



Communicator

JULY 2025



LEADING THE WAY: Policies, Power, and Priorities



“

“If they don’t
give you a
seat at the
table, bring a
folding chair.”

— SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

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LEADERSHIP

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A MESSAGE FROM NFDW PRESIDENT LOVIE WEST



READ ABOUT MY ELECTION

Dear Federation Family,

As we continue to navigate through the chaos of our national government, all of us should be reminded that the 2026 election is perhaps the most significant election in modern history. This is a **Call to Action** for all Democrats, especially members of the National Federation of Democratic Women to ensure our vote is counted and protected. This **Call to Action** is heightened by the grave concern of our democracy and the role each of us must play.

Despite the situation we find ourselves, we are still hopeful and celebrate the opportunity to serve the Federation Members and our communities. Our vision for the 2025 - 2027 term is vast and will require the involvement and support of everyone. Our theme **Policies, Power, and Priorities** will focus on recruitment, training, and GOTV, and we join the DNC in rebuilding the Democratic Party.

In this issue, we will introduce our Executive Committee so you can join them as they answer the clarion call to impact the democratic process. In addition, we will recap the convention held in St. Louis, Missouri and highlight the successes of our state clubs.

Together, we will continue to move our organization into uncharted waters with powerful and impactful programs. Thanks in advance for your energy, hard work, and dedication.

Yours for the Federation,

Lovie West



Analise Swan of California, NFDW 1st VP Christine Pelosi, Carolyn Fowler of CA, NFDW DNC Representative Joanne Sullivan with NFDW President Lovie West and NFDW DNC Representative Virgie Rollins



NFDW Eastern Regional Director Susan Rutt, NFDW President Lovie West and Maine Federation of Democratic Women President Barbara Cray



DC Federation Member, NFDW President Lovie West and Neena Murphy Martin of DC.

DNC WINTER MEETING RECAP

By Virgie Rollins



Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Representative on the DNC. Since we met last, we had the DNC National Convention in Chicago in August 2024. We celebrated the historic nomination of Vice

President Kamala Harris and Tim Watz as our nominees for President and Vice President for the Democratic Party. It was a great convention with many caucuses and council meetings and uplifting speeches at the nightly convention meetings. I was honored to Chair the Black Caucus meeting with over 3000 attendees at the convention. The convention ended on Friday with a DNC meeting to wrap up the convention and welcome DNC new members.

When we returned from the convention a bus tour was started in the Southern Region for the newly nominated Presidential/Vice President ticket.

The DNC Executive Meeting was held in Washington, DC on December 13, 2024. We heard several reports. Chair Harrison highlighted the many successes of the Biden Administration and the three pillars of work that the DNC had done since he took office in 2021. The Rules and By Laws Committee gave Rules for the election of upcoming officers for DNC. Each candidate was allowed to speak in the meeting.

The winter meeting was held on January 30–February 1, 2025, at the Maryland National Harbor Convention Center. A welcome was given by Governor Wes Moore and Maryland Democratic Party Chair Ken Ulman. We had the annual Black History Breakfast, and Committees and Caucus meetings. On Saturday, February 1st, reports were given and the rules were voted and accepted.

We had the elections of new officers. Ken Martin of Minnesota was elected as DNC Chair. Reyna Walters Morgan was elected as Vice Chair/Civic of Engagement and Voter Participation. Jason Rae was reelected as Secretary. Virginia McGregor was reelected as Treasurer. Chris Korge was elected as Finance Director. Other officers were Artie Blanco as Vice Chair, David Hogg as Vice Chair, and Malcolm Kenyatta as Vice Chair. Outgoing Chairman Harrison gave the gavel to the new Chairman who thanked everyone for attending and meeting was adjourned.

I've attended many virtual and webinars since we met last. Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your representative.

The next full DNC Meeting will be August 2025 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In Solidarity,

Virgie M. Rollins

NFDW DNC Representative

DNC Black Caucus Chair



NFDW DNC Representative Virgie Rollins with DNC AAPI Caucus Co-Chair Bel Leong-Hong and Michelle Regalado Deatrick

DNC WINTER MEETING RECAP

By Joanne Sullivan



I am so grateful to have served as one of the two elected representatives for the DNC for the past number of years and to have been reelected to serve on the DNC at last year's convention.

I appreciate your support and am proud to represent NFDW on the DNC and as one of three vice chairs of the Women's Caucus for the DNC. As Vice Chair of the Women's Caucus, I continue to focus on the role of NFDW on the DNC and the issues that impact all of us as women.

I have had the opportunity to attend many meetings virtually for the Women's Caucus, webinars, and virtual meetings for the full DNC membership, and attended the in-person DNC winter meeting at National Harbor in Maryland January 30th - February 1st, 2025, in which DNC members gathered to elect a New Chair, Ken Martin, and Vice Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Black Caucus meeting under the leadership of our own Virgie Rollins as the Chair of the Black Caucus. I continue to remain in close contact with the DNC membership by way of emails, texts, and occasional phone calls, and am proud to do this work on behalf of the members of NFDW.

The Democratic National Convention was held at the United Center and McCormick Place in Chicago in August 2024. This was a wonderful experience as we were energized and motivated to elect Kamala Harris as our next president. We all know where that led us too, but we cannot give up! We need to continue to remain "Energized, Motivated, and Ready to Organize"!

The next meeting of the full DNC membership will be held Monday, August 25 - Wednesday, August 27, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I look forward to attending and learning more about Chairman Martin's vision for "organizing early, organizing always, organizing everywhere, and winning everywhere" as we look to take back the House and the Senate in 2026 with an eye on the White House in 2028!

I look forward to serving you as members of NFDW, and to be your voice on the DNC. We must continue to do the necessary work to help elect Democrats up and down the ballot and continue to have a voice and a leadership role for women and minorities on the DNC.

I am grateful for your support, your vote, and your faith in me to represent you.

Democratically Yours,

Joanne Sullivan

Past President NFDW

NFDW DNC Representative

DNC Women's Caucus Vice Chair



NFDW DNC Representative Joanne Sullivan with former Commissioner of the Social Security Administration of the United States Martin O'Malley

DNC WINTER MEETING RECAP



DNC Chair, Jamie Harrison addresses the audience.



Analisa Swan of California, NFDW 1st VP Christine Pelosi, Carolyn Fowler of California



NFDW DNC Representative Virgie Rollins addresses the audience.



NFDW 1st VP Christine Pelosi; DNC Member Virgie Rollins; DNC Member Joanne Sullivan; Past NFDW President Susanna French



DNC Secretary Jason Rae, DNC Vice Chair Reyna Walters Morgan, DNC Finance Director Chris Korge, DNC Treasurer Virginia McGregor, DNC Chair Ken Martin, former DNC Chair Jaime Harrison, DNC Vice Chair Artie Blanco, DNC Vice Chair Malcolm Kenyatta, DNC Vice Chair David Hogg

Join us for the next DNC Meeting:

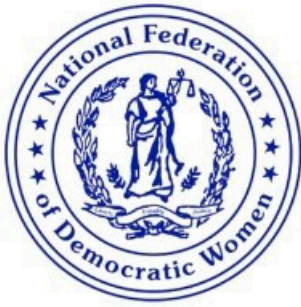
August 24-27, 2025 in Minneapolis, MN

You do not have to be an elected DNC Member to attend DNC meetings or to participate in DNC caucuses and councils. All Democrats are welcome to attend and can participate in many of the sessions, and DNC caucuses and councils are active throughout the year, not just during DNC meetings.



*Deputy DNC Communications Director
Hannah Muldavin*

NFDW 2025 CONVENTION



The National Federation of Democratic Women 54TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION



*Energized & Motivated
Women Ready to Organize!*

**June 4 - 7, 2025
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Downtown St. Louis, Missouri**

Highlights

**Workshops, Guest Speakers, Business and Regional Meetings,
Friday Evening Reception, Officer Elections, Awards and MORE!**

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Patricia Banner, 1st Rilla Woods Founders Internship Award Recipient, speaking at the NFDW PAC Reception



2017 Rilla Moran Woods Founder Recipient Rachel Gonzalez speaking at the Young Women's Leadership Breakfast



Members of the Florida Democratic Women's Club and Georgia Federation of Democratic Women participating in the Convention.



NFDW President Lovie West with Rosa Mendoza of Nevada, Missouri Democratic Party Chair Russ Carnahan, and Nevada Federation President Audrey Dempsey



Nina Murphy Martin of DC and Missouri Democratic Party Vice Chair Yvonne Reeves-Chong



NFDW Immediate Past President Barbara Faison, DNC Representative Virgie Rollins, NFDW President Lovie West, and DNC Representative Joanne Sullivan

CLICK TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

We had the privilege of hearing from a lineup of incredible speakers at this year's Convention. Each one brought powerful insight, inspiration, and a renewed sense of purpose to our work. Their words reminded us why we show up, speak out, and continue fighting for a better future.



Missouri State Senator Karla May delivered a powerful message of realizing and harnessing our power as women.



Missouri State Senator Tracy McCreery talked about her experience serving in the Ohio Legislature and what drives her to serve her constituents.



Missouri Democratic Party Vice Chair Yvonne Reeves-Chong with Carolyn Fowler of California at the 2025 NFDW Convention.



DNC Vice Chair Reyna Walters-Morgan spoke to the Federation about voting rights and why getting people registered to vote is so important.



NFDW DNC Representative Virgie Rollins introducing Missouri Democratic Party Chair Russ Carnahan at the 2025 NFDW Convention.



We also had a workshop entitled "Building a Bench Using the 3 Rs" presented by Lovie West of Mississippi, Patricia Farley of Florida and Telise Ezell-Turner of Tennessee.

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

We also watched video messages from three of our banquet speakers, each sharing powerful words of encouragement and insight. Their messages brought energy to the room and reminded us why our work matters. Even from afar, their presence was felt.



Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi shared a special video message with attendees of the 2025 National Federation of Democratic Women Convention. In her address, Pelosi honored the work of Democratic women across the country, emphasized the urgent need to protect democracy, and called on us all to stay engaged and united ahead of the critical 2026 elections.

[CLICK TO WATCH NOW](#)

In an inspiring video message, Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin spoke directly to the powerful women of the National Federation of Democratic Women at our 2025 Annual Convention. With a focus on grassroots organizing, energizing the base, and winning up and down the ballot in 2026, Chair Martin shares his vision for Democratic victories nationwide—and the vital role Democratic women play in shaping that future.

[CLICK TO WATCH NOW](#)



Hello, to the National Federation
of Democratic Women.

Former Maryland Governor and national Democratic leader Martin O'Malley delivered a powerful video address to the 2025 National Federation of Democratic Women Convention. In his remarks, O'Malley underscores the essential role women play in shaping policy, defending democracy, and organizing for future victories. He also shared an adorable picture of his newest grandchild.

[CLICK TO WATCH NOW](#)





PRESIDENT - LOVIE WEST (SOUTH)

Lovie West is a product of the Civil Rights Movement. She grew up in central Mississippi in a military family, witnessed the injustices that plagued people of color, and grew up under the influence of giants such as Fannie Lou Hamer, Georgia Clark, Hattie McClellan and many other Mississippi women of the movement.

Ms. West earned a Master of Business Administration, engaged in doctoral work in Organizational Leadership, and holds certification in Mediation and Human Resources. Professionally, she was responsible for seventeen hotels while being employed by Marriott Hotels where she gained invaluable human resources, marketing, sales, budgeting, and business operations experience.

Ms. West was the founding President of DeSoto County Federation of Democratic Women where she launched a leadership institute, installed four new clubs, developed a new club orientation program, developed a financial policy and procedures manual, raised funds, and many other accomplishments. Lovie West also served as President of the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women in addition to holding other executive positions in the organization.

Her contributions to the community via other organizations is extensive. Ms. West has served in leadership in the Democratic Party, Urban League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Kennedy Center for which she has earned numerous awards for her service.

Politically, Lovie West has worked on many federal and state campaigns including those of Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Joe Biden/Kamala Harris, Ann Richards, Dr. Randy Watkins and Mike Espy where her impact ranged from grass roots organizing to managing entire campaigns.

Finally, Lovie West previously served as the 4th Vice President of the National Federation of Democratic Women and the co-chair of the Political Education Committee. She has attended three NFDW Conventions, three NFDW Women in Blue meetings, and many regional meetings. She is proud to have been elected as the NFDW President.



As President, Lovie West serves as board advisor for the following Committees: Administration, Bylaws, Convention Credentials, Convention Planning and Oversight, Convention Rules, Courtesy, History, Legislative, Platform, and Strategic Planning. President West also serves as Convention General on the Convention Leaders Committee.



1ST VICE PRESIDENT - CHRISTINE PELOSI (WEST)

Christine Pelosi of California is a nationally recognized Democratic strategist, attorney, and grassroots organizer with a lifelong commitment to public service and progressive leadership.

She has been a National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) member for two decades and has attended over a dozen NFDW Conventions. She previously served as the 3rd Vice Chair of the NFDW and Chair of Women in Blue, where she worked to elevate the voices of Democratic women, strengthen state and local chapters, and mentor the next generation of women leaders. She is Vice Chair for Campaigns and Elections at the Democratic National Committee (DNC), where she plays a central role in shaping strategy, supporting candidates, and expanding the Democratic base.

An author and educator, Christine wrote *Campaign Boot Camp* and *Campaign Boot Camp 2.0*, both of which have become essential tools for training candidates, advocates, and campaign staff. She has led boot camps and workshops across the country, with a special emphasis on preparing women, young people, veterans, and working-class organizers to run for office and lead effectively.

Her government service includes roles as Special Counsel at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during the Clinton administration, and as Chief of Staff to U.S. Representative John Tierney. In California, she has served as Executive Director, Platform Chair, and Women's Caucus Chair for the California Democratic Party, demonstrating a long-standing dedication to party building and inclusive leadership.

