

March 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 3

# Nashville AIM-IRS Newsletter

*Association for the Improvement of Minorities at the Internal Revenue Service*

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Anita Wilson, Programs  
& Development  
Sandra Holt, Evaluation,  
Scholarship, and  
Awards

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## Message from the President

March is Women's History Month. This newsletter salutes the women in our chapter who have moved on from the beginning of their career with IRS. Read their history and words of wisdom.

As the New Year continues to bring on new ideas and challenges, I know as a collective group of members with the AIM-IRS Mission before us, we can accomplish goals we set. In the last newsletter, I reflected this year I would like to set challenges. As we continue our career goals, let us remember there is still room for improvement. As a work challenge, look at your evaluation and determine where you can improve. Also, maybe you can help another member improve. For a personal challenge, let us clean out our closets. Donate clothes to your favorite charity or those less fortunate. Maybe you have a family member or friend who would like an item in your closet that you have not worn in years.

This year the AIM-IRS Southeast Regional Conference will be in Atlanta, GA from May 29 – May 31. When more information is received, it will be disseminated to the members. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible in attendance.

This year the ABMTS will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan from August 3 – August 9. The theme is "Celebrating 40 Years – The Challenge Continues...and Still We Rise. Sarah Wilson is the Conference Workshop Chairperson. The conference offers great workshops that provide valuable knowledge. Let's make plans to attend and assist where needed. Information pertaining to the ABMTS is located on the web at [www.aimirs.org](http://www.aimirs.org).

*Felicia*



## Salute to Women's of AIM

### *Diane Christon*

- ◆ I began my career in 1983 as a revenue officer in Houston, Texas.
- ◆ I transferred to Nashville in 1986 and became a manager in the Special Procedures Branch.
- ◆ I returned to the field as a revenue officer in 1988 and was promoted to a GS-12 in 1989.
- ◆ I have served as the Black Employee Program Manager - EEO, an EEO investigator, taught Revenue Officer Phases I, II, and III, and classroom instructor training (CITC).
- ◆ I was detailed as CFC Loaned Executive served on the Middle Tennessee Federal Executive Association (MTFEA) as the loaned executive liaison and was detailed as a Policy Analyst.
- ◆ I was selected as a Revenue Officer Group Manager in the fall 2002.

### *Carolyn Denise Oden*

- ◆ Started my career in 2001 as a Team Secretary GS-5 in LMSB
- ◆ Selected in 2005 to present as Management Assistant GS-7 for Territory 7 LMSB

### *Cynthia Y. Scruggs*

- ◆ I begin my career with the IRS in 1983 as an Appeals Clerk - GS 4.
- ◆ In 1985, I went to Taxpayer Service (TPS) as a Taxpayer Service Representative
- ◆ In 1988, I was selected as a Manager - Customer Accounts Services (ACS and TPS combined).
- ◆ In 1999, I was selected as a Systems Analyst in Customer Accounts Services (CAS). Later CAS split into two functions - ACS and Accounts Management. I was then put in the position of Systems Analyst for ACS.
- ◆ In 2002, I was selected as a Management and Program Analyst for the Memphis Planning and Analysis Operation.
- ◆ In 2005, I was selected to the position I am now in - a Tax Policy Analyst - GS 13 for SBSE Headquarters - Campus Compliance Services - Filing and Payment - ACS and ACS Support.

### *Yolanda Renee Spencer*

- ◆ Started August 13, 1990 as CSR
- ◆ Instructor for New Hire Employees - 1998 - 2003
- ◆ Lead CSR August 2000
- ◆ Manager May 19, 2003 - present

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“Adversity is another way to measure the greatness of individuals. I never had a crisis that didn't make me stronger.”

