

# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN



## *The End of Year* **COMMUNICATOR**

DECEMBER 2023

### Message from NFDW, President Barbara Faison

Greetings to all our members of the NFDW!

As I start my first year in our new administration, I know we have many battles ahead, elections to win, and work to do - all to keep the White House.

#### **We need every Democrat to:**

- Vote early in every election.
- Help register voters and find transportation to polling locations for all.
- Organize precincts and keep in contact with voters everywhere.

*Let's aim for a 90% turnout in every precinct!*

#### **There are many, many issues to fight FOR!**

The John Lewis Voting Rights Act, women's rights and the ERA, abortion access, healthcare/Medicare, DEI (diversity, equality, inclusion), stopping book bans in schools and public libraries, eliminating school vouchers, the economy, environment, climate change, student loan debt, and the list goes on. Every one of them is worth fighting for!

We need Democrats to run on all levels of government, from municipal and school boards, into county & district levels, to the state level, and for seats in the US Congress.

#### **Democrats work for ALL people. Period.**

Democrats will do what's right for everyone.

We will fight to the very end.

Let every voice be heard, and every vote be counted.

*-Barbara Faison*

### IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE  
NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS  
+ WELCOME TO NEW STATE  
PRESIDENTS & COMMITTEE  
LEADS/MEMBERS

NFDW GOALS AND  
STRATEGIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

DNC NEWS

FUNDRAISING

STATE NEWS



To our leaders:

I want to express my confidence in the leadership of the National Federation of Democratic Women. Together, we can build on the legacy of those who came before us and continue to be a force for positive change in the world.

To the newly appointed leaders, I want to express my heartfelt congratulations. Your commitment to service and dedication to the ideals of democracy have not gone unnoticed. Your willingness to step forward and assume a leadership role within the National Federation of Democratic Women is a testament to your passion for advancing the cause of equality, justice, and progressive values.

As you take on these responsibilities, remember that you are part of a network of strong, capable, and dynamic women who have been at the forefront of positive change nationwide. Our organization's diversity of thought, experience, and backgrounds is one of our greatest strengths. Embrace this diversity, for it is through collaboration and exchanging ideas that we can create lasting impact.

I extend my deepest appreciation to those leaders who have been serving tirelessly. Your commitment to the principles of democracy and your unwavering dedication to the National Federation of Democratic Women have laid the foundation for the successes we celebrate today. Your leadership has inspired countless individuals and communities, and your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

*-Barbara Faison*

## Welcome, New NFDW Officers!

President - Barbara Faison  
First VP - Gini Ballou  
Second VP - Debi Thompson  
West Region Dir - Audrey Dempsey  
Third VP - Christine Pelosi  
Fourth VP - Lovie West  
Fifth VP - Diane Lechner  
Treasurer - Margaret Weinberger  
Recording Sec. - Dorothy Adams  
Southern Region Dir - Patricia Farley  
Midwest Region Dir - Susan Althouse  
Eastern Region Dir - Irmgard Pagan  
Parliamentarian - Kathy Adams  
Corresponding Sec. - Gracie Ziegler  
DNC Black Caucus - Virgie Rollins  
DNC Women's Caucus - Joanne Sullivan  
Past President - Gail Buckner  
Past President - Mary Jenks

[Meet the Board](#)



## FUNDRAISING

Take a moment to become a Sustaining Partner of the NFDW. Our members are our strongest assets!

[Become a Sustaining Partner](#)



## Admin Documents

Chair: Diane Lechner  
Advisor: Joanne Sullivan  
Members: Corrine Anderson, Kathy Adams,  
Dorothy Adams, Audrey Dempsey

## Audit

Chair: Joan Sullivan  
Members: Denise Faison, Jeanne Kehoe

## Awards & Scholarships

Chair: Susana French  
Advisor: Gini Ballou  
Members: Theresa Rohloff, Eliesa Fisher,  
Sam Crunkilton

## Budget

Chair: Margaret Weinberger  
Advisor: Joanne Sullivan  
Members: Kristina Dixon

## Bylaws

Co-chairs: Norma Lester and Corrine  
Anderson  
Advisor: Kathy Adams  
Members: Sarah Anderson, Joyce  
Pettaway, Ces Rosales

## Convention

Advisors: Susan Althouse and Diane Lechner

## Credentials

Chair and Advisor: Gini Ballou  
Members: Kristy Breedlove, Wanda Bynam Ashley  
*\*only at Convention*

## Finance & Fundraising

Chair: Debi Thompson

## Growth & Development

Chair & Advisors: Barbara Faison and regional directors  
Members: Betty Rector, Vera Watson, Sam Crunkilton

## History

Advisor: Mary Jenks  
Members: Alexis Carraway, Debra Dickey, Carolyn  
Fowler, Jean Marszalek (former chair), Mary Ho

## Presidential Advisors

Angie Elkins, Carol Wilkins, Carye Blaney, Pat Hobbs, Corrine Anderson, Virgie Rollins,  
Joanne Sullivan, Susanna French, Janice Haynes Davis

## Legislative/ERA

Chair: Patricia Farley  
Advisor: Christine Pelosi  
Members: Brenda Pollard, Betty Calvin Reese,  
Diane Lechner, Kim Savage

## Membership

Send all member information to Margaret  
Weinberger & Gracie Ziegler

## Minute Reviewers

Chair and Advisor - Christine Pelosi  
Members: Eddie Jean Carr, Susan Shelton,  
Diane Lechner

## Political Ed. & Training

Chair and Advisor: Lovie West  
Members: Betty Ward Cooper, Mary Kuehler,  
Toni Denis, Kristina Dixon, Gracie Ziegler

## Public Relations

Chair: Gracie Ziegler  
Advisor: Audrey Dempsey  
Members: Mary Kuehler, Gigi Simms Johnson  
*\*formerly Communications*

## Resolutions

Chair: Kelly Green  
Advisor: Virgie Rollins  
Members: Betty Bajak, Alice Geoghegan,  
Gaby Fraser, Carin Chase

## Rules

Chair Kristina Dixon  
Advisor: Virgie Rollins  
Members: Donna Ezzell, Joyce Pettaway  
*\*only at Convention*

## Women in Blue

Chair: Christine Pelosi  
Members: Eddie Jean Carr, Susan Shelton,  
Diane Lechner

## Young Women's Leadership

Chair: Kathy Adams  
Advisor: Virgie Rollins  
Members: Mary Kuehler, Jennifer Franklin

# DNC UPDATE

The Democratic National Committee met in St Louis, MO, October 5 – 8, 2023, for its' Annual Summer/ Fall Meeting.

***What a wonderful DNC meeting this was!***

This was the last general meeting until the Democratic National Convention to be held in August of 2024. We were visited by Vice President Kamala Harris in the Friday session of the Women's Caucus. It was great to be able to introduce our new NFDW President, Barbara Faison, and welcome her to the DNC Executive Committee and the DNC Black Caucus, chaired by our own Black Caucus Chair, Virgie Rollins. We are looking forward to our National Convention and working for the Biden-Harris campaign. Keep an eye out for the scheduled DNC debates!



## WOMEN'S CAUCUS MEETING

The NFDW was well represented at the meeting by Black Caucus Chair Virgie Rollins, Women's Caucus Vice Chair Joanne Sullivan, Christine Pelosi (CA), and Susanna French (KY), along with Women's Caucus Chair Lottie Shackelford (AR).



Christine Pelosi, Joanne Sullivan, Virgie Rollins, Susanna French.



Vice President Kamala Harris, The 2nd Gentleman, Doug Emhoff, Chair Lottie Shackelford, and Women's Caucus Vice Chairs.





Vice President Kamala Harris in a one-on-one session with former DNC Chair and Political Strategist Donna Brazile at the Women's Caucus Meeting.



DNC Black Caucus Chair Virgie Rollins with Vice President Kamala Harris and 2nd Gentleman Doug Emhoff



NFDW's elected representatives Joanne Sullivan & Virgie Rollins with Women's Caucus Chair, Lottie Shackelford and NFDW President Barbara Faison



NFDW's elected representatives Joanne Sullivan & Virgie Rollins, NFDW member Susanna French (KY) and NFDW President Barbara Faison



DNC Black Caucus Meeting with Chaiman Jamier Harrison and Black Caucus Chair Virgie Rollins



# Women in Blue 2024

A proud tradition of our federated clubs, which annually choose one day to speak with their legislators about issues that affect their local communities, their states, their country, and the world. These issues are wide-ranging but are of particular relevance to women and families. Our NFDW colors are blue and white, and the women dress in blue on that day as a symbol of their solidarity.



**SAVE THE DATE - March 8th**



**Where - via zoom**




**More details coming soon!**



## We are excited to announce the location and dates for our 2024 convention!

 SAVE THE DATE: NFDW 2024 CONVENTION

 Where - Lorain, Ohio

 When - June 5th to June 8th

\*Board meeting 6/5, Convention begins 6/6

*We can't wait to see you in Ohio!*

Ohio's state slogan is "The Heart of it All!" Lorain is excited to welcome NFDW Members, who are undoubtedly the heart of so much work in the Democratic Party!