Christine Pelosi's career has been defined by her dedication to empowering others — especially women — to lead boldly and with purpose. Through her work with the Federation, the DNC, and her campaign training programs, she continues to be a driving force in shaping the future of the Democratic Party. She is excited for the next 2 years as your 1st NFDW VP.



As First Vice President, Christine Pelosi serves as board advisor for the following Committees: Women in Blue, Awards and Internships, Resolutions, and Political Directors.



2ND VICE PRESIDENT - INEZ JAMES (MIDWEST)

Inez James is the daughter of the late Frank James Jr. and Mary Elizabeth (Banks). A dynamic, people-focused leader, Inez is currently serving her fourth term as President of the Lorain Club of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. With 29 years of supervisory experience at the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission, she brings seasoned leadership, accountability, and service to every space she enters.

Deeply engaged in civic and political life, Inez is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Lorain County Alumnae Chapter, and serves as President of the Lorain County Democratic Women's Club. She is the elected Precinct Committee Person for Elyria Ward 7E and serves on the Ohio Association of Election Officials Legislative Committee. In 2021, Inez made history as the first African American and first woman appointed by Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose to represent the Democratic Party on the Lorain County Board of Elections—a role in which she continues to serve.

Inez also serves as Treasurer and Board Member of the Harrison Cultural Community Centre and is an active member of the Lori-El Unit of Parliamentarians.

She is widely recognized in Lorain County for her engaging portrayals of historical icons such as Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Mary McLeod Bethune—bringing history to life through education and storytelling.

A passionate advocate for voter education and civic engagement, Inez uses platforms like WNZN 89.1 FM and WSAV-LP 93.7 FM to inform, inspire, and mobilize communities—especially those historically underserved. She is a life member of the NAACP (Metro-Central Unit) and a dedicated Democratic campaign strategist, having supported numerous candidates through media outreach, phone banking, canvassing, and community presentations.

Her personal motto, "Vote to allow your voice the power to make a difference for your community, your family, and our future," guides her tireless work to ensure that every citizen is empowered to participate fully in our democracy.

In addition to her civic leadership, Inez is an ordained minister and a devoted member of Living Word Church in Lorain, Ohio, where she serves under the spiritual guidance of Reverend Ray H. Robinson Jr. and First Lady Holly Robinson.

She is delighted to serve as your 2nd Vice President.

As 2nd Vice President, Inez James serves as board advisor for the following Committees: Membership, Protocol, and Risk Management.





3RD VICE PRESIDENT - JOYCE PETTEWAY (EAST)

Joyce Petteway currently serves as the President of the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women (CFDW) and over the past few years has become increasingly involved at the national level as well. Joyce has attended the past number of annual NFDW conventions, including in person conventions in Louisiana (2023) and Ohio (2024) and the previous Virtual Conventions in 2021 and 2022. She also was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 2024, always returning to CFDW with a wealth of information to share with her members.

Joyce has been an active member of the Greater Hartford Progressive Democratic Women's Club, served as its' President and the State Federation for many years. She was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2012 and 2024.

She is a past president of the Waterbury Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women, a former State President of the Sojourner Network of Democratic Women, the Waterbury NAACP Education Chairwoman, and as a Board Member of the Connecticut Community Foundation. Joyce also serves as an Assistant Moderator for local elections. Ms. Petteway was the Founder of the Women's Political Institute in Connecticut and served as a facilitator for several Leadership and Community Engagement Forums in her hometown of Waterbury, CT.

Ms. Petteway retired from the Office of State Treasurer Denise Nappier where she served in the position of Investment Technician in the Debt Management Division. Her dedication and work ethic has spread to her community as well, where she served as a board member of her local Neighborhood Housing Services, Alderwomen and President Pro Tempore of the Waterbury Board of Education and currently serves as a Trustee and Office Manager of Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury.

She has been at the forefront of change for more than 20 years. Serving in various leadership roles has made her realize that the struggle continues not only for women, but for everyone who does not have a voice. She has devoted her career to serving others in her community and for the Democratic Party.

She is a dedicated Federation member, actively involved, and passionate about increasing membership and working towards electing Democrats at all levels. She has been a tireless, dedicated public servant for many years and looks forward to serving as your 3rd Vice President.



As 3rd Vice President, Joyce Petteway serves as board advisor for the following Committees: Public Relations and Communications including Social Media, Marketing, Website and Technology.



4TH VICE PRESIDENT - TELISE EZELL TURNER (SOUTH)

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Telise Ezell-Turner is a retired United States Army Nurse. Retired Lt. Col Ezell-Turner joined the United States Army to assist in the Vietnam War and became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Nurse Core, serving twenty-two years honorably. Retired Lt. Col. Ezell-Turner was professionally trained as a Registered Nurse (RN), earning a master's degree in nursing (MSN) with a concentration in nurse administration.

Retired Lt. Col. Ezell-Turner has served as President of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women. She has also held the role of Vice President of the organization in addition to serving in other significant committee roles. Retired Lt. Col. Ezell-Turner has also been an active member of the Democratic Women of Shelby County and served the community through her work on the Rotary Club of Memphis Central Foundation Board, where she was the first African American woman elected to the organization. During her tenure at the Rotary Club, Retired Lt. Col Ezell-Turner has served as

President and fundraising lead, overseeing a budget of over \$500,000 to support a variety of service projects annually.

She is also a member of the Tennessee Beta Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians, a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., currently vice president of Frayser Community Development Corporation Board, and contributes to numerous other community and professional organizations. Retired Lt. Col Ezell-Turner has been given many awards including a proclamation from Shelby County Government for her work in improving the lives of women and children in Shelby County.

Finally, Retired Lt. Col Ezell-Turner has also served the National Federation of Democratic Women through her work on the 2022 nominating committee and NFDW Awards Committees. She has attended six NFDW national conventions and six regional meetings.

She is honored to serve as your 4th Vice President during the next two years.

As 4th Vice President, Telise Ezell-Turner serves as board advisor for the following Committees:
Political Education and Training, Growth and Development, and Programs.





5TH VICE PRESIDENT - IRMGARD PAGAN (EAST)

Irmgard Pagan (Eastern Region) has been a loyal and dedicated member of NFDW for several years. She has been president of the Puerto Rican Chapter of NFDW, which is considered a full member state by the rules and bylaws of NFDW for several years. Irmgard successfully organized and chaired two successful NFDW conventions, in 1996 and again in 2009. She is fully bilingual, speaking English, Spanish, and French fluently.

Irmgard served as the Eastern Regional Director of NFDW for the past two years and was successful in getting the State of Maine to become federated and join the NFDW. She has also served on various NFDW committees during her extensive years as a member of NFDW. She was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2008 and 2012.

Irmgard is an accomplished attorney and has worked closely with the Governor of Puerto Rico, the Senate and House of Puerto Rico, 18 government agencies and 35 municipalities. She has served as the legal advisor to the President of the Senate of Puerto Rico, legal advisor to the President of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico, Director of the Legal

Division of the Puerto Rico Planning Board, and as a Hearing Examiner for the Puerto Rico Labor Relations Board.

Ms. Pagan holds a Master's Degree in International Law from New York University, a Juris Doctor Degree of the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico Law School in San Juan, Puerto Rico and has offices in Puerto Rico and the Washington, DC area. She has a Bachelor's Degree in political science and Drama from the University of Puerto Rico.

In her spare time, Ms. Pagan has co-authored 2 books and has been a Hollywood producer, producing thrillers about the corruption of the legal system, the war on terrorism, and the corruption of the movie business in Hollywood.

Her experience and knowledge of local politics and international law politics make her an ideal candidate for this position. She has focused on the fight for women's rights and the well-being of all Americans and has been a leader in promoting Statehood for Puerto Rico for many years. She has been a tireless, dedicated member of NFDW for many years and asks for your support as she serves in the position of NFDW 5th Vice President.



As 5th VP, Irmgard Pagan serves as board advisor for the following Committees: Audit, Finance, Convention Fundraising, and Budget.



RECORDING SECRETARY - KIM SAVAGE (MIDWEST)

Kim Savage is dedicated to public service. She has more than 40 years of progressive administrative and management experience in 5 institutions of higher education. She has served as Co-President of Illinois Democratic Women since 2016. Prior to that she served as the founding President of the Democratic Women of DuPage County. She also served as the Township Chair for the Downers Grove Township Democratic Organization for 14 years and as the Vice Chair for the Democratic Party of DuPage County for 2 years. She is currently the Secretary for her AFSCME Retiree Local.

She has run for office multiple times in largely red districts, finally winning a 6-year seat on the College of DuPage Board. She was also appointed by the Illinois Governor to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission where she served for 8 years.

As a mentor to college students during her years of employment at the University of Illinois at Chicago, she is proud that one of her students is currently a State Representative, another is a lobbyist, and others are staff members for elected officials.

Kim Savage has attended every NFDW Convention beginning in 2018 at Tempe, Arizona. She believes the work of NFDW is as essential today as it ever was with the reinvigorated War on Women and the BIPOC community. She finds NFDW is especially needed in red areas where our sisters are often isolated and under attack. She wants to help the next generation of women leaders develop a strong footing to save our Democracy.

She brings experience and dedication to the role and is proud to serve as NFDW's Recording Secretary for the next two years.





TREASURER - MARY KUEHLER (WEST)

Mary Kuehler is a Healthcare Professional who works remotely from her home in Idaho. She is an experienced treasurer who has been trusted by peers to manage and oversee political campaign finances, ensuring transparency, compliance, and effective budget allocation.

During Mary's time with the NFDW, she has had the privilege of serving on several committees, including Women in Blue, Communications, Political Education and Training and the 2023 Nominating Committee. These experiences have provided her with a deep understanding of the organization's goals and operations, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with inspiring women who share a commitment to progressive change.

Currently, she serves as Vice President and Acting Treasurer with the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus and has been a Federation member for at least 2 years.

She has previously held the roles of Treasurer for both the Bannock County Democrats and the Idaho Legislative District 29's Democratic Committee. These leadership positions have honed her organizational, financial, and strategic planning skills, which she believes will be invaluable in contributing to the NFDW Executive Board's success.

She is proud to have attended the following NFDW Annual Conventions: 2019 Convention in Albany, NY, 2021 and 2022 Virtual Conventions, and the 2023 Convention held in New Orleans, LA. These experiences have further strengthened her connection to the Federation's mission and allowed her to engage with members on a national level.

She is ready to take on the role of NFDW Treasurer and serve you proudly for the next two years.



AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Patricia Sirios, Awards Committee Chair

It was my distinct honor and pleasure to serve as the NFDW Awards Committee Chair. Please see our report below:



NFDW President Lovie West

Outstanding Member of the Year

The NFDW Awards Committee awarded the Outstanding Member of the Year to Lovie West of Mississippi. Lovie has worked on many presidential campaigns during the years. Ms. West is a life-long Democrat and her work on the local and national levels demonstrates her commitment to the Democratic Party (NFDW in particular). On the local level, she was the founding president of the DeSoto-Marshall County Federation, where she served two terms. She served as 4th Vice President of the NFDW and chaired the Political Education Committee. Currently, she serves as President of the NFDW and on the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Democratic Party.

Humanitarian Award

The NFDW Humanitarian Award was awarded to Margaret Weinberger of New Jersey. Margaret is the epitome of a humanitarian. Through her dedication to public service, her leadership in the Democratic Women's movement, and her tireless work to make her community a better place, she has proven herself as an outstanding advocate for social change. For her lifelong commitment to service, her leadership, and her unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others.



Margaret Weinberger of New Jersey



Idaho State Senator Melissa Wintrow

Outstanding Democratic Woman Holding Public Office

The NFDW Outstanding Democratic Woman Holding Public Office was awarded to State Senator Melissa Wintrow of Idaho. Throughout her public service career, first in the Idaho House and now in the Idaho Senate, Senator Wintrow has demonstrated a deep and consistent commitment to justice, equity, and the well-being of all Idahoans. She has been a tireless advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, a thoughtful voice on education and healthcare policy, and a staunch defender of democratic values in a state where that often takes extraordinary courage.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Patricia Sirios, Awards Committee Chair

Rilla Moran Woods Internship Award

The Rilla Moran Woods Internship Award was awarded to Serenity Sosa of Missouri. Serenity graduated from Drury University in Springfield Missouri with a BA in Criminology. Serenity stated on her essay, "Looking ahead, I am preparing to apply for law school after completing a pre-law fellowship, which will provide me with the skills and experience necessary for a successful career in public service. Upon earning my degree, I aspire to practice for organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union and eventually go on to serve as a Senator, where I can advocate for meaningful legislative change and uplift marginalized voices on a national scale."

Agnes Bird Internship Award

The Agnes Bird Internship Award was awarded to Madolyn Ward of Arkansas. She graduated from Drury University in Springfield Missouri with a BA in Political Science. Madolyn stated on her essay, "The NFDW Founder's Internship aligns perfectly with my aspirations. It offers a rare and exciting chance to engage in meaningful political work while building relationships that will guide and inspire my career. I am ready to learn, contribute, and help strengthen a Democratic future that includes all of us, especially those who have been told we don't belong. I know firsthand how powerful it can be when someone opens the door. With this internship, I hope to open doors for others, too."

I would also like to take a moment to thank my incredible committee members for their hard work and dedication. The selection of these wonderful women would not have been possible without the time, energy, and passion of Denise Faison and Jennifer Franklin. I'm also grateful to our board advisor, Gini Ballou, for her support throughout this entire process.

Sincerely,
Pat Sirios



NFDW Immediate Past President Barbara Faison, Serenity Sosa, and Pat Sirios



Pat Sirios and Madolyn Ward



Pat Sirios delivering her report at Convention.

"These Young Women Lead—Let's Cheer Them On!"

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND KEY LEADERS

The National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) is supported by a number of active committees that help drive the organization's mission forward. President West has recently revamped the organizational structure of committees to strengthen communication and collaboration across all levels. This enhanced structure ensures more efficient coordination, clear channels for member involvement, and a unified approach to empowering Democratic women nationwide. This year, every committee is under the direction of either the President or a Vice President.