-Lou Holtz

## Salute to Women's of AIM continued

### *Anita V. Wilson*

- ◆ Began my career as GS - 4 clerk in 1987 for Accounts Management
- ◆ In 1989 promoted to GS- 5 Secretary for Accounts Management
- ◆ In 2000 selected to GS-6 Department Secretary for Accounts Management
- ◆ In 2001 selected to GS-7 Management & Program Assistant for ACS
- ◆ In 2008 was nominated and became Director of Program & Development for AIM-IRS
- ◆ I have been with the service 22 years

### *Lizette W. Wilson*

- ◆ Started working for the IRS in July 1984 as a Resources Management Intern (Jackie recruited me). Spent 2 years rotating within the Resources Management Division functions (Personnel, Facilities Management, Training, and Fiscal).
- ◆ After Intern rotations completed, placed into Personnel as a Staffing Specialist.
- ◆ In June 1989, voluntarily reassigned to a Labor Relations Specialist.
- ◆ Spent 12+ years as a Labor Relations Specialist. Selected as the Administrative Officer for TN in May 2001 (promotion). This position was in AWSS/Employee Support Services/SCR Branch. The SCR Branch was created as a result of the IRS Reorganization in October 2000.
- ◆ June 2006 selected as Management & Program Analyst to the Associate Director, SCR Branch (promotion).

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*"When you desire to  
achieve more, utilize all  
your resources to reach  
your desired goal."*

*-Felicia Thompkins*

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## 2009 Press Release

### March 2009 National Women's History Month!

### *Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet*

For Immediate Release

Every year, during the month of March, hundreds of thousands of events are held throughout the country to acknowledge and recognize the amazing accomplishments of women.

This national celebration and recognition of women's historic achievements began in 1980 when National Women's History Week was proclaimed by Presidential Proclamation. In 1987, this national celebration was expanded by Congressional Resolution to an entire month by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to educate the general public about the significant role of women in American history and contemporary society. Establishing this focal celebration has encouraged schools to introduce new curriculum, and communities to recognize women who have been pivotal in their own communities.

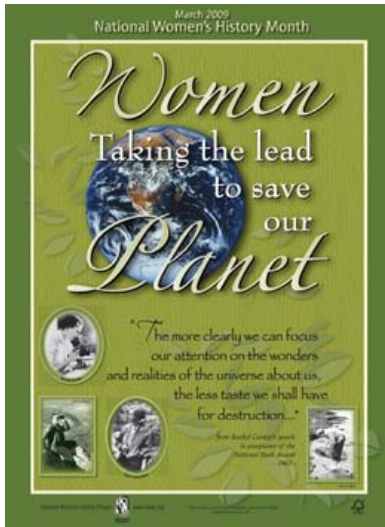
The knowledge of women's history provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience.

Each March, to unify the observance of National Women's History Month, a special theme is created. Women whose lives and extraordinary work exemplify the theme are selected as Honorees.

The theme for 2009 is **"Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet."** This theme is timely in a year when the world is discussing the problems and repercussions of dramatic climate change s and the recognition of diminishing natural resources. If you think these ecological problems may be insurmountable, you will be encouraged and inspired by the dramatic actions of the 2009 Honorees.

The 2009 Honorees are women whose courageous, pioneering, and innovative leadership are helping to save our planet. There are over one hundred Honorees and their achievements and accomplishments span three centuries and seven generations. For each acknowledged NWHM Honoree, there are tens of thousands of other women who are equally committed and currently working in their own communities, states, and countries.

For more information about National Women's History Month or for full list of the 2009 National Women's History Month Honorees, please [click here for the list](#), brief biographies, and web resources related to the 2009 Honorees.




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*"The more clearly we  
can focus our attention  
on the wonders and  
realities of the universe  
about us, the less we  
shall have for  
destruction...."*

- Rachel Carson

**Word Search Puzzle**  
**Women's History Month**

Bonus: when you've solved the puzzle, there's a hidden message in the remaining letters, relevant to women's history month.

