

Women In Federal Law Enforcement

Recognizes Pioneers and Progress

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The Interagency Committee on Women in Federal Law Enforcement sponsored its sixth training conference November 3-6, 1991 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel, Arlington, VA. This conference took on special meaning in that it marked 20 years of women in federal law enforcement, and thus, the conference program was entitled: "The 20th Anniversary of Women in Law Enforcement: Facing the Challenge."

The Interagency Committee on Women in Federal Law Enforcement.

The Interagency Committee on Women in Federal Law Enforcement is an organization that was first established in 1978 to develop an information sharing and support network for women in law enforcement and to promote the recruitment of women in federal law enforcement occupations.

Originally created by the Office of Personnel Management to study the reasons for the low number of women entering fed-

eral law enforcement, the Committee has evolved into an active organization that received joint sponsorship by the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury under a Memorandum of Agreement in 1982.

The Committee is composed of representatives from over 30 federal agencies with law enforcement responsibilities. Representatives include women law enforcement agents and officers, EEO officials, personnel specialists and others in law enforcement support positions in the Washington, D.C., area. The Committee also welcomes state and local law enforcement officers to assist in its endeavors.

This year's conference.

This year's conference was co-sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Internal Security and Criminal Investigation Divisions. Over 530 attendees participated in the conference. The agenda included a wide range of workshops and



Several Inspectors "line up" for a photograph with ACI Michael A. Gump. From left to right: Robin Luers, INC, Atlanta Division; Sally Wolfe and Pat Achimovic, Washington Division; Janene Gordon, Western Region Headquarters, ACI Gump; Linda Klaus, Eastern Region Headquarters; Chris Macho, ARCI, Administration, Northeast Region; Jill Crivelli, Los Angeles Division; and Jayne Schwarz, ARCI, Audit, Central Region.

seminars designed to enhance professional skills and create an environment for networking.

Thirty-four female Postal Inspectors attended this year's conference. This is a significant increase over previous years. In fact, in 1990, several of us received an eleventh hour call to attend that conference. We were disappointed to witness the relatively small number of female Postal Inspectors present. Although we did have an information booth thanks to the Congressional and Public Affairs Branch, we had limited visibility at the 1990 conference. At that time, I decided it would be different at the next conference. The 1991 conference attendees would know who Postal Inspectors are.

When I learned about plans for the 1991 conference, I began to spread the word to National Headquarters, Regions and Divisions. As a result of Chief Clauson's support and the support of the Executive Board, we were able to send a well represented group of Inspectors to the conference. I also developed

contact with the Interagency Committee and attended some of the meetings. The result was increased Inspection Service participation. Robin Luers, now Inspector in Charge, Atlanta Division, having been the first female INC when she was appointed INC, Richmond, VA, was invited to participate in the Pioneers in Law Enforcement panel. The Inspection Service also underwrote the cost of printing the WIFLE Directory with the Congressional and Public Affairs Graphic Artists designing the cover and coordinating the printing.

For many of us, the highlight of the conference was the hospitality suite for Postal Inspectors sponsored by Chief Clauson and the female Inspection Service PCES managers; Ida Gillis, ARCI-Audit, Eastern Region; Robin Luers, INC, Atlanta; Jayne Schwarz, ARCI-Audit, Central Region; and Christine Macho, ARCI-Administration, Northeast Region. Being in a room at the same time with over 30 female Postal Inspectors was an experience most of us have never had before and it was one we will never forget.



Facing the camera, from the left: ACI Gump; Inspectors Gordon; Macho; Crivelli; and Schwarz.



Facing the camera, from the left: Inspectors Dagleish, Schoefer, unidentified, Alice Elbersen, SID; Linda Byam, Central Region Headquarters; Molly McMinn, Buffalo Division; Cindy Horton, Houston Division; Kathy Robertson, Dallas Division.



Facing the camera, from the left: Inspectors Schwarz; Luers; Klaus; Wolfe; and Dewey Sparks, INC, Washington Division.



Facing the camera, from the left: Inspectors Nancy Unger, Boston Division; Kate Lawrence, National Headquarters; Robin Dagleish, Memphis Division; and Jane Schoefer, National Headquarters.



Third from left, Inspector Karen Earl, Washington Division; Inspectors Rob Chalmers and Sheila Wright, National Headquarters; Delaree Maddox, Philadelphia Division; unidentified, Brenda Gouldin and Dan Mihalko, National Headquarters.



From left to right: ARCI, Ida Gillis, Eastern Region; ARCI Schwarz, Inspector Crivelli, and INC Luers.

The informal greetings, discussions, comradeship, and networking inspired everyone in attendance. Linda Byam, Program Manager, Central Region, put it this way: "... how rare it is for so many female Inspectors to gather at one time—and to be able to take our shoes off!" We knew the conference was a success when the shoes came off—perhaps you have to be female to understand—and then, when a group of about 11-15 Inspectors extemporaneously remained in the suite until very late brainstorming what we will do when the Postal Inspection Service co-sponsors the WIFLE conference. It was also a wel-



From left to right: Inspectors Marcia Colliver and Pat Giroux, Washington Division; Jane Mullin, Philadelphia Division; Aileen Norrell, Baltimore Division; and Marsha Freso, Atlanta Division.

come visit when Mike Gump, ACI-Administration, and his wife Millie along with Jeff DuPilka, Inspector in Charge, Chicago Division, stopped in to socialize with the group.

The conference was a success. I believe everyone left feeling proud of being U.S. Postal Inspectors and joyful about the opportunity to interact with and get to know other female law enforcement officers. A special thanks to the Congressional and Public Affairs Branch for the work they put into the conference, particularly Rob Chalmers who remained at our booth, while female Inspectors participated in the workshops.



Inspectors attended the final sessions of the Conference and paused for a group photo in front of our booth.