NFDW has two types of committee designations: standing committees and ad-hoc committees. Standing committees, which are indicated by an asterisk(*), of the NFDW are working groups that carry out specific functions throughout the year as specified by our bylaws. Other committees are designed to address specific areas, projects, or events not mentioned in our bylaws.

COMMITTEES OF THE PRESIDENT

All NFDW committee members are listed on the website.

ADMINISTRATION

Kristina Dixon
Chief of Staff
California
kdixon112@gmail.com

R. Denise Everson
Corresponding Secretary
Washington, DC
rdenise80@gmail.com

Pamela Kelly Williams
Parliamentarian
Tennessee
attorneypwkelly@gmail.com

Shantay Walton
Assistant Treasurer
Mississippi
shantaywalton@gmail.com

BYLAWS*

Coretta Graham
Texas
Lawyergraham@gmail.com

CONVENTION LEADERSHIP

Audrey Dempsey
Co-Chair
Nevada
audreydempsey@mac.com

Susanna French
Co-Chair
Kentucky
susannafrench@gmail.com

Inez James
Co-Chair
Ohio
jamespl1@aol.com

COURTESY

Patricia Tansil
Mississippi
ptansil@yahoo.com

HISTORY*

Patty Farley
Florida
pfarley_101@hotmail.com

LEGISLATIVE*

Jennifer Riley Collins
Mississippi
jennifer@jrileycollinsconsulting.com

PLATFORM

Kathy Adams
Chair
Georgia
k1adams@bellsouth.net

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Barbara Phillips
Chair
Mississippi
barbara.phillips89@gmail.com

Chairs of the following committees have yet to be appointed: Convention Credentials, Convention Planning and Oversight, and Convention Rules.

The National Federation of Democratic Women is seeking a proactive and highly organized Administrative Assistant to work closely with our newly elected President and Chief of Staff. This vital role will help drive our mission to empower women leaders and promote democratic ideals nationwide. More details can be found on the next page.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND KEY LEADERS

ADMIN ASSISTANT WANTED

[CLICK TO VIEW THE FULL DESCRIPTION](#)

Serving as Chief of Staff to the NFDW President is a demanding role—especially while balancing a full-time career and other long-standing volunteer commitments. To help manage the workload and maintain momentum, we are looking to bring on an administrative assistant to provide essential support. This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable, hands-on experience with the inner workings of a national Democratic organization and develop leadership skills within a powerful network of Democratic women.

Join Our Team!

Administrative Assistant

National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW)

We are seeking a dynamic, detail-oriented Administrative Assistant to support our newly elected President and Chief of Staff. This pivotal role helps advance our mission of empowering women's leadership and advocating for democratic values nationwide.

What You'll Do

- Manage schedules, meetings, and events
- Prepare materials, correspondence, and reports
- Track action items and follow-ups
- Organize virtual and in-person leadership meetings
- Maintain records and improve administrative systems

What We're Looking For

- Experienced administrative support professional
- Strong communication and organizational skills
- Comfortable with Zoom, Microsoft Office, and the Google Suite
- Comfortable managing multiple priorities
- Committed to the mission of NFDW and advancing women's leadership

Position Details

- Reports to Chief of Staff; Supports the NFDW President
- Location: Remote, some travel may be required
- Type: Volunteer

Apply Today!

Submit your resume and cover letter to Kristina Dixon, Chief of Staff, via email at kdixon112@gmail.com. Join us in making a difference and championing women's voices in leadership!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND KEY LEADERS

COMMITTEES OF THE 1ST VP

WOMEN IN BLUE

Carolyn Fowler, Co-Chair
California
cfowler3138@gmail.com

Hazel Thomas, Co-Chair
Washington, DC
Thomashazelb@aol.com

POLITICAL DIRECTORS

Rachel Green, Co-Chair
New Jersey
rcgreen328@gmail.com

Roberta Walters, Co-Chair
New Jersey
bertmk@msn.com

AWARDS AND INTERNSHIPS

Pat Sirios, Chair
Connecticut
pasirois@comcast.net

RESOLUTIONS*

Kelly Green
Michigan
kgreen921@gmail.com55

COMMITTEES OF THE 2ND VP

MEMBERSHIP

TBA, Chair
TBA
TBA

PROTOCOL

Audrey Dempsey, Chair
Nevada
audreydempsey@mac.com

RISK MANAGEMENT

Toni Denis, Chair
Arizona
toni.denis@icloud.com

COMMITTEES OF THE 3RD VP

MARKETING

Telisa Franklin, Chair
Tennessee
telisafrankline@gmail.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS*

Pamela Kelly Williams
Tennessee
attorneypwkelly@gmail.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

Shulandra Kerr, Chair
Mississippi
shulandra@comcast.net

TECHNOLOGY & WEBSITE

Mary Kuehler, Chair
Idaho
kuehmary@gmail.com

Michael Chandler, Consultant

**Unity.
Strength.
Leadership.**

We are seeking one member from the East and West to serve on the Public Relations Committee.
We are seeking one member per region to serve on the Membership Committee.
Contact your State President and Regional Director if you are interested.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND KEY LEADERS

COMMITTEES OF THE 4TH VP

POLITICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Barbara Scott, Co-Chair

West Virginia
bascott744@gmail.com

Deborah Williams, Co-Chair

Mississippi
hergame2@aol.com

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Neena Murphy Martin, Chair

Washington, DC
neena.murphymartine@gmail.com

YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Juanita Wilchie, Chair

Tennessee
TBA

COMMITTEES OF THE 5TH VP

AUDIT*

Brook Herman

Mississippi
brookherman@hotmail.com

CONVENTION FUNDRAISING

TBA, Chair

FINANCE*

Mary Kuehler

Idaho
kuehmary@gmail.com

BUDGET*

Mary Kuehler

Idaho
kuehmary@gmail.com



Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our post-Convention survey and share your interest in serving on NFDW committees. We're thrilled by the incredible enthusiasm and are grateful for your willingness to get involved. Your passion and commitment are what keep this organization strong, and we can't wait to get to work together!

We are seeking one member from the East and Midwest to serve on the Convention Fundraising Committee. Contact your State President and Regional Director if you are interested.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Kim Savage, Former Bylaws Committee Chair

I was truly honored to lead the NFDW Bylaws Committee and contribute to the important work of our organization.

The Committee met on April 8, 2025 at 5:00pm Central Time via Zoom. Present at the meeting were Kim Savage, Joanne Sullivan, Joyce Petteway and Kathy Adams.

A request for a Bylaws Change to Article IX, Section 3 Decorum was submitted by Celeste Garcia and the DC Federation of Democratic Women.

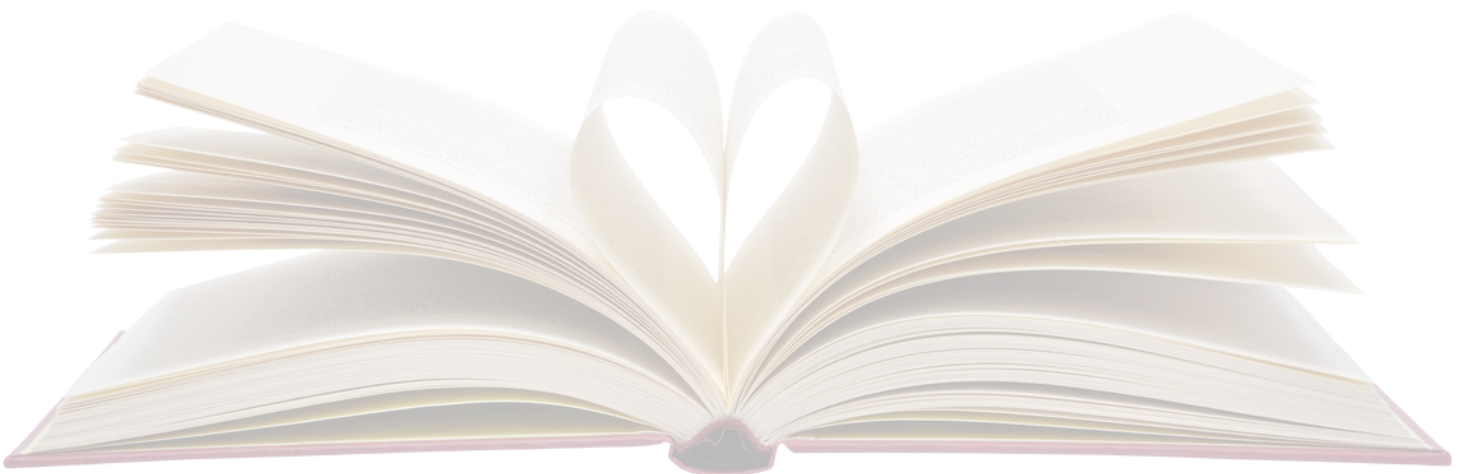
Article IX, Section 3 was discussed. The requested amendment added more specific language regarding proper decorum at NFDW meetings and functions.

- The Committee members present amended the language that was submitted and agreed that **THE CHANGE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE**.
- Summary of the current and proposed language with rationale is in the following pages.

The Committee also discussed Article III, Section 5 Individual Membership:

- When a person from a full member state pays NFDW directly for individual membership, they are informed that they are members of a state federation, but the state receives no benefit from the membership. Committee members amended the language to require that dues for state federations be credited to reflect the individual membership. **THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE CHANGE AS PROPOSED.**
- Summary of the current and proposed language with rationale is in the following pages.

Thank You,
Kim Savage



Membership Bylaws Proposed Amendment Passed

NFDW CURRENT BYLAW	Proposed Change	Proposer and Rationale
Article III: Membership Sec. 5 Individual Membership shall be granted to those individuals who do not live in a member state or belong to a member club and who pay individual dues to the NFDW.	Article III: Membership Section 5: Individual Membership shall be granted to those individuals who do not live in a member state or belong to a member club and who pay individual dues to the NFDW. If a member of a full member state directly pays dues to NFDW, that state will receive a credit for the individual membership paid by each member. The NFDW dues payment will be credited back to the state. The NFDW Treasurer will notify the state of the credit and the names and contact information of the individual members. Bylaws Committee Recommendation Adopt as proposed	Bylaws Committee Full member states pay dues to the NFDW on behalf of their organization. NFDW Individual Members have not directly contributed to their state federations. The state federations should receive credit toward their dues for those memberships.

Proposed Decorum Bylaws Amendment

NFDW CURRENT BYLAW	Proposed Change	Proposer and Rationale
<p>Article IX: Committees</p> <p>Sec. 3 Decorum</p> <p>While engaged in committee business, each person shall maintain a respectful decorum. The sense of decorum should be always maintained throughout all NFDW interactions between members.</p>	<p>Article IX: Committees</p> <p>Sec 3 Decorum and Ethical Conduct</p> <p>All members of the National Federation of Democratic Women – NFW are expected to maintain a respectful decorum in all interactions, whether during committee business or other organizational activities. Members shall consistently uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct in the performance of their duties, ensuring that their actions reflect integrity, fairness, and respect for others.</p> <p>Members shall refrain from engaging in, ordering, or participating in any behavior or official action that could undermine public confidence in the NFDW or compromise the organization’s integrity. All interactions should foster an environment of mutual respect and professionalism, thereby promoting the values and mission of the NFDW. This commitment to ethical conduct is essential to preserving the trust of members, stakeholders, and the broader community.</p>	<p>Celeste Garcia, DC Federation of Democratic Women</p> <p>The language needed to be more specific regarding decorum and ethical conduct.</p>

Proposed Decorum Bylaws Amendment Passed

	<p>Bylaws Committee Recommendation</p> <p>Adopt proposal as amended below.</p> <p>Sec 3 Decorum</p> <p>All members of the National Federation of Democratic Women – NFW are expected to maintain a respectful decorum in all interactions, whether during committee business or other organizational activities. Members shall consistently uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct in the performance of their duties, ensuring that their actions reflect integrity, fairness, and respect for others. Members not in compliance will be removed from said meeting at the discretion of the President.</p>	
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2025 NFDW RESOLUTIONS

At Convention, attendees approved a series of thoughtful and timely resolutions that reflect our shared values and priorities. These resolutions will help guide our advocacy efforts and ensure our organization continues to speak with a strong, united voice on key issues affecting our communities.

RESOLUTIONS

- Honoring the Work and Legacy of the Carter Center
- Support of Initiatives and the Embrace of Goals of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)
- Preserve Public Health and Access to Health Care
- Defense of Due Process and Just Treatment in Identification of Illegal Immigrants
- Protect Public Education
- Support Global Warming Strategies to Survive A Changing Climate
- Defend Democracy and Resist Authoritarianism
- Protecting the Social Security Program

IN MEMORIAM RESOLUTIONS



President Jimmy Carter



Former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman



Former Congresswoman Nita Lowey

REAFFIRMATIONS

- Supporting the National Infrastructure Bank
- Supporting Home Rule and Statehood for the District of Columbia
- Advocating for Statehood of Puerto Rico
- Support for Election of the President by National Popular Vote
- Supporting Mental Health Professionals as Crisis First Responders

[CLICK TO VIEW THE RESOLUTIONS](#)

HISTORY MOMENT



Democratic women across the country have continued to make history and drive progress from the ground up. A powerful example was the **record-breaking turnout at the “No Kings” rallies**, where thousands of Democratic women in states like Arkansas, Florida, and Arizona mobilized to reject authoritarianism and defend democratic values. These events, led in large part by women, demonstrated the strength of grassroots organizing and the unshakable commitment to protecting voting rights, reproductive freedom, and equal representation. Democratic women aren’t just responding to the moment—they are defining it.