Stay tuned for more details as speakers, programs, events, and more are unveiled in the coming months. Transportation suggestions and hotel information will be coming soon as well.

Follow NFDW on social media for Convention updates and so much more!



[www.instagram.com/nfdw01](https://www.instagram.com/nfdw01)



[www.facebook.com/NFDWvotes](https://www.facebook.com/NFDWvotes)



[www.twitter.com/NFDWvotes](https://www.twitter.com/NFDWvotes)

### A REMINDER:

The Bylaws Committee, led by Norma Lester and Corinne Anderson, is requesting your recommendations for our [NFDW Bylaws!](#) Please review and submit any recommended changes by February 1st.

Recommendations should include:

- Article Number as written
- Proposed change
- Rationale for change
- Sponsor name and club

Recommendations after the deadline will not be considered!

Please email your recommendations directly to Norma Lester and Corinne Anderson with a copy to President Barbara Faison



# UPDATES FROM NFDW STATES

**Southern Region Dir - Patricia Farley**  
**Midwest Region Dir - Susan Althouse**  
**Eastern Region Dir - Irmgard Pagan**  
**Western Region - Audrey Dempsey**

## **MIDWESTERN REGION**

Illinois - Kim Savage & Lee Sparks  
Indiana - Roxanna Lucas Murray  
Kansas - Tanya Shryock  
Michigan - Marilyn Conner  
Missouri - Karen Slicer  
Nebraska - Denise Austin  
Ohio - Edna Borders  
Oklahoma - Betty Rector

## **SOUTHERN REGION**

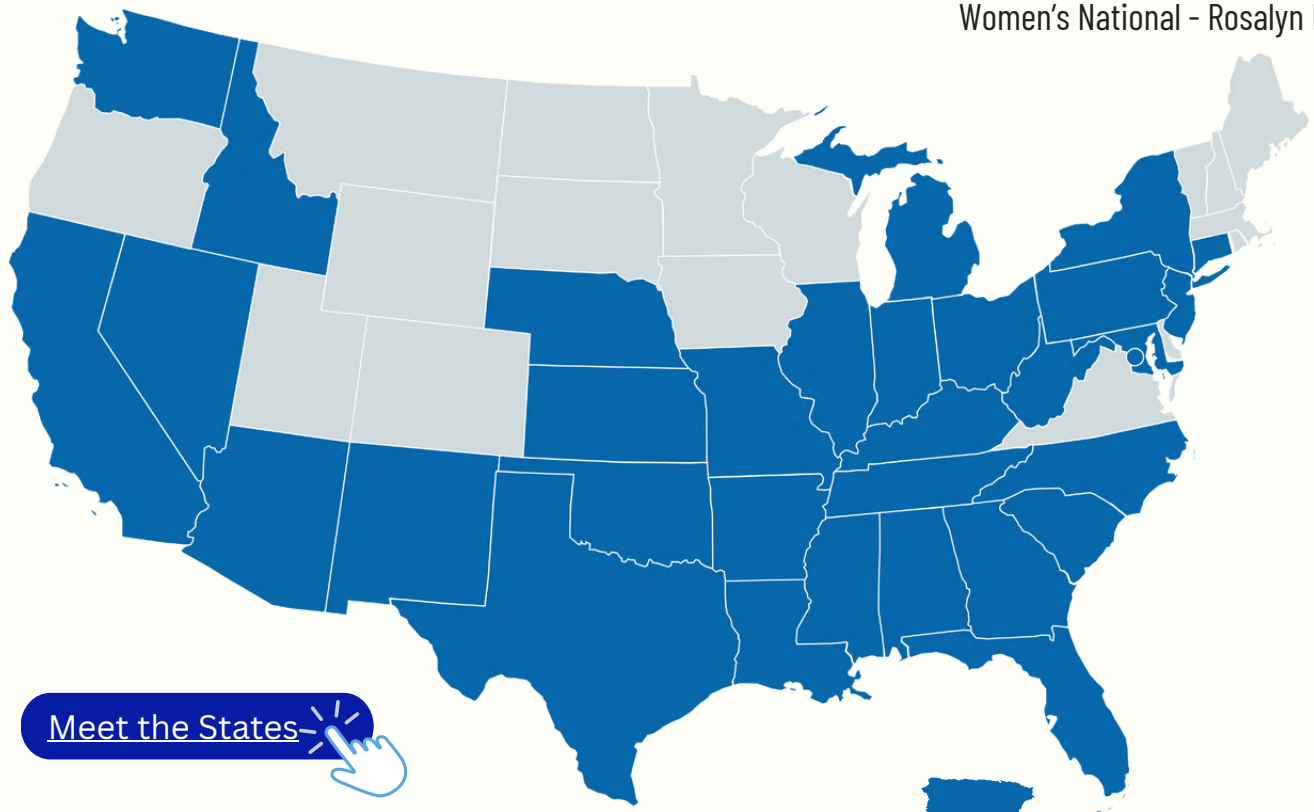
Alabama - LaTanya Millhouse  
Arkansas - Gracie Ziegler  
Florida - Meri Forte-Namuj  
Georgia - June Krise  
Kentucky - Mary Jean Dittert  
Louisiana - Gwen Collins-Greenup  
Mississippi - Linda Floyd  
North Carolina - Paula Shelton  
South Carolina - Melissa Watson  
Tennessee - Marisa Richmond  
Texas - Mary Ho  
West Virginia - Pam Van Horn

## **WESTERN REGION**

Arizona - Toni Denis  
California - Carolyn Fowler  
Idaho - Gini Ballou  
Nevada - Audrey Dempsey  
New Mexico - Julia Brown  
Washington - Carin Chase

## **EASTERN REGION**

Connecticut - Joyce Petteway  
DC - Celeste Garcia  
Maryland - Eugenia Benitez Suarez  
New Jersey - Margaret Weinberger  
New York - Denise Murphy McGraw  
Pennsylvania - Lori Vargo Heffner  
Puerto Rico - Irmgard Pagan  
Women's National - Rosalyn L. Coates



[Meet the States](#)



# Connecticut

The Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women met in late June for their biennial convention to elect new officers. Special guests included Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Congresswoman Jahana Hayes. Congresswoman Jahana accepted the award for Outstanding Elected Official from NFDW from CFDW President Joyce Petteway that had been presented at the NFDW convention earlier in June. Congratulations to Congresswoman Jahana Hayes for this prestigious award!



# Washington D.C.

The DC Federation of Democratic Women (DCFDW) has had a busy summer. It began on June 20, 2023, with our celebration of outgoing officers and the election and installation of our new administration. DC At Large Council Member Anita Bonds swore in the new officers.

In July, the DCFDW, the DC Democratic Women's Club, the Metropolitan Democratic Women's Club, the Women's National Democratic Club, and the National Women's Political Caucus issued a joint statement to express our concern about recent Supreme Court decisions that have stripped American citizens of their rights. In the letter, we state our commitment to voter education to ensure all eligible people vote in elections from school board to President and actively identify, support, and elect strong candidates representing our interests. We posted the letter on our websites and social media and encouraged our members to do the same.

Members of the DCFDW joined with the DC Democratic State Committee to testify against a proposed ballot initiative to introduce ranked choice voting and open primaries in the District of Columbia. We think the current system is effective and that ranked-choice voting without proper voter education could overly complicate elections and result in some votes not counting. We are concerned that open primaries would dilute the interests of the Democratic party and go against the DC Home Rule Charter, which stipulates that certain elections be partisan.

Our clubs and the Federation also began planning for the coming year. We want to be ready to hit the ground running! The Metropolitan Women's Democratic Club held a retreat on July 22, 2023, and the DCFDW executive board met on August 5, 2023. The DC Democratic Women's Club hosted a listening session with members to gather feedback on their hopes and goals for the year ahead.

DCFDW Executive Board planning for the future. DCFDW is excited about the year ahead. We plan to monitor the District of Columbia legislation, advocate as appropriate, and continue to register and educate voters. We also will support key races across the country this fall. The DCFDW is fired up and ready to go!

Given public safety concerns in the District of Columbia, on September 18, 2023, the DCFDW hosted a panel about the root causes of crime among youth and appropriate, nonpunitive solutions. As part of our first meeting of the year, we hosted a panel that included practitioners from the community who work in violence prevention programs and programs to support youth impacted by gun violence.

