to keep our commitment to you by continuing to offer all of the programs and services you are used to, without drawing down on our precious reserve fund.

In addition, we have the most exciting events and programs (some of them for members only) already planned for our next fiscal year which will begin on July 1st. You won't believe who's coming to speak at WID-NY, but my lips are sealed...

With a million thanks for your support,

Poonam Prasad
Prasad Consulting & Research

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