REFLECTIONS FROM BARBARA FAISON

At the 2025 Convention, delegates were honored to receive a heartfelt letter from the Immediate Past National President Barbara Faison. In her message, she reflected on her time in office and expressed deep gratitude for the members' collective efforts and shared purpose. *“It has been my distinct honor to have served as your President for these past two years,”* she wrote. *“It has been an experience of my lifetime, and I thank each and every one of you for your support, dedication, commitment, and desire to work hard to elect Democrats at every level and continue to move this organization forward.”* Her words served as both a touching farewell and a powerful reminder of the strength and unity within our community.

[CLICK TO VIEW LETTER](#)



SHOUT-OUT

We proudly recognize **Jeanne Marszalek of Mississippi**, former Chair of the NFDW History Committee, for her incredible contribution to preserving our legacy. She recently submitted **seven boxes of historical NFDW documents** to the Library of Congress, ensuring that the work and impact of Democratic women will be archived and remembered for generations to come. Her dedication to **honoring our past** strengthens the foundation for our future. We are **deeply grateful** for her efforts to preserve the legacy of our organization and its lasting impact.

HISTORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Patricia Farley of Florida has been appointed as the new NFDW History Committee Chair. The Southern and Western Regions are being asked to select one person to serve on this committee for the next two years. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let your State President and Regional Director know.

1971 CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

Consider making a one-time donation of **\$19.71** in honor of our founding year. Your support helps bring young Democratic women into the fold—because if we’re going to grow in the years ahead, we need them at the table now.



1971 CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

Help send young Democratic women to Convention!

Invest in the Next Generation of Leaders

Foster Mentorship and Connection

Break Down Financial Barriers

DONATE NOW

EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

nfdw1971.com

Your donation helps send passionate young Democratic women to our National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) Annual Convention. By covering travel, lodging, and registration costs, you’re opening the door for the next generation of leaders to learn, connect, and step into their power. Every dollar helps build a stronger, more inclusive Democratic future—led by the women who are ready to make change happen.

DONATE AT
NFDW1971.COM
OR
SCAN HERE ↙



EASTERN REGION

By Susan Rutt
Eastern Regional Director



I am so pleased to have this opportunity to again serve as Regional Director for the Eastern Region, a position I previously held. I also had the honor of serving the NFDW as Treasurer, Second Vice President, and First Vice President. I also held the position of Chair of the Young Women's Leadership Committee and had previously chaired a convention of the NFDW.

I have served as President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women and continue to serve on its Executive Board and many of its committees. I look forward to this opportunity to remain in close contact with the chartered clubs in the Eastern Region, and hopefully to work toward including additional states.

I am planning a Regional meeting, and have been in contact with our member states to help in planning this. I have had the opportunity to work with members throughout the Eastern Region, and am happy for the chance to work with them again, as well as our dedicated members throughout the country.

I think it is the goal of our entire Federation to expand and to involve more younger members, and these are certainly things I look forward to over the next two years.

Your Regional Director,
Susan Rutt



CONNECTICUT
JOYCE PETTEWAY

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SUSANA BARANANO

MAINE
BARBARA CRAY

NEW JERSEY
RACHEL GREEN & ROBERTA WALTERS

NEW YORK
DENISE MURPHY MCGRAW

PENNSYLVANIA
LORI VARGO HEFFNER

PUERTO RICO
IRMGARD PAGAN

"The East: Bold, Blue, and Built to Lead!"

CONNECTICUT UPDATES

By Joyce Petteway
President

In the second quarter of 2025, the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women (CFDW) remained an active force in advocating for women's rights, civic engagement, and progressive policy.

CFDW hosted its signature "Women in Blue" Legislative Luncheon at the State Capitol, providing members an opportunity to engage directly with lawmakers on key issues. Our position paper presented to the legislators included preserving democracy, public health, public education and vote to expand Reproductive Freedom Defense Act of 2022 "Shield Law"

We also participated in the International Women's Day March in Danbury, joining forces with partner organizations to raise awareness about gender equity, reproductive rights, and equal representation.

Throughout the quarter, CFDW championed initiatives like Equal Pay Day, supporting legislation aimed at salary transparency and economic justice for women. We also promoted civic education during Civic Learning Week, partnering with organizations like the Connecticut Democracy Center to help residents better understand government processes.

By working closely with the Connecticut House Democratic Caucus and participating in various Women's History Month events, CFDW continued to build strong networks and **uplift Democratic women's voices across the state.**



*Pat Sirois, Antoinette Gooley, NFDW DNC Representative
Joanne Sullivan, CFDW President Joyce Petteway*



True Blue Award presented to Jonette Franklin, past Treasurer (30 yrs.) of the Greater Hartford Progressive Democratic Women's Club

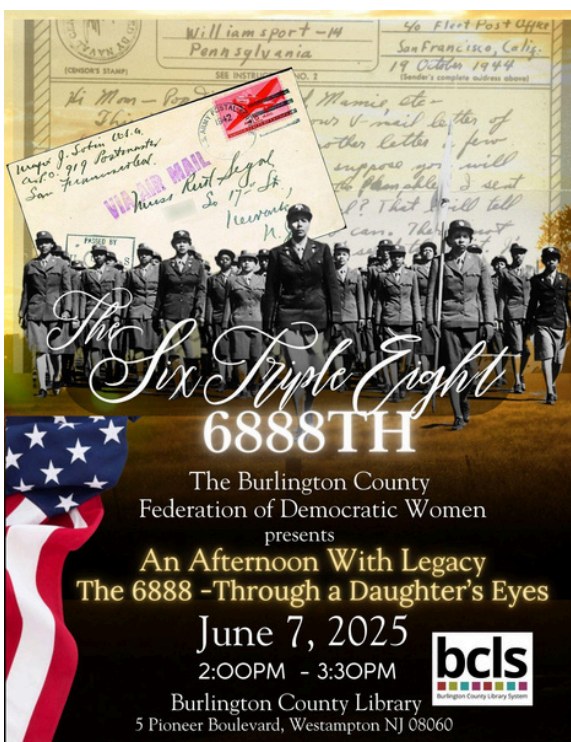
NEW JERSEY UPDATES

By Rachel Green & Roberta Walters
Co-Presidents



Honoring Women!

The Burlington County Federation of Democratic Women (New Jersey) hosted a presentation on the remarkable 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion at the Burlington County Library on Saturday, June 7th.



The program featured Dr. Karen T. Jordan, who is a Descendant, Historian, and Ambassador of the 6888th Battalion. Dr. Jordan shared memories, personal slides and archival materials honoring her mother, Annie Beatrice Knight — a Savannah native and member of the historic 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Attendees learned how the courageous women of the 6888th Battalion sorted and delivered millions of pieces of mail during World War II when it seemed impossible. Their inspiring motto was: "No Mail, Low Morale."

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight" was a groundbreaking all-Black, all-female unit of the U.S. Army during World War II, responsible for managing postal services for American troops in Europe.

It was led by Major Charity Adams (the highest-ranking Black

women in the Army at the time). Their primary mission was to sort and deliver a massive backlog of undelivered mail, some as old as two-years.

Celebrating Excellence: The NJFDW Peg Roberts Volunteer Awards Luncheon

The New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women (NJFDW) held their annual Peg Roberts Volunteer Awards Luncheon on May 3rd, celebrating the exceptional contributions of women and elected officials who are making a real difference in their communities. Named in honor of volunteer extraordinaire Peg Roberts, this event is a testament to the power of dedication and service.

This year, the awards were presented in four categories: The Peg Roberts Volunteer Service Award, the Outstanding Elected Officials Awards (North, Central, and South), the Loretta Weinberg Lifetime Achievement Award, and the NJFDW President's Award.

NEW JERSEY UPDATES

Honoring Community Leaders

The Peg Roberts Award was presented to Community Organizer Mary Slomine. Mary currently serves as Emeritus Vice President of the South Jersey Democratic Women's Forum and municipal co-chair of the Atlantic County Democratic Committee (ACDC) in Margate. She has served as a delegate for Barack Obama and was honored with the NAACP President's Freedom Award in 2022 for her resilience and deep commitment to her community.

Majority Leader Senator Teresa Ruiz received the Loretta Weinberg Lifetime Achievement Award. Named for Former Senator Loretta Weinberg, this award honors women who contribute to New Jersey through their elected work, legislative priorities, and constituent relationships.

Bloomfield Township Councilwoman Dr. Wartyna Davis, Somerset County Surrogate Bernice "Tina" Jalloh, and Burlington County Commissioner Director Dr. Felicia Hopson were recognized as Outstanding Elected Officials.

First Lady Tammy Murphy and Margaret Martin, COO of the NJ Democratic State Committee, were honored with the NJFDW President's Award for their continued support of Democratic values, initiatives supporting women, and their leadership.



Our 2025 NJFDW Honorees (not pictured First Lady Tammy Murphy)

A Day of Celebration and Networking

Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of fun, good food, and networking with women from across the state. The event also served as a fundraiser, with proceeds supporting women running for office.

The NJFDW Peg Roberts Volunteer Awards Luncheon was a resounding success, highlighting the incredible achievements of women leaders and their unwavering commitment to their communities. By recognizing these outstanding individuals, the NJFDW continues to inspire and empower women to make a difference.



Members of the 2025 NJFDW Executive Board (not pictured Treasurer Heather Boyce)

NEW YORK UPDATES

By Denise Murphy McGraw
President

History Made on Primary Night in New York

In a landslide, New York State Federation of Democratic Women member and keynote speaker of a recent annual conference, **Dr. Dorcey Appllys** won a four-way Democratic mayoral primary in Albany on June 24. In this 10-to-1 Democratic city, Appllys is now on her way to becoming the first Black mayor in Albany's 400 year history. Dorcey's history-making campaign was managed by **NYSFDW President Denise Murphy McGraw**.

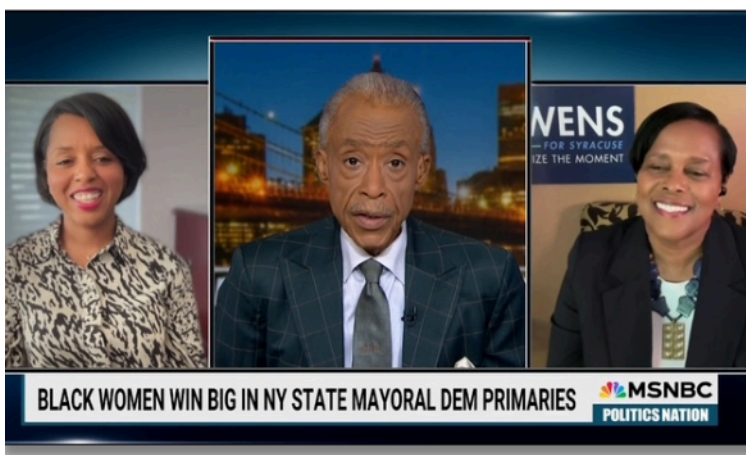
Sharon Owens of Syracuse also made history by winning her three-way primary last month. The current deputy mayor is now on track to become Syracuse's first black mayor.

Both women appeared on MSNBC's Politics Nation with **Reverend Al Sharpton** to discuss their big wins. Watch the segment here:

[CLICK TO WATCH NOW](#)



Dr. Dorcey Appllys at her victory party and NYSFDW President Denise Murphy McGraw cheering her on!



Dr. Dorcey Appllys of Albany and Sharon Owens of Syracuse talking about their historic victories with Reverend Al Sharpton on MSNBC



NYSFDW VP Amy Kobler, NYS Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples Stokes with NYSFDW President Denise Murphy McGraw



NFDW DNC Representative Virgie Rollins with Dr. Dorcey Appllys at the DNC Black Caucus Reception

NEW YORK UPDATES

Campaign Trainings:

New York also hosted two campaign schools for female candidates throughout the state in March and May.

In partnership with Eleanor's Legacy, the New York State Democratic Committee, the **Erie County Federation of Democratic Women** and the Erie County Democratic Committee the Federation trained more than 100 female candidates on topics such as fundraising, messaging, and field operations. Faculty members including party leaders, organized labor representatives, the majority leader of the **New York State Assembly Crystal Peoples Stokes**, and the chairwoman of the **State Legislative Black & Puerto Rican Caucus Michealle Solanges**.

Honoring Female State Legislators & State Women in Blue Day:

In March for Women's History Month, the New York Federation co-hosted a reception for female legislators in Albany. We honored all those women who are making a difference in our state government.

Also in March, the **Broome County Federation of Democratic Women** traveled to our state capitol to host and Women in Blue Day. They met with state legislators to update them on the county Federation's activities and discussed state legislation important to their members.

Monthly Lunch & Learns:

To date in 2025, the New York Federation has hosted five monthly Lunch & Learns with speakers such as MSNBC Commentator and Hopium's own Simon Rosenberg as well as other national and statewide figures.

All National Federation members are always invited to New York's monthly Lunch & Learns.



NYS Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples Stokes speaking at the Campaign Training.



NYS Governor Kathy Hochul speaking at the Governor's Mansion in Albany, NY



CANDIDATE BOOT CAMP

This is a campaign training for pro-choice women running (or thinking of running!) for office in New York

SATURDAY, MAY 17 | 10 AM - 4 PM | Breakfast at 9:30am

701 Seneca St.,
6th Floor
Buffalo, NY

RSVP AT: [HTTPS://CAMPAIGNTRAININGBUFFALO.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://campaigntrainingbuffalo.eventbrite.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
[EMAIL OFFICEADMIN@ELEANORSLEGACY.COM](mailto:OFFICEADMIN@ELEANORSLEGACY.COM)

Paid for by Eleanor's Legacy



Join the NYS Federation of Democratic Women

SAVE THE DATE! - MAY 14th, 2025

We will be joined by
Simon Rosenberg

Nationally renowned Simon Rosenberg is a 30-year veteran of US politics and the founder of Hopium that works on strategies to defeat MAGA, tell our Democratic story more effectively, and ensure freedom and democracy prevail. He provides a national audience sharp analysis, live events, and all sorts of Hopium!