DCFDW chaplain Rev. Cozette Thomas, moderated the panel, which included:

- Reverend Ryane Nickens, Executive Director, TraRon Center, Washington, DC
- Mr. Ricardo Miles, Hope in Action Violence Interrupter Manager, Prince George's County
- Ms. Kandis Catalan, Program Manager, Office of Gun Violence Prevention
- Ms. DeJuan Mason, Community Engagement Manager, CREDE, Georgetown University Law Center

This fall, the DCFDW continued to work with the DC Democratic State Committee (DCDSC) to educate our members about the implications of the ballot initiative for semi-closed primaries and ranked-choice voting. Semi-closed primaries which would allow Independents to vote in Democratic primaries, is concerning because it could dilute the will of the party. On November 21, 2023, the DCFDW hosted an information session for our members to ensure they understand the implications of the ballot initiative, including rank choice voting, which the DCDSC opposes. Panelists included three DCFDW members, Hazel Thomas, Deidre Brown, and Gaby Fraser. Members of the Federation are now developing a strategy to educate members of the community about the ballot initiative.



Front row: Incoming officers, Council Member Anita Bonds (center), and outgoing president Vonetta Dumas Jennings. Back row: Federation members, including the DCFDW nominating committee.

# Maryland

The Maryland Federation of Democratic Women is currently focusing on expanding our membership, with a particular emphasis on increasing representation in areas where it's most needed. Our primary goal is to enhance engagement and membership within the Latino community, especially in Baltimore, where this demographic is more prominent compared to suburban areas. We hope to initiate targeted outreach programs, collaborate with local community leaders, and use various communication platforms like social media and bilingual local media for effective communication. By pairing these efforts with a dedicated membership drive aimed at encouraging active participation from diverse groups, with a special focus on Baltimore's Latino community, we hope to be able to boost our membership, outreach, and candidate support.

We will focus on areas outside of Baltimore as well. Outreach to suburban areas is part of our broader vision to foster a more inclusive and representative organization that reflects Maryland's communities. The immediate next steps involve finalizing our engagement plan for Baltimore, allocating necessary resources, organizing community meetings, and starting to lay the groundwork for our expansion into suburban areas. Through these efforts, we aim to strengthen our impact and reach across the state, ensuring that every community has a voice and a place in our organization.



# New Jersey



The Burlington County chapter is super active. President Flynn-Youngkin turned over her leadership role to Liza McNamara. They also have activities all year raising awareness about Women's issues.



Continuing its support of Democratic Women all over New Jersey year round, the Atlantic Cape May chapter led by President Maureen Leidy held a fundraiser in July at the Jersey Shore introducing the candidates.



The NJFDW held our annual luncheon fundraiser on October 28th and honored some of NJ's own stellar Democratic Women. From Left to right, Mayor Susan McCartney of West Orange, Sheriff Mildred Scott of Middlesex County, Leslie Morris of Camden County, Commissioner Caren Fitzpatrick of Atlantic County, and NJ Senator Shirley Turner of Mercer County. We are BLESSED to have these women working and representing us in New Jersey!

Our 13 Chapters were busy all during the 2023 campaign and election season spreading the word and fundraising for Democratic Women all over New Jersey. We know 2024 is going to be a busy year and we are up for the challenge. We hope to add two New Jersey County chapters in 2024 - Hudson and Union Counties.



*This year, we lost one of our champions, our beloved mentor and friend Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver. Her life of public service was a model for us. She was a staunch leader and member of our Essex County Chapter. Rest in peace, our dear sister, Sheila...*

# New Jersey

On August 10, 2023, the South Jersey Democratic Women's Forum had their "Summer Sunset Soiree" - a fundraiser for Women candidates from Atlantic and Cape May Counties!!

We'd like to thank all the amazing women candidates who attended!! And a special thanks to all who came to support and have a fantastic evening of fabulous food, fun, and dancing while supporting these awesome women!

This year's theme was The Notorious RBG, and we all wore black and white (and other RBG items). A special thanks to our Hostess with the Most-Tess... Gwenda Burkhardt!! This event wouldn't have been the success it was without her support!!



Summer Candidate "Get to know us" events like this help our Somerville Borough Council Candidates and Mayor get elected! Somerville's own Theresa Bonner is our woman candidate this year!

The Somerset County Dems welcomed Representative Josh Gottheimer to one of our County Fundraisers in July. Pictured, NJFDW President Margaret Weinberger with Representative Gottheimer and Somerville resident Jim Von Schilling.



Former Senator Loretta Weinberg with NJ Assemblyman Joe Daniels.

South Bound Brook Incumbent Mayoral candidate Mayor Chris Shoffner with Somerset County Commissioner Paul Drake.



Somerset County Federation Members Nancy D'Andrea, Green Brook Council Candidate Jen Dawson, and NJ LD23 candidate Liz Graner.



# New York

The New York State Federation of Democratic Women was busy this summer, participating in many events highlighting women's activism, advocacy, and historical contributions. At the **Women's March in Seneca Falls**, a large contingent of the Democratic Women of Cayuga County, led by **NYSFDW Secretary Debby McCormick and the first female Mayor of Auburn (New York), Melina Carnicelli**, was in the house. Keynote speakers included Governor Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Tish James, NY NOW President and former Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, and Human Rights Attorney and Activist Kate Kelly.



On June 25th, the annual New York City Pride March was held, led by grand marshals Billy Porter, Yasmin Benoit, AC Dumlao, Hope Giselle, and Randy Wicker. New York City's first gay pride rally was held in 1970, one year after the Stonewall Riots ignited a movement for gay rights. Today, the legendary NYC Pride March remains an iconic symbol of the LGBTQ+ community's struggle for a more just society. (Photo: Office of NYS Gov Kathy Hochul)

Communities throughout New York celebrated **Juneteenth** with many joyous and uplifting events. **New York State Senator Lea Webb and New York State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo** read proclamations commemorating the occasion at a home game of the Rumble Ponies, a semi-professional baseball team that plays in Binghamton, NY.





Democratic Party summer picnics are a tradition in Upstate New York. **The Democratic Women of Broome County** helped host Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado, pictured here with **President Diane Lechner**, at the Broome County Regional Farmer's Market in Binghamton. Delgado is playing a key role in the establishment of New York's regional Hate and Bias Prevention Units. "These councils will lead public education and outreach efforts and will also serve as an early warning detection system in local communities – by quickly mobilizing to support areas and communities in which a bias incident has occurred". Read more [HERE](#).



Meanwhile, in **Oswego County**, **DAWN** held their 3rd annual Concert in the Park to commemorate women's suffrage and to raise money for local candidates.



**The New York State legislative session ended on a high note, addressing many issues that concern women and communities of color, among them rising maternal and infant mortality rates and paid family leave.**

Thanks to the efforts of State Senator Samra Brouk, the New York State Enacted 2023-24 Executive Budget will allow for expanded Medicaid coverage for doula services during pregnancy, birth and in the postpartum period beginning in 2024. There is extensive data showing that having the support of a birth doula can lead to better outcomes for both mother and child.

In addition, Governor Hochul announced an agreement with the three largest State unions to expand paid parental leave to more than 52,000 state employees. Once ratified, workers will be eligible to receive 12 weeks of fully paid leave to use for bonding with a newborn, fostered, or adopted child. NYSFDW 1st Vice-President Denise Murphy-McGraw was on hand for the signing in Albany.



# Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Chapter of Democratic Women has participated in several meetings and celebrations.

During May 2023, we participated in several activities with the Governor of Puerto Rico. I talked to several members of the Senate and the House, encouraging them to be members of our Federation.

During the months of November and December 2023, we participated in 3 different activities of the mayor of San Juan to promote our Federation, one in the Sheraton Hotel T Mobile Center, the other in the Coliseum Pedrin Zorrilla, and the other at the Coliseum Roberto Clemente.

Our promotion of the NFDW continued throughout 2023, and we will remain very active during the election year of 2024.

Submitted by:

Irmgard Pagan

Puerto Rico Chapter President



# Illinois

Illinois continues to pass progressive, commonsense legislation that benefits the residents of our state. Most recently, Governor Pritzker signed the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act, which holds manufacturers for knowingly causing harm due to unsafe marketing practices. He previously signed an assault weapons ban, which was challenged in court, but ultimately affirmed by the Illinois Supreme Court. Schools are now mandated to teach Native American History in all social studies courses that teach American history and government and students are allowed to wear items of cultural, ethnic, or religious significance at their high school graduations. Illinois continues to protect women's reproductive health care and strives to make the state a welcoming place for all who are need of abortion care. Scanning and sharing license plate data for anyone coming into or out of the state to receive healthcare is illegal.

Illinois Democratic Women has returned to holding in-person events around the state to connect the network of passionate women with elected officials, candidates, and each other. Quarterly events have been held in Chicago and Springfield with another one planned for Bloomington in October. There was a great turnout for our Annual Bash Before the Brunch, which was held the evening before Governor's Day at the State Fair. We have scheduled our first in-person convention since COVID for November 4.

