



Communicator

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Winter 2016

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Greetings and Happy New Year!

What an exciting year 2016 will be as we gear up to elect the next president (the 45th President and hopefully a Democrat!) of the United States and also celebrate 45 years of the NFDW. It was in October of 1971 that a small group of dedicated Democratic women, under the leadership of our founder, Rilla Moran Woods, gathered together at a breakfast meeting in Washington, DC to form the Federation and give a voice to Democratic women in the Democratic Party and throughout the nation.

This past November, I had the honor of presiding over the presentation of papers and historical documents of the NFDW to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Past presidents of NFDW were invited to attend the celebration and it was a wonderful day! Past presidents in attendance included **Carye Blaney, Janice Haynes Davis, Pat Hobbs, Virgie Rollins, Dot Mrowka, Dr. Corinne Anderson, and Ruth Rudy.** The DC Federation hosted a wonderful reception following the events at the Library of Congress at the DNC Club. Special thanks to Jeanne Marszalek and the History Committee for all their hard work gathering, cataloging, and organizing all of these historical documents to make sure they were in perfect order to officially present to the Library of Congress.



Past Presidents at the Library of Congress presentation.

Due to restrictions in place since 9/11, the Library of Congress is not able to accept any documents by mail and Jeanne and husband, John had the responsibility of driving to Washington, DC from Mississippi with a car full of 10+ file boxes of this tremendous collection of documents and memorabilia. In a Thank You letter I received from Peter Stark, the Gift Officer at the Library of Congress, he stated, "This gift is a most welcome addition to the collections conserved by the Library's Manuscript Division and will be highly valued by staff and researchers for many years to come." What a proud moment!

But the work is not done. The NFDW will need to draft a document to outline how we proceed from here. What documents from each president's

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President's Letter *continued*

term will need to be collected, how they will be preserved, and when will these future accessions be included with the previous documents at the Library of Congress are all issues that we need to address. We have much work to do as we think about going forward and continuing to preserve the legacy of the NFDW.

It has been a busy past few months. In September, I had the honor of installing the officers and executive board for the Florida Federation of Democratic Women. They held a 3-day convention in Coco Beach, Florida. The theme of their convention was "Democratic Women: Voices for Equality" and they had a wonderful turnout.

In October, I had the honor of attending the Eastern Regional Meeting in upstate New York and performed the installation of officers of the newly elected New York State Federation. The end of October brought me to Detroit, Michigan for the Midwest Regional Meeting where I had the distinct honor of being introduced to Melissa Gilbert, a mom, author, former actress, and advocate for Michigan's working families who is running for Congress in 2016. The theme for the Midwest Regional Conference was "Women Getting in Gear to Pump Out the Vote", which played nicely as a follow-up to our NFDW convention last June in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Both meetings were outstanding with wonderful speakers and a full agenda. In all of these conventions and workshops, the general theme has been women's equality and getting women out to vote because we all know that women hold 53% of the electorate and "When Women Vote, Democrats Win!"

Additionally, it has been a busy time for the Democratic National Committee. The end of August brought me to Minneapolis for the annual summer meeting of the DNC. I was fortunate to hear from the Democratic Presidential candidates (five at the time) as to what their plans are to move this country forward and we elect the next Democratic President. I also attended many of the caucus meetings throughout my stay and learned a lot!

In December, I attended the DNC Executive Board meeting in Charleston, South Carolina and, as I write this, have plans to be in Philadelphia this coming weekend, January 21-22 for the DNC Executive Board Meeting and Convention Center walk-thru as final preparations are being formalized for the Democratic Convention next July. I am proud to be there to represent the NFDW as we gear up for the presidential election this year.

As we move into 2016, there is much work to be done. The South Carolina Federation is busily planning and making arrangements for the annual NFDW convention in Charleston, South Carolina. Look for additional information about the upcoming convention in this issue and be sure to check the www.nfdw.com website for information about registration and additional tours. I'm sure it will be a wonderful convention and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Democratically yours,
Joanne Sullivan
President, NFDW

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us! This year's convention will be a special event as we celebrate the 45th anniversary of NFDW as we look to elect the 45th President (A Democrat!) of the United States.

The 2016 NFDW Convention will be held in **Charleston, South Carolina, June 10–12, 2016** at the **Francis Marion Hotel**.

Room reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at **877-756-2121**.
Mention **NFDW Convention 2016** to get the special hotel rates for the convention.
Convention Registration will be open soon by linking directly to **www.nfdw.com**.

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In Loving Memory of Barbara Mansfield

We, the members of the Executive Board and general membership of the National Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs (NFDW) mourn the passing of:

Barbara Mansfield

PRESIDENT NFDW 2005–2007

Barbara Mansfield contributed much to her community, her state, and the Democratic Party. Barbara was a tireless worker and dedicated volunteer.

In recognition of her years serving as President of the NFDW (2005–2007), Barbara's papers were presented to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC along with other past presidents of NFDW in the ceremonial presentation on November 16, 2015. This was a proud, historical moment for the NFDW membership. Her papers, along with those of other past presidents and future presidents of NFDW are secure at the Library of Congress to tell the important history of NFDW for generations to come.