PENNSYLVANIA UPDATES

By Susan Rutt
Past PFDW President

Women in Blue & Beyond: PFDW in Action

Women in Blue in Harrisburg

It was held on March 25 at the State Capitol. Over 100 PFDW members were greeted by several PA State Representatives and Senators. After spending time on their own to visit their local Legislators, attendees gathered on the floor of the House of Representatives Chamber, and were introduced by House Speaker Joanna McClinton. There was also an opportunity to visit the PA Senate for an introduction. Lunch was provided by several Legislators, and many dropped in to visit during lunch. We were met and greeted by Pennsylvania's Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis. At the end of the day, members of the PFDW gathered in the Capitol Rotunda where a news conference was being held by Democratic members of the House and Senate, along with Lt. Governor Davis. Chairing Women in Blue were Kathy Huggins and Shelly Glessner.

Outstanding Elected Democratic Women's Brunch

This year's event was held in Harrisburg on Sunday, April 6, where the PFDW honored fifteen elected Democratic women from across Pennsylvania. The theme for the brunch was "Unshaken & Unstoppable: Women Leading the Way". A fundraising auction was held as a part of the Brunch. Brunch Chair was MaryAnn Piccioni. This event followed the Federation's Board meeting held on April 5.

PFDW Annual Convention

This year's Convention will be held from July 31 to August 3 at the Philadelphia Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia. The Convention's theme is: "Old & New: Keeping Pennsylvania BLUE". Delegates from across the State will meet to attend business meetings, workshops, luncheons, and dinners. The main banquet will be a "SNEAKER BALL" honoring Philadelphia City Council member Jannie Blackwell. Election of officers will be held at the convention, with installation taking place at its final session. Saturday's luncheon will include the presentation of PFDW Scholarships to worthy college students. A Woman of the Year will be honored on Saturday evening. Also honored will be our PA local Club Presidents and Regional Directors. Convention Chairs are Shantale Galloway and Sonya Carroll.

PFDW was saddened by the passing of Past President and Past NFDW President Ruth Rudy and former PFDW Board member Pearl Hilley. Both are remembered for their participation for many years.



PFDW Past President Susan Rutt with Lt. Governor Austin Davis at Women in Blue.



PFDW President Lori Vargo Heffner with PA State Representative Jeanne McNeill and Susan Rutt at Women in Blue.



Pennsylvania Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton speaks at a news conference to Preserve Our Healthcare.

SOUTHERN REGION

By Patty Farley
Southern Regional Director



I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in my re-election as your Southern Regional Director. For the last two years it has been my honor to represent you on the National Federation Board, and I thank you for the trust you have given me to represent you again. As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past two years, I am proud of the progress we have made together. From fostering connections among our states to addressing the unique challenges of our region, your voices and collaboration have been the heart of every initiative I've championed. Thank you for the work you are doing in speaking out and standing up for our Democracy.

It is the responsibility of the regional director to hold an annual regional meeting in the fall. Most of you did not want to spend a lot of money on an in-person meeting, so I arranged two very successful zoom meetings that were well attended. Last June you voted to have our next regional meeting in person. Fall is fast approaching. If any state wants to volunteer please contact me ASAP.

I will try to make myself available whenever asked to attend a meeting or event, so please invite me. I saw a quote that said "Progress is not achieved by standing still, nor by settling for the status quo." Our New President Lovie West is moving us forward into the future in ways I am sure you will be pleased to follow. My vision for our future within NFDW would involve:

- higher attendance from our southern members on Zoom trainings and offerings;
- more representatives going to the national convention,
- more southern members on NFDW committees'
- more coordinated activities for campaigns—such as opportunities to help member states during important elections with phone banking

(For example, we invited some states to join us in a phone bank, and we had 8,000 calls in one hour during the special election here in Florida with help.)

In the south we have common challenges that bind us together; huge red wastelands, voter purges, attacks on right of choice, attacks on personal liberties, gender equality, racial equality and voting rights and a history of Jim Crow that raises its head whenever it is able—even Public schools are not safe and not funded. I will listen to your voice, your ideas, and your hopes and dreams for your states. If we work together just maybe we can accomplish some of them.

Your Regional Director,

Patty Farley



NFDW Regional Director Patty Farley with US Senate Minority Leader Cory Booker at a recent Florida Leadership Blue Gala

SOUTHERN REGION

SOUTHERN REGION

ARKANSAS
GRACIE ZIEGLER

FLORIDA
MERI FORTE-NAMUJ

GEORGIA
JUNE KRISE

KENTUCKY
TAMMY CRANFILL

LOUISIANA
LISA TOMKIES

MISSISSIPPI
BROOK HERMAN

NORTH CAROLINA
PAULA SHELTON

SOUTH CAROLINA
MERRILL CHAPMAN

TENNESSEE
EDEE WEBB

TEXAS
CORETTA GRAHAM

WEST VIRGINIA
PAM VAN HORN



*Members of the Georgia Federation of Democratic Women
including NFDW Past President Gail Buckner*



*Members of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women
including NFDW 4th Vice President Telise Ezell-Turner*

"Y'all Means All - Equality for Every Southerner!"

ARKANSAS UPDATES

By Gracie Ziegler
President



Holding the Line: Democratic Women in Arkansas Face a Session of Extremes

In Arkansas, being a Democrat can sometimes feel like yelling into the wind. Being a *Democratic woman*? That's more like building a shelter in a tornado with nothing but grit, policy, and a folding chair.

The 2025 legislative session in Little Rock has come and gone, and with it, another round of Republican supermajority dominance. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and legislative leaders advanced a hard-right agenda, focused more on national political theater than the daily realities of Arkansans. And yet, despite long odds, the Democratic women of Arkansas refused to sit down or stay quiet.

Because behind every "no" vote, every impassioned floor speech, and every coalition formed, there are real Arkansans who feel seen. Voters who want their voice to count. We do this for them. And we do this *with* them.

A Season of Extremes

Let's be honest: Much of the legislation this year was deeply troubling. The GOP pushed bills that attacked reproductive rights, criminalized support for trans youth, restricted immigrant families, and attempted to rewrite the rules of civic engagement. At one point, it felt like every committee room was another front in a culture war we didn't start but were expected to endure.

The Arkansas GOP's priorities this year were clear: limit who can learn, who can vote, who can parent, and who belongs. Democratic women, often outnumbered but never outmatched in compassion or clarity, bore witness to these harms in committee rooms, floor debates, and constituent meetings.

But Democratic women didn't just endure—we organized, questioned, objected, and in some cases, stopped these bills in their tracks.

The Power of "No"

Democratic women played a key role in defeating legislation that would have had devastating impacts on real people, particularly those already living on the margins.

- A bill that would have allowed lawsuits against doctors, teachers, or even parents who support trans youth? **Defeated.**
- A proposal to let volunteer chaplains into public schools to "advise" students? **Defeated.**
- Legislation targeting non-citizen Arkansans seeking public services? **Also defeated.**

When these bills died in committee or on the floor, it wasn't magic—it was because Democratic women stood together, asked the hard questions, and demanded the answers the public deserved.

Looking Ahead

This session made it painfully clear that the next fight isn't just in the Capitol—it's in our communities. It's on school boards, in quorum courts, in neighborhood associations, and—yes—at the ballot box in 2026.

We are discouraged. We are angry. We are sad for the immediate future of our state.

But we are also determined, and know the work is not only worth it, it's the right thing to do.

We are organizing. We are recruiting and training candidates. We are mentoring the next wave of young women ready to run for office or speak truth in rooms they were never expected to enter.

We know the odds. But we also know the power of showing up, again and again, even when the microphones are turned off and the cameras are gone.

Because that's what Democratic women in Arkansas do. We don't just speak. We build—even in the storm.

ARKANSAS UPDATES

Here are some great pictures featuring Democratic women proudly supporting our state! The aerial photo with dark storm clouds captures the powerful energy of the No Kings March, where over 10,000 people stood together to defend democracy and reject authoritarianism. You'll also see highlights from the Trans March and the vibrant NWA Pride Parade, which drew an incredible 30,000+ attendees. Arkansas Democratic women showed up in full force—visible and vocal despite living in a near one-party state.



FLORIDA UPDATES

By Meri Forte-Namuj
President



PerSisters in Action: Florida Women Standing Strong

The second quarter of the year was especially active and energizing for the Democratic Women's Club of Florida. In May, we hosted our annual Convention and held State Officer Elections, bringing together members from across the state to **reflect on our progress and chart the course ahead**. One of the most memorable moments of the weekend was the unexpected appearance of former U.S. Capitol Police officer and national democracy advocate Harry Dunn, who joined us during our Friday morning Business Meeting and received a warm, enthusiastic welcome.

That evening, **our signature PerSister Rally proved to be a resounding success**. The event drew an impressive lineup of speakers, including four Florida State House Representatives and the Deputy Director of the House of Representatives, who each spoke passionately about the importance of defending democratic institutions and protecting the rights of Floridians.

In addition to the Convention, nearly all of our local clubs participated in the national "No Kings" protest, which saw record-breaking turnouts—even in traditionally conservative regions of the state. These rallies sent a powerful message: **Florida women are watching, organizing, and ready to act**.

Looking forward to 2026, we have begun statewide collaboration with allied Caucuses and are already conducting training programs designed to recruit, support, and elect Democratic candidates at all levels. **Our work is just beginning, but our energy has never been stronger.**



FLORIDA UPDATES



From the Panhandle to the Keys, Democratic Florida women are speaking out—and refusing to be silenced.



GEORGIA UPDATES

By June Kris
President



Georgia Democratic Women Taking Action!

The Georgia Federation of Democratic Women (GFDW) held a fantastic Spring Meeting, hosted by the Savannah Federation of Democratic Women in Savannah, GA, at the historic Beach Institute. This GFDW meeting focused on keeping JOY- an act of resistance - during tough times, understanding chapter purposes, and celebrating the accomplishments of GFDW members and chapters. Local activists and creatives shared their wisdom on a variety of topics. We also welcomed local elected officials including GA Representative Anne Westbrook and Public Service Commission candidate Dr. Alicia Johnson.

Georgia Federation of Democratic Women *Spring Meeting* May 2, 2025



The Beach Institute
Savannah, GA



GEORGIA FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN



SUPPORTING U.S. SENATOR JON OSSOFF AT A RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN RALLY

The Georgia Federation of Democratic Women is fully committed to sending Senator Jon Ossoff back to the United States Senate. We are just getting started!

GEORGIA UPDATES



The members of Georgia Federation of Democratic Women (GFDW) have been fully engaged in activism. Across the state, we've been rallying in the streets, writing postcards, participating in Juneteenth celebrations, hosting and supporting our newly elected Democratic Party of Georgia Chair, Charlie Bailey, contacting U.S. House Representatives and Senators, hosting local candidate forums, hosting "joy" gatherings, working the polls during elections, and many other acts of grassroots organizing. GFDW is committed to the pursuit democracy and freedom for all.

Congratulations TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

- Dr. Tracey Fisher - **Burlene Morris Leadership Award**
- Danielle Tuwano (Gwinnett) - **Business Woman Leadership Award**
- Janay Ingram (Gwinnett), Enid Pigors (Fayette) - **True Blue Awards**
- Erica Pope (Gwinnett), Mischelle Walker (Fayette), Cathy Sheridan (Savannah), Barbara Marchan (CSRA) - **GFDW Bouquet Awards**
- Fayette Democratic Women - **2025 Chapter of the Year**



KENTUCKY UPDATES

By Tammy Cranfill
President

Rooted in the Bluegrass: The Strength of Kentucky Democratic Women

The Democratic Woman's Club of Kentucky has been energized and focused on growing both membership and engagement since the election of new officers last fall. With a renewed focus on empowering Democratic women across the Commonwealth, we have made remarkable progress in just a few short months.

We're proud to announce the formation of three new clubs, which together have brought in 86 new members—a strong indicator of the enthusiasm and momentum building throughout the state.

In April, we tabled at the Kentucky Democratic Party Convention, where members shared details about the club's mission, upcoming events, and the exciting 100th anniversary celebration of our founding, which will take place in 2027.

The response was incredible—38 women signed up to learn more, and 19 of them were from counties that currently don't have clubs. If we're able to turn even a portion of those interested into active chapters, we'll be well on our way to one of our most impactful years yet.

Beyond recruitment efforts, Democratic women across Kentucky have been showing up in powerful ways. From participating in marches statewide—especially on “No Kings Day”—to engaging in 50501 issue advocacy events, members are standing up and speaking out. Their voices are making a difference and keeping the values of the Democratic Party front and center in communities throughout Kentucky.

Together, we're building a stronger network of Democratic women ready to lead, organize, and make lasting change across Kentucky.