## **We look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago for the 2024 Democratic National Convention.**



Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (left), and Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski (right) at IDW Bash Before the Brunch

Group photo from IDW Bash Before the Brunch left to right: IDW Board Member Jennifer Franklin, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, Democratic Party of Illinois Chair Lisa Hernandez, Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski, IDW Co-Presidents Kim Savage, and Lee Franklin





Illinois Democratic Women held their first in-person convention since COVID on November 4. Sessions included running for office, fundraising, and experiences from elected women. Speakers included DuPage County Board Chair Deb Conroy and Kane County Board Chair Corinne Pierog, Congressman Bill Foster, and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering. The video of Nancy Rotering's keynote speech is on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@IllinoisDemocraticWomen>.

Networking events were held in Springfield in August and Bloomington in November. Speakers at the Springfield event included Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski, State Representative Sue Scherer, and State Senator Doris Turner. Congressman Eric Sorensen was the main speaker at the Bloomington event.

We continue to work closely with the Democratic Party of Illinois and the Illinois Democratic County Chairs Association. We look forward to the Democratic National Convention in August and an exciting and productive election year.



# Indiana

Holiday and New Year greetings from Indiana! 2023 we began the year as the newly recognized Women's Caucus for the Indiana State Democratic Party. This recognition moved us from a non-voting council to a voting member on the State Central Committee. It was a goal our group has been working on for over a decade. Our IFDW President is the Chair of the Caucus and sits at the table.

In 2023 we nominated two young college women who were awarded Internships through the NFDW. They were very excited to be granted these opportunities and continue to work with the Democratic Party. We were honored to nominate such exciting and hard-working women.

As the Women's Caucus of the Indiana Democratic Party, we continued the endorsement process we had begun the year before. In 2023 we endorsed 35 candidates, 11 of whom won their elections. In 2024 the Democratic party is putting together a playbook for candidates to utilize so they will have the knowledge and information they need to run a more successful campaign. This is something the opposition in our state does quite well. We will be preparing a document to be included in the packet so that when a candidate has won their primary election, they will know to seek endorsements, including ours.

We held our Officer Election in November, the following women will be our 2024-2026 Officers beginning January 1, 2024.

- President Roxanna Lucas Murray
- 1st VP Christine Lowe
- 2nd VP Deb Porter
- 3rd VP Paula J Gilliam
- Secretary Vicky Foltz
- Assistant Secretary Annette Johnson
- Treasurer Stephanie Graf
- Membership Secretary Leah Sample
- At Large Members: Joselyn Whitticker, Thomasina Marsili, and Tonda Pauley.

Like too many other states in our country, women have lost the right to bodily autonomy in Indiana. Our Legislature and Governor are blind and deaf to women's rights and needs. There were healthcare deserts in our state even before the terrible decision made by SCOTUS with their Dobbs ruling. We all have so much work to do. We have fantastic women stepping up to run, and we will work hard to help them get across the finish line victoriously.

Sincerely and Democratically Yours,  
Roxanna Lucas Murray, President IFDW



www.\_\_\_\_\_ .com



instagram



facebook



twitter



# Michigan

Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus hosted our bi-annual Young Women's Leadership Training in October. Our Chair, Marilyn Connors welcomed candidates and young women from around the state attended to learn more about running a campaign and developing leadership skills. We had trainers from the MDP and national trainers from the DNC. Some other recent events for MDWC members are featured below.



Jessica Washington-Moss  
Director, Best Practices  
Institute Democratic National



Virgie Rollins, Chair Emeritus with one  
of our Young Women Leadership  
participants



Karyn Coleman  
DNC Midwest Regional  
Director



Sarah Rigney  
MDP Data Director



Vaughn Derderian  
MDP Project 83 Organizer



Robyn McCoy  
MDWC Board Member



MDWC Vice Chair Eleanor Carey, Former Board Member Charlene Snow, Virgie Rollins, Past President Clarice Squillace at Charlene Snow's retirement party after 43 years as an attorney fighting for women's rights, prisoner's rights & preventing evictions in Detroit.



MDWC Executive Board Member Theresa Rich being sworn in by new MI Supreme Court Justice Kyra Harris Bolden as the new Mayor of Farmington Hills, MI. Also, Theresa with some of her new constituents.



# Missouri

We celebrated our annual Truman Day Rally in September in Poplar Bluff, Mo. The featured speaker was Senator Barbara Washington.

Dorothy Adams was chosen as Missouri State Democratic Woman of the Year at our state convention on June 4, 2023, and with her in the picture is Angela McQuinn, immediate past president of the MFWDC.

Congratulations to our new officers for 2023-2025. From the left are Auditor Phyllis Netzer, Treasurer Meryline Kramer, and Secretary Bridget Gibson; seated are Vice President Dorothy Adams, Dee Garrison (who swore us in), and Karen Slicer, president. As far as upcoming events, we have our Dunklin County Fall Fest in Kennett, Mo., on November 4, 2023.

Our Bess Truman Day Dinner was in October in Dexter, Mo. Cape County Democratic Festival was on September 23, 2023. Our MFWDC State Convention will be June 4, 5, and 6, 2024, in Jefferson City, Mo.

Recently, our Democratic State Party hosted events such as The Truman Dinner in St Louis, It was a three day event with lots of informative sessions such as the National Black Caucus, women's caucus and LGBTQ caucus, and many others.. The big surprise is that Vice President Kamala Harris attended on Friday. She spoke that evening. Dunklin County Democratic Women hosted the Fall Fest at Strawberry's BBQ. We featured Chuck Banks singing and playing the guitar. We held a silent auction. Jonathan Kessler, our state secretary, spoke about growing up and the state of our democracy.



Ohio

Thank you for your support of the federated Democratic women as we empower women and fight for REAL democracy for all Americans.

Join us next year in the heart of it all Ohio for our National Convention. This event brings together Democratic leaders, our Democratic allies, visionaries, and activists who are deciding to help us shape the future of America.

Your attendance is not just participation it is a commitment to bring people together and influence America's future.

Democratic women across the Nation are invited to this event platform to discuss plans and unite our party.

We are looking for you June 6- 8, 2024.

**PRO-CHOICE  
PRO-WOMEN  
PRO-ISSUE ONE**

VOTE  **YES**

OhioDems.org/YESon1 

# Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs has been quite active since the election of new officers in March. President Bettye Rector has visited all clubs in Oklahoma and participated in fundraisers, parades, and other special events focused on the local clubs.

The August 26, 2023, Commemoration of the First Women's Equality Day one hundred years ago was celebrated at the state capitol. Women from across the state attended a rally on the steps of the capitol (poster image below). Legislators and activists from several women's groups spoke at the gathering. A luncheon featured our former US Representative Kendra Horn, who spoke about the importance of persistence. Five women were awarded the True Blue Award from the NFDW. A touching speech was given by Rep. Mauree Turner, the current Representative for Oklahoma's 88th House District & "a Queer, Non-binary, Okie Muslim," who was censured for not apologizing to the legislative body.

A former legislator who served from 1986-1996, Wanda Jo Peltier's life was celebrated in the Oklahoma State Capitol Rotunda. She was active in women's rights for many years, beginning with the National Organization for Women. She served as chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women.

The Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs participated in the Oklahoma Democratic Party's annual convention in June in Tulsa. We presented a program on the women's fight for equality, beginning with the right to vote and ending with the end of Roe v. Wade. The work is not completed. Women must still fight for passage of an equal rights amendment.

Submitted by Bettye Rector, President  
Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs



**Protest Rally on the south steps of the Capitol, 10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Bring your signs, noise makers, water bottles, and sunscreen.

Guest speakers include Rep. Annie Menz, Rep. Cyndi Munson, Sen. JoAnna Dossett, Sen. Julia Kirt, & Young Democrats President Jekia Harrison among others.

DJ Victor Gorin will provide lots of lively music between the chants and speeches.

Luncheon at the Capitol View Event Center on Lincoln Blvd., 11:30-1:30 PM - Casual Dress

Open seating tickets may be purchased for \$50 before August 11. Sponsorship Tables still available. Color ads for the program may be purchased by August 4. Contact treasurer Karen Gaddis at 918.855.1995

Program:  
Recognition of Federation Presidents  
Keynote Speaker: Kendra Horn  
\$500 Gasoline Raffle Drawing

Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs, Women's Equality Day, August 26th, 2023



# Arkansas

The Arkansas Federation of Democratic Women is proud to report on the substantial progress made in key areas, emphasizing our commitment to building robust candidate support networks, soliciting essential campaign donations, and actively recruiting women for political office. Our multifaceted approach involves strategic collaborations with influential organizations such as EMERGE Arkansas and PAWPAC, and we are delighted to welcome new leaders in two of our county chapters.

In our pursuit of building candidate support, our focus on volunteer/donor outreach and engagement continues to grow. Through targeted communication, we share the significance of supporting Democratic candidates. We have worked with the State Party to execute successful fundraising events, generating crucial financial support for our endorsed candidates. These activities and more will continue throughout 2024.