In recognition of her past service and steadfast dedication to NFDW, the important role she played in representing her state of Louisiana in NFDW, and her tireless work on behalf of the Democratic Party, the NFDW wishes to extend our heartfelt sorrow and deep condolences on her passing.



May is Democratic Women's Month Across the USA!

It is Official!! As per the NFDW 2015 Convention Resolutions:

The month of May has been officially designated by the National Federation of Democratic Women as **DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S MONTH!!**

Across the country, Democratic women will be celebrating Eleanor Roosevelt's efforts to raise Democratic women to their deserved place in society, especially in politics.

Eleanor Roosevelt proclaimed May 24 as Democratic Women's Day back in 1940. Since Eleanor's time, May 24 often falls on Memorial Day weekend. So, DWCF President Maureen McKenna worked to declare the month of May as Democratic Women's Month. She first accomplished this in Florida and then submitted the resolution to officially recognize May as Democratic Women's month across all of the National Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs. This resolution was embraced at the 2015 NFDW Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.



Eleanor Roosevelt

What can your club do to celebrate? Well, here are just a few ideas!

1. Have a specific, well-advertised fundraiser or membership recruitment event celebrating Florida Democratic Women with Democratic Women as the theme.
2. Selling or purchasing Newspaper Ads, buttons, bumper stickers, social media, flyers and mailings announcing and celebrating Democratic Women's Month.
3. Asking local municipality or county commissions to declare May as Democratic Women's Month, and use of appropriate media for promotion.
4. Have a voter's registration drive targeting women for the month of May.
5. Encouraging candidates and elected officials to speak at local DWC functions celebrating the month of May as Democratic Women's Month.
6. Celebrating Eleanor Roosevelt's life and history at meetings and events in May.
7. Communications Chair, Judy Meyers, will use media outlets to advertise DWCF declaration of May as Democratic Women's Month!

NFDW Women in Blue Committee

“WORKING IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN VOICES: Our issues must be heard.”

January, 2016

Dear State Presidents:

2016 will be a very eventful year for women throughout the country. Many will go to the polls to vote on a national level for the next President and Vice President of our great country. Many will vote in local elections choosing leaders who will govern and be in charge of crafting legislation that will shape many lives.

This is the time when we, as a Federation, must band together and let our voices be heard. The Women in Blue Committee is once again making a special appeal for each state president to host a [Women in Blue](#) Lobby Day. With this being an election year, we need to take every opportunity to make certain our issues are heard. However, they cannot be heard, if we do not present them.

Please add the Lobby Day to your calendar today and let us know the Day you have chosen. In February, we will publish a master calendar listing all dates that have already been confirmed. We will continue to update the calendar until all states have responded. Please email your date to emlloyd@comcast.net with a cc to lenabishop505@gmail.com by January 30th. A member of the committee will follow-up to this correspondence. Let us hear from you soon. Working together, we will make a difference/

Sincerely,

The Women in Blue Committee:

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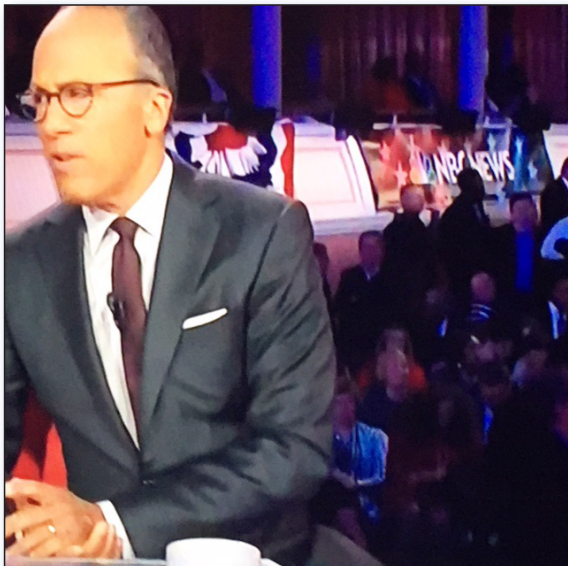
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NFDW Members at the Debate



January 17, 2016 in South Carolina

Broadcast on NBC



Democratic Women's Club of Florida

Democratic Women's Club of Florida members made their annual statewide pilgrimage to the Florida state Capitol, Tallahassee, on February 21 through February 23, 2016 to advocate for or against bills that could impact all Floridians.

On Sunday, February 21, the Florida Democratic Party Chair, Allison Tant Richards, opened her home to DWCF members and provided a wonderful welcome reception, which was hosted by Democratic Women's Club of Capitol City.

On Monday, February 22, members were informed and inspired by training provided by legislators, political/policy directors and consultants on proposed legislation. Attendees were given techniques for advocacy to use both in Tallahassee and in their home area. On Monday evening the DWCF hosted a well-attended and elegant Legislative Reception.

DWCF President Dr. Maureen McKenna was honored by the opportunity to speak to the Democratic Caucus Pre-Session Meeting on Tuesday AM. DWCF members visited legislators and marched with signs around the Capitol. DWCF is proud that their organization was recognized at both the Florida Senate and House sessions on February 23, 2016.