MISSISSIPPI UPDATES

By Brook Herman
President



Mississippi Democratic Women Present: We the People – A Community Conversation

On June 21, the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women's (MFDW) Mary Katherine Brown Leadership Institute hosted a virtual event titled "We The People". The event was a stateside community conversation about the Trump Administration and the implications of his policies, how the Democrats in the Senate and House can be more effective, the impact of the proposed policies on Mississippians, and how we can create a more engaged community who will turn out to vote in 2026. Our panelists (Greta Kemp Martin, Disability Rights Mississippi, Barbara Phillips, Civil Rights Attorney, Oleta Fitzgerald, Children's Defense Fund and Pam Shaw, P3 Strategies,

Mary Katherine Brown Leadership Institute
Presents

"We The People"

Saturday, June 21, 2:00 PM

 Greta Kemp Martin, Disability Rights Mississippi

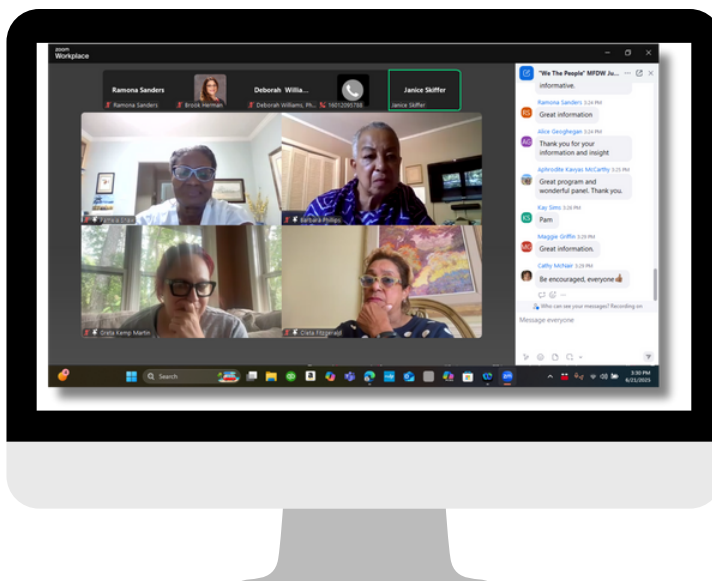
 Barbara Phillips, Civil Rights Attorney

 Oleta Fitzgerald, Children's Defense Fund

 Pam Shaw, P3 Strategies, LLC

A Juneteenth Conversation

LLC.) spoke on their observations and discussed the challenges that our vulnerable communities are facing. The event was organized by MFDW Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Deborah Williams, 2nd Vice President, MFDW, moderated by Ms. Janet Skiffer, 1st Vice President, MFDW and technical manager Michael Chandler, DeSoto-Marshall County Federation of Democratic Women. We had almost 40 members and guests listen in as our panelists talked about their experience fighting for equal rights and justice and how today's challenges compare. It was illuminating in how many of the same issues and challenges remain, but how our spirit and hope for a better future remains as well. A huge **THANK YOU** to our panelists.



NORTH CAROLINA UPDATES

By Paula Shelton
President



DWNC at 65: Electing Democrats, Empowering Women, Defending Democracy!

The Democratic Women of North Carolina (DWNC)'s 65th anniversary will be featured in our annual convention September 19-21st in Asheville, North Carolina. We continue to be the largest and strongest auxiliary organization for the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Our 2025 DWNC Slogan is "DWNC - for the Will of the People." We base our activities and strategies on our DWNC Mission. Our focus is to provide opportunity for our members that seek leadership in DWNC, or NCDP or elected officials. Our activities and programs are dedicated to electing Democrats to office.

Our NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Allison Riggs won her election on November 6th, 2024. Her opponent demanded two recounts. She won by 734 votes. Republican Judge Jefferson Griffin filed a series of election protests calling for certain categories of voters to be removed from the vote tally, which amounted to 62000 voters.

The DWNC and our NCDP kept Justice Riggs in the minds and hearts of our voters for over 6 months after the election. We supported her financially, conducted zoom calls and she was a featured speaker at multiple DW meetings or dinners. This was the last election to be certified in the entire country. Justice Riggs was sworn in on May 13, 2025.

We are so proud of our former DWNC Woman of the Year and former DWNC President Barbara Faison, who is the Immediate Past President of the National Federation of Democratic Women.



**Join NC Democrats &
Democratic Women of NC
at the NC General Assembly May
14th!**



**Let's show them we're watching, we're
ready, and we won't back down. 🗣️**

DWNC MISSION

1. To support and promote the principles of the Democratic Party.
2. To encourage women to seek public office and to participate in Democratic Party activities.
3. To work with the North Carolina Democratic Party Executive Committee to strengthen the Democratic party in North Carolina
4. To assist in organizing and maintaining active Democratic Women's chapters at the state, district and county levels.
5. To initiate and carry out programs and projects on behalf of the Democratic Party, and to promote the election of Democrats.

SOUTH CAROLINA UPDATES

By Merrill Chapman
President

SCDWC: Standing Strong in South Carolina

We've been busy in South Carolina! The South Carolina Democratic Women's Council held our virtual annual meeting on April 12, where members gathered online to **elect a dynamic slate of new officers**. We were able to have members from every corner of South Carolina attend and work towards moving our organization forward in 2025. I would like to give a special thanks to Immediate Past President Melissa Watson for trailblazing her leadership of our organization for the past four years.

On May 31, the Council hosted a Convention Breakfast, where attendees had the pleasure of hearing from Annie McDaniel, a respected Democratic member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. McDaniel's address focused on the importance of community-driven leadership and highlighted the work being done in Columbia to build a better future for our state. The breakfast **fostered meaningful conversation, forged stronger networks among attendees, and energized members** as they refined their strategies for local and statewide impact. It was a great way to start the day at the 2025 South Carolina Democratic Party Convention.

Throughout the quarter, Council members **have taken action well beyond traditional campaigning**—including by participating in public demonstrations like the "Hands Off" and "No Kings" rallies. These events showcased their powerful use of First Amendment rights to protest authoritarian policies, defend voting access, and uphold democratic principles.

From virtual boardrooms to crowded streets, South Carolina Democratic women **continue to lead with courage, voice their convictions, and stand together for justice and democratic integrity**.



TENNESSEE UPDATES

By Edee Webb
President

Convention, Community, and Civic Engagement: The Women of the TFDW Are Busy!

During the last several months, the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women (TFDW) has demonstrated our ongoing commitment to grassroots organizing, civic engagement, and Democratic leadership. A major highlight of recent months was the TFDW State Convention, held April 11-13 in Nashville. Delegates from across the state gathered for a weekend of business sessions, and networking with Democratic leaders. The convention provided a powerful opportunity to strategize for upcoming elections, recognize outstanding local leaders, and strengthen our statewide network of Democratic women.

TFDW clubs remained highly active in their communities throughout the spring and summer. Members of the Knoxville Democratic Women proudly participated in the No Kings Rally on June 14th, standing in opposition to anti-democratic efforts and exercising their right to protest against tyranny. The following week, they also took part in the city's vibrant Juneteenth Parade on June 19th and SoKno Pride on June 21st.

In addition, the Putnam County Federation of Democratic Women launched an outreach campaign aimed at boosting Democratic turnout in key 2025 elections. Members have been writing and sending handwritten postcards to voters in Virginia, and New Jersey—states with critical down-ballot races this year.

Please join us in congratulating our very own Telise Ezell Turner on her recent election as NFDW's 4th Vice President! Her dedication, leadership, and passion for the Democratic Party is truly inspiring.

These efforts reflect TFDW's broader goal to mobilizing women, supporting Democratic candidates, and defending democracy both in Tennessee and beyond. As the 2026 election cycle nears, TFDW is bringing women together to **lead, act, and make change happen.**



Members of the TFDW at the 2025 NFDW Convention with NFDW President Lovie West.



Knoxville Democratic Women at their Monthly Rally at Krutch Park.

PURPOSE OF THE TFDW

- To unite all Democratic Women in promoting the philosophies of the Democratic Party,
- To assist in the organization of a Democratic Women's Club in every county in TN,
- To discover and recruit capable and well informed leaders among women in every voting district,
- To encourage, within the limits of our bylaws, qualified women to seek and fill key positions in government, including both public and party offices,
- To educate women regarding issues on the local, state and national levels, as well as proposed legislation that impact women and families.

TEXAS UPDATES

By Coretta Graham
President

Building Power Across Texas: A Report from TDW

Over the past few months, the Texas Democratic Women (TDW) have remained deeply engaged in advocacy, outreach, and organizing across the state. One of the standout events was our **Annual Blue Ribbon Lobby Day**, held on April 15 at the Texas Capitol in Austin. TDW members from across Texas came together to meet with legislators, raise awareness about key policy issues, and advocate for legislation that supports women, families, and Democratic values.

TDW members also took part in the nationwide **No Kings Rally**, standing in solidarity with other organizations across the country to defend democracy and protest attacks on voting rights and the rule of law. Members proudly represented Texas in this national call to action, reinforcing the importance of protecting democratic institutions and resisting authoritarian trends.

In June, TDW members attended the **Rural Texas Coalition Summit** in Bastrop, where they joined with allies to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities facing rural communities. Their presence helped build stronger relationships and ensure rural voices are part of the broader Democratic strategy in Texas.

As we look ahead, preparations are underway for the **Annual SumHer Retreat**, to be held in Corpus Christi. This year's theme, "**Revive, ReOrganize, and Resist**," sets the tone for a weekend of power, connection and strategy, as TDW members recharge and prepare for the crucial 2026 election cycle.

Amid all this action, Texas is gearing up for Hurricane season. Several devastating flash floods have wrecked havoc in Central and South Texas areas. **As we weather these storms, we are keeping Texans impacted by the devastating floods at the forefront of our thoughts.**



Members of TDW Galveston County attend Blue Ribbon Lobby Day in Austin, Texas on April 15, 2025.



Members of the Tarrant County TDW prepare for the local No Kings Protest in Fort Worth, Texas on June 14, 2025.

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC WOMEN sumHER retreat REVIVE, REORGANIZE, RESIST AUG. 1-3 CORPUS CHRISTI	EARLY BIRD MEMBER TICKETS \$45 BY JUNE 30 (ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$20) NON-MEMBER TICKETS \$65 HOLIDAY INN MARINA \$110 PER ROOM (KING/DOUBLE) ROOM INCLUDES 2 BREAKFASTS & FREE PARKING To Register by mail: P.O. Box 8396, Corpus Christi TX 78415 (512) 923-3707 Register Online: www.coastalbend.tdw.org Hosted by Coastal Bend Texas Democratic Women
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WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES

By Pamela Van Horn
President



WVFDW Spring Summit: Stronger Together!

The West Virginia Federation of Democratic Women (WVFDW) held our Spring Summit on Saturday, May 17th at Bridgeport Conference Center. More than 80 members and guests attended.

The Spring Summit was designed to prepare clubs for the 2026 legislative session and elections. Pamela Van Horn, WVFDW President kicked the day off with goals set for our organization by the WVFDW board.

The attendees were greeted by Jenny Santilli, President of the Harrison County Democratic Women. They also received a party update from Teresa Toriseva, Vice Chair, WVSDEC. She also spoke on candidate recruitment later in the day.

Delegate Sean Hornbuckle, Minority Leader, West Virginia House of Delegates, led a discussion on moving forward through legislative strategies.

WVFDW Vice President Barb Scott discussed Social Media Best Practices in a Hostile Environment. Karen Coria, WVFDW Treasurer, presented a skit and talk on Finding Common Ground: Facing our Fears, emphasizing our need to speak up in our communities.

The keynote speaker was The Rev. Dr. Sharletta Green who led an interactive workshop on Civic Engagement in the Time of Crisis. She gave an historic overview of civic engagement, and challenges and strategies for self-care and effective engagement.

Senator Joey Garcia led a discussion on building our Senate and House majorities. While Belinda Biafore, WVFDW FAD PAC Chair, gave an overview of our involvement in the 2024 election.

Former WVSDEC Executive Director Curt Zickafoose led a workshop entitled, So, You Want To Run for Office? on how to recruit candidates.



The day ended with a lively panel on Running for Office: What Candidates Need + How Can WVFDW Help? All participants were former candidates. The moderator was Lanae Johnson, WVFDW District Director 2 East, Senator Joey Garcia, Belinda Biafore, Commissioner Linda Longstreth, Commission President Susan Thomas, and Teresa Toriseva.

The Spring Summit reaffirmed the WVFDW's commitment to **empowering Democratic women, strengthening our voice in state politics, and preparing to win in 2026 and beyond.**

WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES



Women leading with purpose. These snapshots capture the energy, commitment, and community of Democratic women from across West Virginia as we gathered at the 2025 Spring Summit. With inspiring and powerful speakers, the day was a true celebration of leadership, learning, and our shared vision for a stronger, and better future for everyone across our great state.



MIDWESTERN REGION

By Jennifer Franklin
Midwestern Regional Director



I am honored to serve as the newly elected Midwest Regional Director. Below are my vision and goals for the Midwest Region.

Vision: To empower women of the Democratic Party in the Midwest region by fostering innovation, collaboration, and growth in both membership and political participation in levels of government.

Goals:

- Utilize technology to streamline processes and enhance member engagement.
- Use data analytics to understand member behavior and preferences, informing strategy and decision-making for member retention and recruitment.
- Create a centralized source of best practices compiled from Midwest states that can be used all clubs in the region.
- Provide training and development opportunities for new and existing clubs.
- Provide opportunities for regionwide collaboration on democratic causes.

I am excited to be working with the members from the great states of Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Oklahoma! I am confident that our partnership will move both the Midwest Region and NFDW forward.

Your Regional Director,
Jennifer Franklin



ILLINOIS

KIM SAVAGE & LEE FRANKLIN

INDIANA

ROXANNA LUCAS MURRAY

KANSAS

CASSIE WOOLWORTH

MICHIGAN

MARILYN CONNER

MISSOURI

TAMMY HARTY

NEBRASKA

KRIS KINZIE

OHIO

EDNA BORDERS

OKLAHOMA

BETTYE RECTOR

“Midwest Nice Meets Grassroots Power.”

ILLINOIS UPDATES

By Kim Savage and Lee Franklin
Co-Presidents

Greetings from the State of Illinois!

We're **excited** to share some updates and upcoming events from Illinois Democratic Women!

On May 4, 2025, we hosted our Annual Meeting and Brainstorming Session at SEIU Local 73 in Chicago. We were honored to welcome special guests:

- **Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton**
- **Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski**
- **Cook County Clerk Monica Gordon**

Together, we **explored shared priorities and key areas for growth**, including opportunities for education, outreach, and deeper engagement. Board member elections were also held during the meeting.

IDW was proud to have twelve members attend the NFDW Convention in St. Louis this year. **We're especially excited that two of our members have been nominated for national leadership roles**—a testament to the strength and voice of Illinois women in the Democratic Party.

Mark Your Calendar for Bash Before the Brunch!

Our annual fundraiser will be held on August 12, 2025 at JP Kelly's in Springfield. Join us for an energizing evening of connection and celebration!

Fall Social & Membership Drive

We're planning a fall social and membership drive—location and details to be announced soon. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your continued support and **dedication to building Democratic power across Illinois.**



Illinois Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton speaking at our Annual Meeting.



Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski speaking at our Annual Meeting.



Cook County Clerk Monica Gordon speaking at our Annual Meeting.

ILLINOIS UPDATES

By Kim Savage and Lee Franklin
Co-Presidents



Members of the Illinois Democratic Women listening to Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski speak at our Annual Meeting.



A group shot of members of the Illinois Democratic Women at Our Annual Meeting.



Members of the Illinois Democratic Women at the 2025 NFDW Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

INDIANA UPDATES

By Roxanna Murray
President

Bringing Activism From the Street to the Voting Booth

Greetings Sisters! Indiana is focused on trainings throughout our state this year, in our 92 counties and as a group. **We are working to bring women from the activism on the sidewalk to being actively involved in politics.**

During these past couple of months, the Indiana Democratic Women have remained deeply engaged in legislative advocacy and civic education. In early May, we hosted a People's Town Hall in Lafayette featuring Indiana Democratic Party Chair Karen Tallian and other state leaders, **offering Hoosiers a platform to voice concerns and connect with representatives.** Through the Younger Women's Task Force, we also organized weekly Legislative Action Hours via Zoom, empowering members to monitor reproductive justice legislation and directly lobby state lawmakers.

Democratic women in Indiana were also prominent in voter outreach and public demonstrations. Members participated in People's March rallies in Indianapolis and Lafayette earlier in the spring, and later joined statewide "No Kings" protests opposing authoritarian policies and calling out extremist agendas. **We also supported local efforts like Protect Medicaid Day and Trans Day of Visibility events in cities like Indianapolis, Lafayette, and Muncie**—as part of a broader protest guide circulated throughout the state.

Together, these activities reflect a robust blend of policymaking, grassroots mobilization, and direct action by Indiana Democratic Women — **demonstrating our unwavering commitment to defending Democratic values**, amplifying marginalized voices, and helping bring women from the streets to the ballot box.



Stephanie Graf, IFDW Treasurer and Miami County Democratic Party Chair speaking at our May training event



Joselyn Whitticker, At Large IFDW Board member and President of the Marion Branch NAACP speaking at the May training event.



Fort Wayne City Councilwoman and Indiana DNC member Michelle Chambers speaking at the May training event.

KANSAS UPDATES

By Cassie Woolworth
President

KFDW is engaging our community. Take a look around – we've got lots going on in the state of Kansas!

Capital Area Democratic Women (CADW)

In June, the Capital Area Democratic Women **hosted our 2025 candidates:** John Williams, ShaNoah Emory, Chris Tanner, Adam Angelini, Ty Dragoo, and Ashley Beason – School Board, City Council/Mayor – Ed Patton, Jolie Lippitt, Karen Hiller, Will Naeger, Daisy Karimi, Sylvia Ortiz, Michelle Bradberry, and Michelle Hoferer.

At our **July 9th meeting**, our **special guest will be Cindy Holscher**, who is running for Governor of Kansas in 2026.

Johnson County Democratic Women (JCDW)

Last Month, the JCDW held Candidate Conversations

– A special thank you to our current and future candidates for coming to Candidate Conversations. It was fun, entertaining, and enlightening. Special thanks to our 'judges', Allison Hougland, Clair Reagan, and Mari-Lynn Poskin for loaning us their gumption. Looking forward to a SWEEP!

Next Month, join us for our **Social on the 1st Thursday** at The Bar in Prairie Village from 6–8pm OR our 3rd Thursday meeting at **Black Bear Diner in Olathe from 6–8pm.**

In July, we're looking forward to an important conversation with Sheriff Roberson. He'll be joining us to discuss a range of public safety issues, including local and regional law enforcement efforts, as well as the role and impact of ICE policies in our communities.



Members of the Capital Area Democratic Women at their June 2025 Meeting

Reno County Democratic Women

The Reno County Democratic Women proudly installed their new officers at their noon meeting on June 10th. These dedicated leaders bring passion, and a strong commitment to advancing Democratic values in their community. The KFDW looks forward to working alongside this inspiring group of amazing women! *(New Officers are pictured below)*



Betty Taylor, Immediate Past President, Peggy Hughes, Incoming President, Tammy Smith, Vice President & Program Chair, Judy Langley, Treasurer & Cynthia Landon, Secretary

KANSAS UPDATES

Saline County Democratic Women (SCDW)

Last Month, the SCDW held a TACO Fundraiser –

A very special time was had by all with our TACO Fundraiser on No Kings day! We raised over \$500 to support local Democrats.

Next Month, we're talking about the importance of running for an office (School Board, Organizations) by being involved in community activities affecting all age ranges and how to be involved. The SCDW has monthly meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Martinell's Restaurant 11-1pm.

Sedgwick County Democratic Women (SCDW)

In June, the Sedgwick County Democratic Women hosted an attorney who spoke about the legality of the new administration & also **worked No Kings Day with Indivisible**.

In July, join us **on July 4th at the Veterans Memorial Park for the Board Commemoration** at 9AM. This is not a protest – we'll pause our usual protest to attend a peaceful commemoration hosted by the veteran's memorial park board. No Trump signs, bullhorns, nor noisemakers. The ceremony include a Color Guard, Guest speakers and 3 Volley Salute with Taps.

And, **we have at least 5 weekly rallies:**

- Saturday: 10am at Broadway & Douglas,
- Monday: 10 am, for a Climate rally at Delano,
- Wednesday: 10am at Estes' office & ;
- Wednesday: 10am at ICE office in Delano, and
- Friday: 10am at the crossover near Kellogg and Hillside.

You can come to our July 10th meeting early (4:30pm or so) and make your rally signs. We'll meet at Service Employees International Union prior to our 6:30pm meeting.



Kansas Democratic Party Chair Jeanna Repass speaking to members of the Kansas Democratic Federation of Democratic Women in June

MICHIGAN UPDATES

By Marilyn Conner
Chair



Legacy of Leadership: Michigan Democratic Women Rising in 2025

On May 17, 2025, the Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus held its 37th Annual Legacy Luncheon in Detroit, MI. The MDWC Luncheon Chair Virgie Rollins (MDWC Chair Emeritus), and our executive board members made it **one of the most memorable luncheons.**

Our keynote speaker, DNC Chairman Ken Martin, delivered a motivating message to **over 800 women from across our great state.** In attendance were elected officials, labor officials and community leaders who came together for our annual luncheon.

The theme of the luncheon was *Energize, Motivate, Women Ready to Organize!* **We must elect Democrats up and down the ballot for the upcoming election** as well as the 2026 elections. We have a vital role to play in order to win control of the Senate and House in 2026.

Women are the backbone of our party, and we must stop the erosion of our rights and liberty. Together, we can and will win our local, statewide, and national races.



OHIO UPDATES

By Edna Borders
President

Empowering Voices Across Ohio

The Ohio Federation of Democratic Women **continues to grow in strength and reach**, with active members across several key counties—including Summit, Lorain, Lake, Portage, and Stark. We are proud to share that our membership has grown to nearly 200 women and allies committed to advancing Democratic values, civic engagement, and community leadership. This growth reflects the dedication and grassroots energy that define our organization.

Over the past year, **our members have engaged in vital democracy-building efforts**, including voter registration drives and targeted outreach to individuals who were removed from Ohio's voter rolls, encouraging them to re-register and make their voices heard. Each local club I've visited has hosted its own luncheon or gathering, creating space for connection, collaboration, and celebration of our shared mission—each event has been a tremendous success.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be planning a statewide conference in Canton, Ohio, where members from across the **state will gather to strategize, learn, and build momentum heading into the next election cycle.**

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the **17 Democratic women serving in the Ohio House and the 4 Democratic women in the Ohio Senate.** Their leadership, courage, and dedication to fighting for all Ohioans—especially in the face of significant challenges—continue to inspire our members and strengthen our cause.

On a personal note, we kindly ask that you **keep our financial secretary in your thoughts and prayers** as she undergoes treatment for cancer. Her strength and service remain an inspiration to us all.



Members of the Lorain County Democratic Women's Club at the Ohio People's Town Hall with Tim Walz in April.



Inez James and Edna Borders attending the 2025 NFDW Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.



Members of the Ohio Democratic Women's Legislative Caucus.

OKLAHOMA UPDATES

By Bettye Rector
President

We Will Be Heard!

The Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women has played a prominent role in shaping our party's statewide agenda. Members took part in the Oklahoma Democratic Party State Convention held June 28-29 in Broken Arrow, engaging in breakout sessions, contributing to party platform discussions, and electing new leaders. Members also attended the powerful **"Fight Back Luncheon"** the evening before, where advocates like Tamyra Cox-Touré and Heather Rahhal Palacios rallied participants to "organize, show up, [and] fight like hell" against threats to education, healthcare, and democracy.

In addition, OFDW has sustaining deep grassroots engagement. Through advocacy committees, **we tracked bills during the legislative session**, participated in Capitol Days alongside allied groups, and initiated voter registration drives to address our state's persistently low turnout. OFDW also connected volunteers with local campaigns, organized phone/text banking, hosted postcard-writing nights, and actively recruited Democratic candidates at local protests and events.

Oklahoma Democratic women across the state **have taken to the streets to protest**. They joined House Democrat walkouts at the Capitol in March, opposing restrictive abortion and transgender bills and participated in the statewide Hands Off! OKC Rally in early April, mobilizing against Trump-era policies like Project 2025 and actions by Governor Walther. They also gathered at "No Forced Birth" protests in June to oppose forced-pregnancy measures, and engaged in broader resistance rallies on issues such as immigrant rights, education policy, and reproductive freedom.

Through these combined efforts in leadership, advocacy, and community organizing, these past few months have proven to be a dynamic season for OFDW—with protest, policy, and **people power at the forefront**.



Members of the Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women at the 2025 Oklahoma Democratic Party State Convention



Members of the Oklahoma Federation of Democratic at the 2025 NFDW Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.



Oklahoma Democratic Women attending a Hands! Off Protest

WESTERN REGION

By Gini Ballou
Western Regional Director



I'm truly honored to have been elected Western Region Director at our June convention. Stepping into this role fills me with gratitude, enthusiasm, and a deep sense of responsibility. I'd like to extend heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Director, Audrey Dempsey, whose thoughtful leadership and dedication created a strong, group-centered foundation that I'm proud to build upon.

As we look ahead to the pivotal 2026 election cycle, our work becomes more urgent and more meaningful than ever. Across the Western Region, we face unique challenges—but also incredible opportunities to grow, organize, and empower women to take their place in shaping the future of our communities, states, and nation. Our goals for the coming months include expanding our membership, deepening member engagement in NFDW activities, and supporting one another as we elevate Democratic values in every corner of the region.

I am continually inspired by the dynamic, passionate women who make up our leadership and membership. We bring diverse experiences and talents to the table, and I firmly believe that together, we can accomplish extraordinary things. I look forward to working with all of you—and to a term defined by action, and success.

I'm energized by the possibilities and excited for our future together.

Your Regional Director,
Gini Ballou



ARIZONA
JUDY STAHL

CALIFORNIA
MONICA WILSON

IDAHO
GINI BALLOU

NEVADA
AUDREY DEMPSEY

NEW MEXICO
JULIA BROWN

WASHINGTON
CARIN CHASE

UTAH
CATHERINE VOUTAZ

"The West Isn't Waiting—We're Taking Action."

ARIZONA UPDATES

By Judy Stahl
President

Power in the Southwest: AZDW is on the Move

The Arizona Democratic Women (AZDW) has remained **highly engaged in grassroots advocacy, statewide outreach, and strategic planning** for the critical 2026 election cycle.

A highlight of the spring was **AZDW Women in Blue Day** on March 17, where members gathered at the Arizona State Capitol to meet with legislators, advocate for progressive policy, and amplify the voices of women across the state.

On Tuesday, March 18th, I spoke to over 100 people at the **Democratic Women of Southeastern Arizona (DWSEA) meeting** in Sierra Vista about the mission and vision of AZDW. I am very grateful to April Newman, DWSEA President, and her team for their hospitality.

AZDW also had a strong presence at the **Arizona Democratic Party State Committee Meeting** on June 7, where members joined fellow Democrats to help shape the party's direction and priorities.

In addition, members participated in the nationwide **No Kings Rally** on June 17, where they peacefully protested against the current administration's policies. I absolutely believe that the day will come when they all will be held to account for their actions.

Looking ahead, AZDW is preparing for its next in-person event in Cochise County on Saturday, August 16, which will coincide with **Get Out The Vote (GOTV) efforts for the Special Election in Congressional District 7**. We will be welcoming Democrats to meet up in Douglas, not a hotbed of Democrats, to inspire folks to participate and get their families, friends, and neighbors to vote in the special election for CD7. It is considered a 'safe' Democratic seat but we want to encourage and support robust turnout.

From rural outreach to national representation, the women of AZDW are leading with purpose—and **working every day to secure Democratic victories**.



Devin French; President Judy Stahl; and Communications Director, Amber Faith, at the 2025 AZDW Women in Blue Day.



AZDW Treasurer Toni Denis listening at the 2025 NFDW Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

CALIFORNIA UPDATES

By Monica Wilson
State Chair

We are thrilled to share highlights from the recent California Democratic Party State Convention, held in Anaheim from May 30 to June 1, 2025. The event featured an inspiring lineup of speakers, including Governor Tim Walz, Senator Cory Booker, DNC Vice Chair Malcolm Kenyatta, and our dedicated state Constitutional Officers.

A special focus was placed on the Women's Caucus, featuring prominent leaders such as Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, Close The Gap Executive Director Susannah Delano, and Refuse Fascism Organizer Amina Gonzales. Their powerful discussions highlighted the critical connection between the status of women and girls and the overall stability and security of nations. Greater equality for women leads to thriving economies, better educational outcomes, and enhanced health indicators, all of which contribute to reduced political instability and violence.