To enhance public awareness and encourage the active participation of women in politics, we have employed a combination of social and traditional media tactics. These initiatives not only serve to recruit women for political office but also raise awareness of Democratic women candidates and their platforms. At the county level, our collaborative efforts with local businesses and community organizations have expanded our network of supporters, donors, and potential candidates.

Our commitment to recruiting candidates is exemplified through various initiatives, including our participation in the "STEP UP" workshops conducted in partnership with EMERGE Arkansas. These workshops empower potential candidates with essential skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared for the challenges of running for office. Additionally, our targeted recruitment efforts involve actively seeking out and encouraging qualified Democratic women to consider running for office at all levels of government, collaborating closely with local Democratic County Parties and organizations.

The strategic partnerships with EMERGE Arkansas and PAWPAC have been instrumental in our collective efforts. These partnerships have not only strengthened the pipeline of Democratic women entering politics but have also aligned our endeavors to ensure women are well-represented at all levels of government. Through joint initiatives and events, we have amplified our impact and expanded our reach, sharing resources and information to streamline efforts in promoting Democratic women candidates.

In terms of leadership, we are thrilled to announce Trudy Redus as the new President of the Jefferson County Democratic Women, succeeding Zelda Hoagland. Furthermore, Rita Collins has assumed the role of President of the Washington County Democratic Women, succeeding Ash Lee Hicks. We extend our gratitude to Zelda Hoagland and Ash Lee Hicks for their dedicated service and wish them well always.

Our AFDW President, Gracie Ziegler, was invited to speak at the White House during an initiative to showcase the impact the Biden Administration Policies have had in Southern States. She was able to bring that experience home by speaking with High School Dem groups immediately after.

AFDW remains committed to creating a more inclusive and representative political landscape. Our ongoing efforts in collaboration with the DPA, EMERGE Arkansas, and PAWPAC reflect our optimism for the future as we work towards advancing the cause of Democratic women in Arkansas.



# Florida

The Democratic Women's Club of Florida ended in 2023, focusing on abortion petitions and VBM. We have reached out to 1.6 million voters via text this year, encouraging Democrats and left-leaning NPAs to sign abortion petitions. In most of the texting, we created an additional segment to include VBM at the same time. Our Grassroots team created the attached video "Time is Running Out".

The past two months, our Clubs held their elections and inducted their officers during the Holiday Celebrations. The attached pictures are from our DWC of Indian River, DWC of Upper Pinellas, and DWC of Palm Bay.





# Georgia

The Georgia Federation of Democratic Women's (GFDW) overriding theme for 2023-2024: **we pledge to be a hard-working group of officers that, to the very best of our abilities, serves our Board of Directors and the local Georgia Federation Chapters according to our bylaws.**

GFDW officers, the Board of Directors, and Local Chapters are busy setting goals, defining action items, establishing standing committees, improving communication, and working to further the mission of the Democratic Party of Georgia and its County Committees throughout Georgia. We will also work to fulfill our duties to the **National Federation of Democratic Women**, of which we are members, to further the advancement of women in our state, the nation, and to **RE-ELECT BIDEN AND HARRIS IN 2024.**

We look forward to the Georgia Federation of Democratic Women remaining a strong beacon in our state for standing up to the opposition and for being united as we voice our Democratic Values. Some of these values include justice for all our citizens, fair elections, a strong public school system, and quality health care for all --- especially maternal and child health care.

OUR CORE MISSION -- WORKING TO ELECT DEMOCRATIC WOMEN TO OFFICE -- WILL ENSURE

- THAT WE ARE ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. ELECTING
- DEMOCRATS WILL BE PARAMOUNT AS WE CONTINUE OUR FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S
- REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, EQUAL PAY, AND FAIR TREATMENT IN THE WORKPLACE!

Please visit our new website: [gfdw.org](http://gfdw.org).

Photos of recent some recent GFDW and State Chapter events are below.

June Krise, President GFDW

770-722-7994

[Junekrise.gfdw@gmail.com](mailto:Junekrise.gfdw@gmail.com)

[gfdw.org](http://gfdw.org)

GEORGIA'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL  
FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

GEORGIA  
DW  
Democratic  
Women

DR. PHYLLIS HATCHER  
President

VONDA MILLS  
1st Vice President

ANGELA ENGRAM  
2nd Vice President

HELEN WILLIAMS  
3rd Vice President

VICKI CASTEL  
Secretary

ANGELA WILEY  
Treasurer

KAI ODEN  
Public Relations

MEET OUR  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
2023-2025





**1st Congressional District Federation of Democratic Women**

401 followers · 18 following  
Our mission is to galvanize and mobilize Democratic women within Georgia's 1CD!



*Save the Date*  
**Southern Region Meeting**

"Blue Sparks: Lighting a Brighter Future"  
hosted virtually by the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) chapter

9 AM - 2 PM EST | Saturday, November 18 | Zoom

# Kentucky

This has been a year of unfortunate circumstances for the Democratic Woman's Club of Kentucky. Earlier in the year, Charlene Greer, Second Vice President, became acting President due to JoAnne Bland's ongoing health situation. JoAnne resigned on June 12, and Charlene officially took over the position of the Presidency at that time. Tragically, on July 4, Charlene had a medical emergency and passed away on July 13. Mary Jean Dittert was serving as Third Vice President at that time and has now assumed the Presidency. JoAnne and Charlene were extraordinary women who provided leadership before, during, and after the pandemic. Their strong support of the Democratic Woman's Club of Kentucky and willingness to serve the organization and the Democratic Party should be an example to us all.

**While the leadership of the Democratic Woman's Club of Kentucky has changed, the mission of the club has not.**

Kentucky is one of three states with gubernatorial elections in 2023, and members are laser-focused on the re-election of Andy Beshear and his lieutenant governor Jacqueline Coleman, along with supporting the candidacies of the other five Democrats running for state offices. Governor Beshear is one of the most popular governors in the country. The general election is on November 7, 2023, and club members are actively engaged in his bid for re-election.

The Democratic Woman's Club of Kentucky recently held its Summer Meeting in Harlan County at the Benham Schoolhouse Inn. Scott Alexander, the County Judge Executive of neighboring Perry County, spoke about the increase in economic development in Perry County and the phenomenal job Governor Beshear is doing. The next big event is the 96th annual Convention on October 7 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The keynote speaker will be Andrea Abrams, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Centre College.

## **Important dates - KY**

- January 5, 2024 (4:00 PM) - Last day for candidates to file to run in partisan races.
- May 21, 2024 - Primary Election





# Mississippi

MFDW held its convention November 10-11, 2023, at the Holiday Inn – Trustmark in Jackson, Mississippi. The theme was: **HERSTORY: 40 Years of Service**. The convention began with a gavel presentation where past presidents shared highlights of their administration.

Friday's meeting activities were: a) the State of MFDW by outgoing President Lovie West) a panel discussion facilitated by incoming President Linda Floyd. Topics presented were: Attracting & Retaining Young Members – by Alexis Cobbs, Protocol and Code of Ethics – by Alivia Roberts, Preserving our History – by Joy Williams, and Breaking the Glass Ceiling – by Greta Kemp Martin. In addition, there was a Gamechanger Roundtable facilitated by Deborah Williams, Ph.D., with Jennifer Hawes, Investigative Reporting Propublics; Vera Moore, Founder & President of Vera Moore Cosmetics; Ashley J. Sharpton, Founder and President of National Action Network Youth Huddle; Dr. Darrylann Todd, Education and Business Consultant; Vangela M. Wade, President & CEO of Mississippi Center for Justice; and Lovie West, MFDW President. FRIDAY'S POLITICAL RECEPTION

Our annual political reception was held at 6:00 p.m., with the Honorable Zakiya Summers serving as our keynote speaker. The speech consisted of HERstory and tips for women who are considering the political arena. In addition, former and current elected officers and candidates were recognized along with other VIP guests.

## Saturday Meeting – CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE LUNCHEON

Chaplin Teresa Roberts was outstanding in her role as Mistress of ceremony and so was Pam McKelvey Hamner who led us in the National Anthem. Proclamations from the Mayor of Jackson and other elected officials were presented. MFDW past, present, and future were presented by Dr. Corinne Anderson and Lovie West. Additionally, Federation Medal Freedom Awards were presented to: Attorney Vicki Slater, Michael Espy, and Will Collom keynote speaker was the Honorable Tomie Turner Green, and the Inaugural Dr. Corinne Anderson Community Service Award was presented to the Honorable Alyce Clarke, the first African American woman to serve as a House of Representative in the State of Mississippi. Incoming officers were sworn in by Dr. Corinne Anderson. The occurrence of the passing of the gavel from former President Lovie West to Ms. Linda Floyd.





## HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Our Annual Holiday Reception was held Saturday, December 2, 2023, at the Market Cafe in Louisville, Mississippi. The purpose of the event was three-fold: a holiday kick-off for our clubs, an opportunity to say thanks to the community for their support, and an opportunity to invite guests (potential new members) to our event and get better acquainted with them. President Linda Floyd and the Winston County Federation of Democratic Women hosted the event with the attendance National support Dr. Corrine Anderson and National 4th Vice President Lovie West.