Heritage

S	I	H	F	Y	O	U	N	D	S	O	I	N	H	O
T	U	R	A	E	M	I	E	T	M	N	B	T	E	M
A	R	S	H	R	L	I	A	S	D	T	E	O	E	A
E	M	R	A	A	R	N	Y	I	A	B	C	N	C	R
G	U	E	Y	N	T	I	R	R	A	A	I	T	H	T
A	E	A	L	O	B	A	E	Z	L	E	Y	I	H	A
R	M	O	N	I	G	A	I	T	T	W	S	C	R	P
F	A	N	Y	A	A	L	N	S	T	T	O	S	O	O
F	U	L	N	E	E	E	A	T	O	U	T	A	S	E
U	R	D	N	N	B	I	A	R	H	H	B	W	A	L
S	H	M	E	A	R	X	Y	R	G	O	T	M	P	C
I	B	E	D	O	N	G	R	I	H	B	N	P	A	R
P	U	X	L	K	O	F	R	I	M	A	R	Y	R	N
Q	K	G	F	I	R	S	T	S	Q	N	R	B	K	Z
R	E	L	L	E	K	N	E	L	E	H	X	T	S	S

AMELIAEARHART  
 GLORIASTEINEM  
 HISTORY  
 QUEENELIZABETH  
 STANTON

CLEOPATRA  
 HARRIETTUBMAN  
 INDIRAGANDHI  
 RIGHTS  
 SUFFRAGE

FIRSTS  
 HELENKELLER  
 MAYALIN  
 ROSAPARKS  
 SUSANBANTHONY

The hidden message:

" \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_?"

## Victorious Bailout Plan by Victoria Moran

### The Plan

1. Live richly. You can live richly on just about any amount of money.
2. Watch your words. Words are powerful. Watch out for saying things like "I can't afford it," or "I hear about all these layoffs and I know I'll be next." Use your words to uplift yourself and others -- now more than ever.
3. Keep good company. Downers will bring you down. Avoid the naysayer's as much as you can. If you work with a naysayer (or sleep with one), invite enough positive people into your life to offset their negativity.
4. Practice *tithing*. Tithing is giving 10 percent of your income to the people and organizations that give you your spiritual nourishment, and/or to those causes that you believe are doing the work of God (Goddess, Allah, Higher Power, whatever) on earth. Tithing not only enriches the world, but it guarantees your own prosperity in a way that is mystical, magical, and unerring.
5. Take really good care of your money. In other words, clean up your financial life. Figure out a way to live debt-free. A life-saving book to help you out is [How to Get Out of Debt, Stay Out of Debt, and Live Prosperously](#), by [Jerrold Mundis](#). Money is a gift from God, like everything else. Value it, along with all your other gifts -- your body, your talents, your loved ones, and the tiny joys in this deliciously imperfect day.
6. Look for good (God) in everything. Of course things can happen to any of us that are scary, uncomfortable, and painful. Losing a job or a home can certainly be in this category. Even so, many, many times losses lead to greater good than we could possibly imagine.



### Thumbs Up To:

**Felicia Thompkins**—congratulations on your selection for the Frontline Leadership Readiness Program (FLRP).

**Carolyn Oden**—congratulations on your selection to the LMSB Support Staff Development Team.

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*"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals."*

— Zig Ziglar

## Nashville Chapter AIM-IRS

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Association for the  
Improvement of Minorities—  
Internal Revenue Service



We're on the Web!

See us:

[www.aimirsnashville.tripod.com](http://www.aimirsnashville.tripod.com)

## News from the Southeast Region

The AIM-IRS Southeast Regional Conference will be in Atlanta, GA, on May 29 through May 31. Additional information will be forthcoming by e-mail.

## Sympathy

The Nashville Chapter AIM-IRS would like to offer our condolence to Fred Crismon in the loss of his brother. Remember, "God will put no more on you than you can bear."

## About Our Organization ...

AIM-IRS will:

- Educate and counsel its members as to opportunities for career and personal advancement
- Foster Equal Employment Opportunity
- Provide a self-help network to further the general welfare of its members
- Promote local and community-wide services that assist individuals seeking career and educational support and
- Cooperate with all government agencies and other organizations in taking lawful actions to ensure the removal of discriminatory policies and practices.

## Inspirational Corner

### Blessing For God's Grace

The Children of Israel hungered in the desert and God gave them Manna. When the Temple was restored in Jerusalem, there was only enough lamp oil for one day, but God extended it to eight days.

Jesus fed the multitudes with five loaves and two fish.

With God's grace, our "cups runneth over" and we "shall not want."

God provides. Amen.

- Rev. Victor Fuhrman