In addition to the Women In Blue initiative and the Western Regional meetings, the California Federation Women's Caucus came together with organizations such as the Black Women's Collective Empowerment Institute, BOWOPA, NAACP, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. for Legislative Advocacy Day at the California State Capitol. Our members engaged directly with legislators to voice pressing issues and advocate for our legislative and budget priorities that significantly affect women and girls in California.

Lastly, we are proud to introduce the newly elected Executive Board for 2025-2027. We look forward to their leadership and commitment to advancing our mission over the next two years.

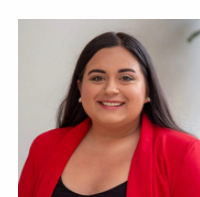
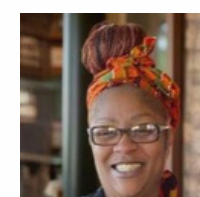
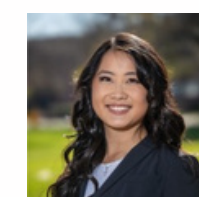
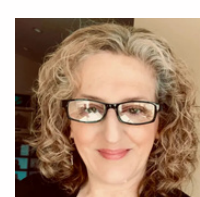
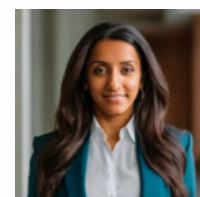
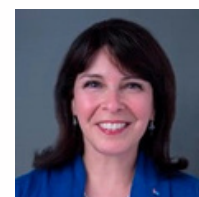
As I transition to the newly elected NFDW California President, I want to thank so many that have always had my back. A special thank you to outgoing President Carolyn Fowler, DNC and NFDW 1st VP Christine Pelosi, Principal Vice Chair Kristina Dixon and Women's Caucus Secretary, Anita Naranya.

Members of our California delegation attended the NFDW National Convention and shared much of the great information learned and the outstanding networking opportunities with their Western Region colleagues and others across the nation.

We have been attending "No Kings" and "Refuse Racism" rallies with an early start on post card writing to win back the house. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in taking back our country.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work towards a brighter future for all!

Our Executive Board Members



1st Row: Chair, Monica Wilson; Principal & Southern Vice Chair, Kristina Dixon;

2nd Row: Northern Vice Chair, Carolyn Wysinger; Central Vice Chair, Imelda Ceja-Butkiewicz; Treasurer, Deborah Cunningham Skurnik;

3rd Row: Recording Secretary, Susan Gutowsky; Corresponding Secretary, Anita Narayana; Political Development Chair, Dr. Pratima Gupta

4th Row: Annie Flores, Policy Chair; Naomi Goldman, Legislative Chair; Megan Imperial, Boot Camp Chair;

5th Row: Nina Chuang, Communications Chair; Champagne Brown; Commission on Status of Women Liaison; Alondra Esquivel Garcia, California Young Dems Liaison;

CALIFORNIA UPDATES



The 2025 NFDW Convention was a wonderful gathering, and California Democratic Women were proud to be part of it. Our photos reflect the energy, connection, and dedication we felt throughout the event. We especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet and engage with our Democratic sisters in service from across the nation, exchanging ideas and celebrating our shared commitment to progress and leadership.



IDAHO UPDATES

By Gini Ballou
Chair



As spring turned to summer, the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus (IDWC) continued its mission to **empower women, amplify Democratic values, and speak out on issues impacting Idaho families.** The second quarter of 2025 saw a wave of civic engagement, protest, organizing across the state—and a high-energy fundraising luncheon to back grassroots leadership. Here are three standout highlights:

In April and May, the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus (IDWC) co-hosted the powerful "Hands Off!" rallies in Hailey alongside community and statewide partners. Hundreds gathered in solidarity, holding signs, sharing stories, and making it clear: **Idahoans are paying attention—and they're not backing down.** In addition to the Hailey event, IDWC members across the state participated in satellite rallies in their local communities, showing the strength and unity of women in every corner of Idaho.

In June, members of the IDWC including President Gini Ballou attended a luncheon to support Kaylee Peterson, the Democratic candidate for Idaho's 1st Congressional District. The event **highlighted last year's donation she received from the National Federation of Democratic Women's PAC** and aimed to build on that momentum. Members gathered to hear from Kaylee directly—discussing her vision for healthcare, and civic engagement—and raised funds for her grassroots field operations. This luncheon showcased IDWC's growing role in fostering and amplifying women's leadership in Idaho politics.

To close the quarter, members of the IDWC joined a large crowd at the Capitol in Boise on June 28th for a powerful rally in support of reproductive rights. The event was held to raise awareness about Idaho's restrictive abortion laws and to **build momentum for a citizen-led ballot initiative that would restore access to abortion care across the state.** In the months ahead, members will be gathering signatures in their local communities, standing firmly in the belief that every Idahoan deserves the right to make their own healthcare decisions.

We deeply appreciate our members' dedication and energy—together, we're strengthening Idaho's democracy and **ensuring women's voices lead the way.**



IDWC President Gini Ballou speaking to the crowd at the Hands Off Rally in Ketchum, Idaho.



Kaylee Peterson, Ada County State Committeewoman Louise Seeley, and IDWC President Gini Ballou



Women attending the "Rise & Sign Rally" at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise, Idaho.

Credit: Karen Bossick of Eye on Sun Valley

NEVADA UPDATES

By Audrey Dempsey
President

The Nevada Federation of Democratic Women (NVFDW) has remained energized and engaged, continuing their commitment to advocacy, organizing, and **empowering women across the state**.

A key event this spring was the **Women in Blue Advocacy Day** held on March 6 in Carson City, where members gathered at the Nevada State Capitol to meet with legislators, discuss key policy issues, and advocate for our shared values.

In June, NVFDW members proudly participated in the **No Kings Rally in Las Vegas**, joining a national movement to defend democracy and push back against extremist efforts to undermine voting rights and constitutional protections. Their presence helped reinforce the message that Nevada women are ready to fight for justice, equality, and real representation.

The Federation also celebrated a milestone this year when Rosa Mendoza attended her **first NFDW Convention** in St. Louis!

I was so proud of the incredible representation in the Western Region—**6 out of 7 Western states** attended this year's NFDW Convention. With amazing women from Arizona, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, and Washington represented, the region is growing stronger, more connected, and increasingly influential. It was my distinct honor to serve as your Western Regional Director.

We are proud to be a part of this momentum and are **looking forward to driving more Democratic wins in 2026 and beyond**.



Assemblywoman Erica Mosca is pictured with Rosa Mendoza, Secretary of NVFDW. Ms. Mosca was formally recognized (during our Women in Blue event in Carson City) for her outstanding service.



A birds' eye view of the No King's protest in June in Las Vegas. Executive Board member Rosa Mendoza witnessed plenty of electrifying energy from participants.



Attendees from the Western Region including Carolyn Fowler of California, Toni Denis of Arizona, Gini Ballou of Idaho, Catherine Voutaz of Utah, and Carin Chase of Washington.



NVFDW President Audrey Dempsey speaking at the 2025 NFDW Convention.

UTAH UPDATES

By Catherine Voutaz
President



WDC of Utah: Making an Impact in 2025

The Women's Democratic Club (WDC) of Utah **remained highly active and engaged across the state**, participating in and organizing a wide range of events and initiatives.

The Club hosted informational tables at numerous rallies and conventions, including the Bernie/AOC Speech on April 13th, the Hands Off Rally on April 19th, "Don't Mourn, Organize" on May 1st, and multiple Democratic State and County Party conventions throughout May, **helping to expand visibility and membership** which is now at 360.

The Club also **supported key events** like the Orton McKay Fundraiser in Weber County and the Utah Democratic Party's Taylor & Mayne Awards and State Convention in Ogden. In June, WDC partnered with Salt Lake County at the Pride Festival and WestFest, and held a Luncheon on Immigration on June 14th.

Significant organizational developments included amending the Club's bylaws, **launching a new Southern Utah chapter**, endorsing municipal candidates, and awarding scholarships to 10 women for the Women's Leadership Institute Political Development Series.

The Club also **welcomed two new board members**: Elaine Lewis as Fundraising Director and Rosa Lechartier as Events Director.

A Panel Discussion

Utah's Immigrant Community --
the Challenges we Face Today

Speakers:

- Natalie El-Deiry
Director of Immigration & New American Integration, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
- Nicholle Pitt White
Attorney Contigo Law
"Know your rights"
- Maria Fernanda Gomez
Vice Consul, Department of Protection, Mexican Consul of Utah
- Juli Ulvestad
Humane Society, Pet Resource Center Director

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
a nation built by immigrants

Saturday Luncheon
June 14th, 2025
11am to 1pm

SVUU
6876 S Highland Dr
Cottonwood Heights

A Member Luncheon was held on June 14th covering Immigration with 60 attendees.



June 14th - The WDC Our Inside Version of the No Kings Rally

We move into the couple of months with renewed energy and purpose—**ready to uplift women, support Democratic values, and continue making an impact in our communities.**

NEW MEXICO UPDATES

By Julia Brown
Chair

From Santa Fe to the Streets: NMFDW Champions Democracy

The New Mexico Federation of Democratic Women (NMFDW) has sustained its momentum through targeted advocacy, political engagement, and grassroots organizing. We began the year with a powerful Women in Blue Day at the State Capitol in Santa Fe on February 17, 2025, where members from across the state met with legislators to advocate for key issues such as reproductive rights, rural healthcare access, and public education funding. **The day was a visible and impactful demonstration of Democratic women's leadership** and a strong reminder of our policy priorities.

Throughout the spring, our members have been actively engaged in voter education and fundraising efforts to support Democratic candidates running for statewide office. Currently, three Democrats are in the race for Governor, while the Lieutenant Governor's race features three Democratic contenders—including two women. Additionally, three Democratic women are campaigning to become New Mexico's next Secretary of State. As **our state legislature has the second-highest female majority in the legislative body in the entire country**, we continue to proudly champion candidates who reflect our progressive values and embrace our state's slogan that "Everybody is somebody in New Mexico".

Our members remained engaged beyond the Capitol by attending the New Mexico Democratic Party's Spring State Central Committee (SCC) meeting on April 26, helping to **shape the party's strategic direction** ahead of the next election cycle and to elect new party officers.

NMFDW members also joined statewide demonstrations such as the "No Kings" rally and "Hands Off" protests, standing in solidarity with national movements to defend democracy, protect bodily autonomy, and oppose authoritarian threats. These efforts reflect our **deep commitment to collective action and civic participation**.

Looking ahead, NMFDW is preparing for a dynamic summer and fall. By building on recent successes and staying mobilized around leaders like Deb Haaland, we continue to shape the future of New Mexico politics—**ensuring Democratic women remain a force for progress at every level**.



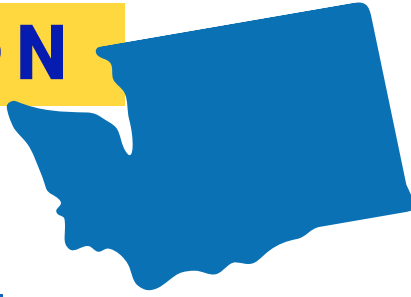
Members met with State Senator Michael Padilla during this year's Women in Blue in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Former Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland spoke at an event hosted by the San Juan County Federation of Democratic Women.

WASHINGTON UPDATES

By Carin Chase
President



Power to the People: Washington Democratic Women in Action

Washington women **continue to honor the promise of generations past** by working to ensure the equality proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution applies to all people. Our Chapters are securing resources to elect our members to legislative bodies at every level.

We are especially proud of our own **Washington State Democratic Chair, Shasti Conrad, on her historic election as Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee**. As a proud American of South Asian heritage, Shasti embodies the values of democracy, justice, and civic leadership. Her success is a shared victory that reflects the strength and vision of Washington women in leadership.

Abortion remains legal and protected in Washington State. We've upheld this right since 1970 and **remain steadfast in our commitment to defend and expand it**. Our

Democratic agenda centers on equity and justice for all, including those historically excluded from decision-making.

We **believe political power comes from the people**—not rulers. Until citizens consent, there is no king. This core belief guides our work as we fight for a more inclusive and representative democracy.

As a proud ERA Coalition Partner, the Washington State Federation **actively engages in national efforts to advance the Equal Rights Amendment** and secure stronger legal protections for women.

Looking ahead to November 2026, we recognize the stakes. Our Chapters are energized and organizing to elect Democrats up and down the ballot—from Congress to local offices. With strong voter turnout, 2026 will be a defining moment. **Let's keep building on this momentum.**



Washington State Democratic Party Chair was elected as Vice Chair of the DNC.



Washington State Democratic Party Chair Shasti Conrad with former State Senator Maralyn Chase.

WASHINGTON UPDATES



Here are a few snapshots highlighting the energy and engagement of the Washington Federation of Democratic Women! From proudly representing our state at the 2025 NFDW Convention to standing strong at recent rallies like Hands Off and No Kings, our members have shown up with purpose and passion. These moments reflect our ongoing commitment to defending democracy, protecting rights, and amplifying the voices of women across Washington.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

Forward with Purpose and Power

Thank you for being an essential part of the National Federation of Democratic Women. Your dedication, passion, and action are the driving forces behind everything we accomplish together. Whether you're organizing events, supporting local candidates, mentoring the next generation, or simply having conversations that inspire change, your voice matters—and it is helping to shape the future of our democracy. Every member, every volunteer, and every supporter plays a role in building the inclusive, representative leadership our country needs.

As we look ahead, the work before us is both urgent and full of possibility. We must continue to bring more women—especially young women—into this movement, reduce barriers to engagement, and ensure that every voice is heard. Let's stay connected, support one another, and show what's possible when Democratic women lead with purpose. Together, we are not only making history—we are shaping it. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to grow, organize, and fight for a better future for all.



[CLICK TO SUBSCRIBE](#)



**Saturday
October 4, 2025
6:00PM EST**



Stay connected with the NFDW! Sign up for our email list, if you have not already, to receive news, event updates, and opportunities to get involved.