# North Carolina

Our All-State convention was held September 22nd through the 24th in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the Doubletree South Charlotte Tyvola Hotel. There are 29 organized counties in North Carolina, with one County being a Tri-County Club. The convention rotates from east to west due to The size of our state, which is 560 miles across.

The theme was "aflamed and unafraid". There were breakout sessions on the following topics: Understanding proposed election law changes, Maximizing youth engagement, Public School strong confronting extremism in our schools, Club Builder: Legislative lobbying kit, and lastly, Club Builder: Treasurers Tips and Tricks.

Each convention hosts the following entities: a formal banquet, silent auction, presentation of County Star awards, communications awards given per County for newsletters they send out to their membership, and largest counties due to membership first, second, and third place per previous year. The prestigious award goes to the Woman of the Year, which is voted on by a committee from applications sent to the Woman of the Year awards committee.

If you were at our DWNC Convention in September, we all had multiple opportunities to meet and speak with several elected officials and candidates. Our members had several choices of breakout sessions on Saturday afternoon. Our 2023 DWNC Convention was filled with the recognition of our award winners and working toward getting democrats elected in 2023 and 2024.

Our new DWNC Board was sworn in by NC Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls on Sept 24th at the conclusion of our 2024 DWNC Convention!

An election was held this year for the current 2-year cycle.

- President: Paula Shelton
- First vice: Cramer Vaughan
- Second vice: Vickie Zangwill
- Third vice: Allison Allen
- Sec: Pam Genant
- Treasurer.: Denise Castleberry Hall



Picture Denise Castleberry Hall - Treasurer, Pam Genant - Recording Secretary, Allison Allen - 3rd VP, Vickie Zangwill - 2nd VP, Cramer Vaughan - 1st VP/President Elect, Paula Shelton - President





# Tennessee

On August 3, we had three Special Elections for the Tennessee House of Representatives, and we endorsed and donated to all three Democratic nominees. Two of them, Justin Jones and Justin Pearson, were fully reinstated to their seats from which the Republican supermajority had expelled them earlier in the year for standing up for gun safety. The third candidate, Lori Love, unfortunately, lost her bid to flip a seat.

We had one more Special Election in State House District 51, on September 14. We endorsed the Democratic nominee, Aftyn Behn. We were pleased that she won.

The Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women was well represented at the Tennessee Democratic Party's annual fundraising event, the Three Star Dinner, in Nashville. We were a table sponsor, and several other Federation members sat with their respective Counties, so we had excellent representation at the Dinner.

The Wilson County Democratic Women were joined by the Loudon County Democratic Women in tabling at the Tennessee State Fair in Lebanon in late August.

Federation Treasurer, Joni Cochran, announced that she is running for State House in District 46. Federation President Dr. Marisa Richmond attended the Kickoff Reception in Lebanon on September 5. Earlier that day, several Federation Members attended the various announcements around the state by State Representative Gloria Johnson that she is running for the United States Senate. Former Federation Board Member Civil Miller-Watkins of Fayette County also entered the race for US Senate on October 11.

In the capacity of Federation Liaison to the TNDP Executive Committee, the Federation President has also served as a member of the Affirmative Action Committee. Along with the Delegate Selection Committee, has been reviewing plans, including diversity and promotion plans, to ensure a broadly inclusive delegation from Tennessee to the Presidential Nominating Convention in Chicago in August 2024. Federation President Marisa Richmond also participated in the TNDP Nashville Roundtable Discussion on October 11.

In support of local clubs, Federation President Marisa Richmond attended the Davidson County Democratic Party's Honors Reception on October 5 and was recognized along with former Federation President Mary-Linden Salter at the Davidson County Democratic Women Woman of the Year reception on October 23. Dr. Richmond also attended the Madison Area Democratic Women's event in Jackson on November 9. Former Federation President Telise Ezell-Turner received the Virgie Banks Woman of the Year Award at the Democratic Women of Shelby County Holiday Soiree in Memphis on December 4. TN Federation President spoke at both the Cheatham County Democratic Party and Davidson County Democratic Women Holiday parties in early December.

As part of the Federation's support of LGBTQ+ rights, the Federation President spoke to the non-partisan PFLAG Chapter in Athens at their picnic on September 30. Federation members supported the LGBTQ+ Caucus at Nashville Black Pride on October 12, at Boro Pride in Murfreesboro on October 28, and at the Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony in Nashville on November 13. The Tennessee General Assembly adjourned sine die in May, but there was a Special session to address gun violence in the aftermath of the massacre at Covenant School in Nashville. Several Federation members lobbied for common sense gun legislation. The Republican super majority refused to stand against the Tennessee Firearms Association.

In November, a Select Committee held hearings to consider cutting off approximately \$2 Billion in federal funding for public schools in Tennessee. Several Federation members spoke out against any such proposal. It remains to be seen if the Republicans decide to cut federal funding when the 2024-2025 State Budget is passed next year. Also, in November, the Federation is hosting a PAC Training for our clubs in conjunction with the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance. We believe this will help in promoting Democratic candidates in 2024.

Our Winter Board Meeting is scheduled for Nashville on January 20, and our Annual Statewide Convention will be in Memphis, April 19-21.

Finally, Federation President Dr. Marisa Richmond was personally welcomed to the Oval Office by President Joe Biden for being willing to serve on the Commission for Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans, shortly after being sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona on October 26. The Federation Winter Board Meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2024, in Nashville.

Marisa Richmond, Ph.D.  
President, Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women





# Texas

Texas has been hit with record-high temperatures and droughts in the months of July and August. It hasn't stopped the many TDW chapters from taking action against Texas schools festered by organizations like Moms of Liberty, calls to action against the indicted Texas Attorney General, getting ready for the upcoming elections, or gathering to learn more about Texas Democratic Women at the Annual Summer Retreat.

This is happening in many states, but Texas is exceptionally susceptible to the influences of Moms of Liberty. The "conservative" populace is following Florida's DeSantis "Anti-Woke" campaign. Our TDW chapters are involved in fighting "unreasonable and bigoted" book bans and school vouchers pushed by our Governor Greg Abbott. Rural Texas Republicans and Texas Democrats are keeping school vouchers at bay for the moment, but it will come up again soon in another Special Session.

Texas is probably the only state that elected and twice re-elected an indicted Attorney General. This past month, the Texas House has called for the impeachment of Ken Paxton. The AG's wife is Sen. Angela Paxton. During his impeachment trial, she will not recuse herself for a conflict of interest. So, as TDW women, notice was sent out with call info to our senators and asking them to vote to impeach the corrupt AG. Ken Paxton is best known for attacks on trans children, drag queen book readers, gender-specific bathrooms, and attacking parents of trans children. He has chased many families and doctors out of Texas. It is not the "Friendly State" anymore. He hasn't even attempted to protect our children from guns during his term.

Many of our TDW Members will be working the upcoming elections for early voting, which start 2 weeks prior to the November 7th Election Day. There are trainings to attend and find the folks who will work as Election Clerks and Election Judges.

Lastly, TDW had our annual Summer Retreat in Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County, on August 11-12, 2023. Thank you to Hopkins County TDW for hosting the Retreat.

On Friday afternoon, time members spoke about their history with TDW, including Alieca Hux, Hopkins County TDW President and past President of TDW, Susan Criss, District 212 Court Judge from 1999-2013 and current member of the Bell County TDW, and Susie Blackmon, TDW Past President from 2009-2010 from Fannin County. We had a room full of attendees.

Saturday morning kicked off with a hands-on introduction to REACH, the Texas Democratic Party relational organizing tool of choice. REACH is fully integrated with VAN to mobilize the people we know to vote. It's easier to use than VAN, and there are no reports to produce or data to enter. The goal of the partnership is to reach and motivate two million more progressive Texans to get out and vote.

Becca DeFelice, Executive Director of EMERGE Texas, spoke briefly about the candidate and campaign manager training EMERGE offers. We also heard from special guest Kristin Washington about her Special Election campaign for Texas House District 2 to fill the vacancy left by Republican Bryan Slaton's resignation. She is the only Democrat in the running. The winner will need 50%+1, and with a crowded field of Republicans in addition to Ms. Washington, this one seems headed for a runoff. Her website, where she is accepting campaign contributions and signing up volunteers, is [www.kristinwashington.com](http://www.kristinwashington.com). State Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa stopped by fresh from a camping trip to briefly discuss how the madness of our GOP Legislature has engulfed Texas.

Deana Tollerton, PRP (Professional Registered Parliamentarian, unpacked her purse to demonstrate the logic of organizational bylaws and standing rules. A panel of TDW leaders, including Susan Barrick (Past President and current President-Elect) of TDW South Plains, Cassandra Elejarza (Immediate Past President) of TDW Rio Grande Valley, Alicia Hux (TDW Past President, Advisory Board, and Chapter President) of Hopkins County TDW, plus Deana Tollerton provided their insights on the roles of TDW officers.

Our luncheon speaker was Bill Brannon, Hopkins County TDW member and Senior Advisor to the Texas Democratic Party, who has been involved in politics for 40 years. He has worked as a consultant in over 150 campaigns and served on staff with the State Capitol as District Director for two US Congressmen and Executive Director of the TDP. He strongly encouraged the women of TDW to push the importance of abortion rights, as Lindsey Graham wants a national ban after 15 weeks. We don't have to agree with having an abortion, but as women, we should never allow anyone to tell us what we can and cannot do with our own bodies. We, as TDW, must push this agenda onto our Democratic Representatives and Senators. It's not an easy topic to have, but they will become complacent if we do not remind them that abortion rights are a very important issue to both men and women. Family planning should remain with the family, not the government. It cannot happen if doctors are threatened with jail and heavy fines. Many ob-gyns are leaving Texas. Folks, we are under siege by the Christian Nationalists.

Texas Democratic Women are energized and ready to fight for women's equality without taking people's rights away like the Christian Nationalists or the Moms of Liberty.

# West Virginia

The WVFDW will be having its 59th Annual Meeting on Friday, September 15, through Sunday, September 17th in Brooke County at the Weirton Holiday Inn.

The committee has many workshops and activities planned for the weekend.

Many local mayors will be on hand to participate in the opening ceremonies along with Steve Williams, Mayor of Huntington, WV, and a possible candidate for WV Governor. A silent auction/reception will take place on Friday evening.

Ryan Frankenberry, Executive Director of the WVDP, will be offering a workshop on the VAN Votebuilder. Other workshops will be presented by several members of the WVFDW Executive Committee, such as Pam Van Horn, Legislative Chair, Barbara Scott, Social Media Chair and Karen Coria, Past President. Also, Jacob Hivley, President of WVYD, will be on hand to provide a workshop on engaging the younger Dems in the state.

Our Saturday night Banquet Guest speaker is Kenyetta Coleman Grant. Born and raised in Weirton, she is at present the WV Women's Coalition Community Organizer for Women Domestic Violence and a 2022 WV Wonder Woman recipient.

Sunday morning Farewell Breakfast will have Teresa Torversa, Vice Chair of the WVDP, as guest speaker.

We anticipate a great weekend of enjoyment and Democratic camaraderie.

Submitted by  
Anna Gillespie, President  
WVFDW, Inc



**West Virginia  
Federation of  
Democratic Women**  
**59th Annual Meeting**  
September 15th - September 17th, 2023  
Weirton Holiday Inn  
350 Three Springs Drive, Brooke County  
Registration until August 31  
Registration forms available on the WVFDW  
Facebook Page  
Gift Basket Silent Auction  
Best of WV Basket & Designer Accessories Basket  
Friday, September 15th @ 6pm  
Banquet and Quilt Raffle Saturday, September 16.  
Tickets on sale until 6 pm



# Arizona

The Arizona Democratic Women hosted a Women in Blue luncheon in May, which featured Governor Katie Hobbs, who presented her vision for the state. Gov. Hobbs has always been a strong supporter of Democratic women and had announced her candidacy for Secretary of State at the group's Women in Blue event several years earlier.

The Democratic Women also held an online event on running for office called "Empowering Women to Run," held online on August 14 via Zoom to coincide with Women's Empowerment Day, featured speakers Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Fountain Hills Mayor Ginny Dickey and Charlene Fernandez, the USDA Arizona Director. Besides an overview of all of the steps needed to run for office, presented by our First Vice President Jo Mendoza, AZDW Board Member Judy Stahl asked the panel questions, which elicited fascinating responses about each of their challenges in running for office. It was an inspiring and insightful event!

I had the privilege of hosting Gov. Hobbs at a cocktail party fundraiser in my home on Sept. 23 prior to her speech at the Yavapai County Democratic Party's Truman-Clinton Dinner. When I asked the Governor if she could publicly support the ERA, for which the Arizona ERA Coalition is diligently seeking public approval, she pledged to make a proclamation. Until we have a Democratic state house—which could happen in 2025—the ERA won't pass in Arizona. I'm glad to know that until that happens, our Governor has our back and wants everyone to know where she stands on this issue.

A December event called "Jingle and Mingle," an afternoon holiday cocktail party hosted by the Democratic Women of the Prescott Area in tandem with the Arizona Democratic Women, raised a substantial sum and introduced former Navajo Tribal President Jonathan Nez, who is running for Congress in District 2 where the club is located. Nez explained his path to victory to the enthusiastic attendees.

Toni Denis  
President  
Arizona Democratic Women



Gov. Hobbs and AZ President, Toni Dennis



Tracy Smiles, DWPA



Johnathan Nez, AZ CD2 Candidate - D

# California

On behalf of the Executive Board, we want to thank our departing officers for their many years of dedicated service to our mission of elevating the lives of women and girls. Wishing continued success to Crystal Araujo, Becca Doten, Ces Rosales, and Lori Godsey-Anzini.

We welcomed returning officers and newly elected Treasurer - Deborah Cunningham-Skurnik, Central Vice Chair - Imelda Ceja-Butkiewicz, Policy Chair - Annie Flores, Boot Camp Chair - Maya Rodriguez, and Commission on Status of Women Liaison - Carolyn Wysinger. Our experienced, dynamic, and diverse leadership team is ready to take back the House and retain the Senate and the White House!

It is incredible to believe that we are halfway through the year. First and foremost, we celebrated Pride Month in June! We encourage everyone to find ways to highlight the LGBTQ+ community and push back against negative rhetoric. There is no reason to discriminate or purposefully create barriers for individuals simply because of how they identify with or who they love.

We also commemorated Juneteenth on June 19th. Sometimes referred to as Liberation Day, it acknowledges the date on which news of Abraham Lincoln's emancipation proclamation finally reached Texas in 1865—nearly three years after it went into effect. Two years ago, President Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday, a significant recognition of our country's history and a reminder that the struggle for justice continues.

We must advocate for our communities, get involved with organizations that highlight this issue, and push to have a safer tomorrow. We hope that this past month has been both informative and inspiring so that we can collectively move the needle in the direction of justice and remember that the work must go on year-round.

What a great summer August has given us. I hope you all had time to go swimming, travel, rest, and spend time with your loved ones. The Women's Caucus celebrated Women's Equality Day and Social Security's Anniversary at E-Board in Visalia Central/Rural California. DNC Executive Committee member and NFDW 3rd Vice President Christine Pelosi provided a national update.

For me, the most pressing feminist issue is the threat to reproductive freedom in the United States. This issue underscores the ongoing struggle for gender equality and bodily autonomy. Access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including contraception and safe abortion, is fundamental to controlling our own lives and futures. Targeted anti-abortion measures disproportionately affect marginalized communities and reinforce gender and racial inequalities, as women's economic, social, and educational opportunities are closely tied to their ability to plan and control their reproductive choices. I think it is crucial that we elect people who will defend reproductive freedom and access at all levels of government during this challenging time.

It was also a very busy fourth quarter for us. The California Democratic Party Convention Endorsing Caucus was the highlight. Bravo to our fantastic CDP Women's Caucus Board for your energy and commitment and our badass program Friday night to kick off the weekend! WOW! Women's Caucus members, you never disappoint by showing up and showing out! The energy in the ballroom was phenomenal and contagious! From Speaker Emeritus Nancy Pelosi, Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Senate Pro Tem Toni G. Atkins, Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes, State Controller Malia Cohen, Senator Maria Elena Durazo, CEO Reproductive Freedom for All Shannon Olivieri Hovis, Planned Parenthood CEO Stacy Cross, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO President Yvonne Wheeler, DNC Executive Board member, and former Caucus Chair Christine Pelosi to our CA Senate candidates Congress members Barbara Lee, Katie Porter, and Adam Schiff thank you all for lending your insights and vision to move us all forward!

Also much love to the Justice for Renters rally whose Ballot Initiative will be on the November ballot (we will do this!!)  
It was great seeing a lot of leaders I respect and candidates on the path to office in 2024.



Thanks to Organizing Director Cassandra Chavez, With your help, we were able to...

- Host organizing actions with more than 3,400 volunteer shifts completed;
- Call more than 398,000 voters;
- Collect more than 2,200 voter registration forms;
- Host over 200 phone bank shifts; and
- Knock on nearly 6,000 doors!

We look forward to working alongside all of you next year!

Looking for a way to get involved in mobilizing or registering voters in your community?

Join the Team Forever Organizing.

Whether you're interested in calling voters, knocking on doors, hosting organizing actions with your Democratic club or group, or registering first-time voters on college campuses, we're thrilled to be doing good work with you.

We are counting on you to join us for an organizing action this month. Your efforts could mean the difference between winning and losing battleground congressional districts this year.



# Idaho

Greetings from snowy Idaho! The temperature has dropped but Democratic women across the state continue working harder than ever.

In September, the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus sponsored a breakout session at the Idaho Democratic Party's fall meeting. We heard moving stories from women about their personal experiences with abortion and how the changing laws are affecting women from various walks of life. Representatives from the Idaho Women's Symposium shared their values and mission. They have been successful in hosting events in towns in Northern Idaho where Democrats are outnumbered by far-right Republicans.

Idaho has one of the most extreme abortion bans in the entire country, as almost all abortions are banned except when the pregnancy risks death of the patient or was due to reported rape or incest. These restrictions have caused maternal-fetal specialists to flee the state, with more expected to leave in the coming months. In a state that already struggles to attract and retain medical professionals, this exodus ensures that vital health care for pregnant women is delayed and hard to obtain.

Four brave women, who had to go out of state to access emergency medical care, have come forward to file a lawsuit seeking clarification on what circumstances qualify for emergency exceptions to Idaho's abortion law. Despite facing abortion stigma from friends, co-workers, and neighbors, these women are using their experience to bring positive change to the state. They are challenging the laws that prevent women from making choices about their own bodies. A hearing is being held next week to discuss the state's motion to dismiss the case entirely.

I commend these women for choosing to share their experiences as we try to ensure that future women don't have to travel away from their communities to receive essential and often life-saving health care.

Sincerely,  
Gini Ballou, Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus President





# Nevada



NVFDW launches its inaugural Political Short Film Contest, open to all registered Nevada Democrats! Not only does this showcase the dedication and zeal of people for Democratic Ideals, it also gives participants a chance to win up to \$700!



Two NVFDW members were honored by Assemblywoman Erica Mosca! Twenty-two-year-old NVFDW member CeCe Johnson (lower right photo) and Board member Rosa Mendoza (top, far right), were honored for their work in Assembly District 14!

April 25 NVFDW Is Represented at US Global Leadership Coalition Invite-Only Luncheon in Las Vegas!



July 12, 2023 **Recap Event Featuring Senator Pat Spearman and Assemblywoman Daniel Monroe-Moreno** The NVFDW hosted a recap of the legislative session. The speakers lead a spirited discussion about the hits and the misses of the session. Also: \*the speakers went over what passed and what wasn't passed \*they helped set the agenda for the next legislative session

NVFDW announces the induction of Senator Spearman as the new NVFDW Political Advisor! Welcome, Senator Spearman!



Spring 2023 - NVFDW Sponsors NOW Event  
Pictured from left to right (executive board members): Barbara Oliver, Audrey Dempsey, and Ellen Spiegel



April 11 and 12 2023 (Carson City)

The NVFDW hosted its Women In Blue event at the Nevada State Capitol building. The speakers included Senator Nicole Cannizzarro, high school activist Samantha Glover. State Senator Pat Spearman was honored by NVFDW for her outstanding work for Nevadans. NVFDW hosted a cocktail reception the night before (April 10) at the Federal Hotel! The guests spent the time eating, networking, and making new friends.



NVFDW member Cece Johnson and high school activist and honorary guest speaker Samantha Glover

Executive Board Members of the NVFDW and friends in front of the Nevada State Legislature Building

The Executive Board (and general member) had the opportunity to witness bills lawmakers conduct business. We were also given certificates!

- March 29, 2023 (Carson City): Somos Votantes invited the NVFDW to the Governor's Dinner during the Latino Lobby Days in Carson City. Patricia Cuocco (Northern Nevada Director) represented NVFDW.



March 11, 2023 (Las Vegas): Community Clean Up! Cece Johnson represented the Nevada Federation of Democratic Women during a community clean up volunteer activity with Assemblywoman Erica Mosca!

August 25 NVFDW Sponsors Prisoners and Families Alliance Event

PFA founder (and NVFDW member) Julia Lazareck featured President Audrey Dempsey! Photo by NVFDW Secretary Rosa Mendoza President Audrey Dempsey (right) and NVFDW member and author Julia Lazareck



June 8 President Audrey Dempsey Represents NV in New Orleans. The NVFDW Proposal Makes on to the By Laws at the National Federation of Democratic Women Convention in Louisiana.



August 12 NVFDW is Represented in Douglas County's "Ride the Blue Wave" Fundraiser Event President Audrey Dempsey and Northern Nevada Director Patricia Cuocco contributed to this fun, tropical-themed event!

January 28 President Audrey Dempsey Spearheaded the Western Regional Meeting (NV, Idaho, Washington, Arizona, California, New Mexico) Guest speakers included a former state senator refugee from Iran Topics covered included expansion of region, states plans, and ERA events January 9-11 Listening Tour Sponsored by the National Federation of Democratic Women

Nevada joined other states in the federation to strategize for the 2024 election.



# New Mexico

The New Mexico Federation of Democratic Women's Spring Conference was held June 3, 2023, in a historic 103-year-old building that houses Teofilo's New Mexican Restaurant in Los Lunas, New Mexico. The meeting's theme was **"Planting Seeds for Success"** and was superbly hosted by the Valencia County Federation of Democratic Women. Members from across New Mexico attended the meeting. Due to President Beverly Michael's unexpected illness, our Vice President, Julia Brown, led the meeting. In keeping with the theme, VP Brown used gardening to describe what our work looks like as far as keeping NM blue.

**We have to plan how to keep the state blue, just as a gardener must plan to keep the garden green and productive.** Staying with the gardening metaphor, County and Tribal Presidents provided reports on their activities from the fall of 2022 to the spring of 2023. One of the major focuses for the county Federations is the 2024 election and what our work must zero in on to maintain our position in Washington and within our state elections in 2024. Federations from all counties and tribes work closely with their Democratic Party to ensure people get out and vote. Outreach has already begun with phone calls and neighborhood canvassing being organized. County and Tribal Federations are also busy fundraising to support our candidates, ensuring we sustain our blue wave. The Federations are involved in many activities and events throughout the state as the 2024 election draws near.

Guest speakers included State Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez and State Representative Pameyla Herndon who both shared their focus at the January 2023 Legislative Session. Senator Lopez and Representative Herndon, members of the Bernalillo County Federation of Democratic Women, worked on bills protecting the rights of minors' rights and many other critical issues, including women's rights. Representative Herndon sponsored a significant bill, which has become law, that holds parents responsible if their child commits a crime with the parent's gun and said the gun was not secured from the minor's access. Sadly, that law will now be used and tested against a parent whose 14-year-old child allegedly shot his 13-year-old friend.

Western Region Director Audrey Dempsey was our guest, and she also spoke to us about the work ahead of us. She encouraged us to do all we can to draw in our young voters and get them involved in the democratic process. The spring meeting's fundraiser was a live auction of donated items. One of the most creative and most bid-upon items was a basket of "banned books." It earned the most money, which can now be used to help sow the seeds of Democratic political success in NM so all New Mexicans can reap the benefits of a blue state. The meeting was a great success, and its theme of "Planting Seeds of Success" is very much reflected in the work the NM County and Tribal Federations of Democratic Women are doing in their communities.



# Washington

Washington State now has more women in its Legislature than at any time in state history. Roughly 46% of Washington lawmakers are women this year – a benchmark the state has never reached before!

Women lead in protecting access to reproductive care, and supporting this work will never be more important. We are proud that Gov. Jay Inslee signed a suite of five bills in 2023 to shore up access to abortion in Washington, a ceremonial flourish demonstrating how blue states are reacting as the demise of Roe v. Wade approaches its anniversary.

## Abortion is legal and protected in Washington state.

Abortions have been legal in Washington since 1970, and that has not changed even after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022.

In alignment with our collective work, Washington State also became an ERA Coalition Partner and participated in numerous calls to action in support of the ERA.

In the 2023 August Primary, Washington State Democrats dominated all across the state - we were able to spur a terrific Democratic turnout and help put our candidates on the path to victory. NEXT Election - November 7th, 2023, we are defending our candidates up and down the ballot; our Chapters are active, engaged, and eager to turn out the vote and ensure a BLUE WASHINGTON.

2024 will be a key year - we must be ready to build on our successes and protect two key Congressional Seats by re-electing Maria Glusencamp Perez to Congressional District 3 and Dr. Kim Shrier to Congressional District 8. And elect women from the top to the bottom of the ballot.

Follow the links below to see what our local Washington State Chapters are up to!

- [Clark County Democratic Women](#)
- [Cowlitz County Democratic Women](#)
- [King County Democratic Women](#)
- [Salish Sea Chapter \(South Snohomish, North King\)](#)
- [Thurston County Democratic Women](#)
- [Whatcom County Democratic Women](#)

Democratically yours,

Carin Chase  
she/her/hers  
President,  
*Washington State Federation  
of Democratic Women*



Our 2023 Legislative Priorities focus on Universal Health Care, Reproductive Health Protections, Safe Nursing Standards, strengthening gun restrictions, and more!