



# Communicator

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Fall 2016

## Letter from the President

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Greetings, everyone!

As I write this, the Presidential campaign season is in full swing and we are only 23 days away from hopefully, electing **Hillary Clinton** as the first female President of the United States. I’m sure you will all agree that this campaign season has been like none other, but we cannot let up for a minute.

I am confident that everyone of you is making the phone calls, registering voters, sending out post cards, talking to friends and neighbors, and doing everything you can to make sure we elect **Hillary Clinton** as the next President at the top of the ticket and ensure a Democratic victory up and down the entire ballot!

For as many years as I have been voting, I don’t think I have ever seen a more negative campaign. Everyday I wake up to recognize that there is still much work to be done and that we cannot take anything for granted in this election cycle. We are the party of ideas, issues, and solutions and it will be a proud moment for all of us when we can get to November 9th and realize that we have done our homework, left no stone unturned, registered more Democratic voters, engaged every woman (and man) of voting age in the discussion as to why this election matters so much to all of us as Americans.

On a lighter note, the weekend of October 7–8th, I traveled to Atlanta, Georgia with some of the NFDW Board members to meet with Kathy Adams, President of the Georgia Federation to discuss upcoming plans and conduct the hotel walk-thru for the NFDW Convention to be held next June in Atlanta. Kathy and her committee are organized and in full swing preparing for our next convention and annual meeting. The NFDW 2017 Convention promises to be a wonderful success! Please mark your calendars for June 8–11, 2017 when we will meet in Atlanta and hopefully, have much to celebrate.

Keep up the great work and let’s get out there and **“Get the Vote Out!”**

Democratically yours,  
Joanne Sullivan  
President, NFDW

# North Carolina

Photos from the annual NFDW Convention in South Carolina in June 2016.



Joyce Mitchell, President-Elect, DWNC, Brenda Pollard, Director, Region 7, DWNC, Denise Faison, Former Secretary, DWNC, Betty Lou Griffin, Cheryl Griffin, Concetta Caliendo, President, DWNC, Mary Ann Whitt, and Barbara Faison, Former President, DWNC



Brenda Pollard (right), Director, Region 7, DWNC and Senator Margie Bright-Matthews (left) at the NFDW 45th Annual Convention on June 8-12, 2016 at the historic Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, SC.

Margie was elected in a special election in 2015 to replace the late Senator Clemens Pinckney. She is the second woman actively serving in the SC Senate. She represents District 45 in the Low Country.

Margie has her own law firm in Walterboro, SC. She is President of the Colleton County Bar Association. She was on an advisory panel for the State Commission on Indigent Defense.

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**Maureen McKenna**

# Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee has expanded our membership. This is significant because more states are now represented. These new members attended the Legislative Committee's meeting that was held during the 2016 National Convention in Charleston.

The Committee plans to expand on our work from the previous year: "The Legislative Committee is pleased about the issues that we covered this past year by writing resolutions concerning Gun Violence Research, Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, Full Funding for Education and Condemning Inequality. We have also placed our white papers about Inequality on the NFDW's Facebook Page Files," according to Legislative Committee Chair Gail Buckner. "Our goal is to make Democratic Women's voices heard in the halls of Congress and state legislatures."

Addressing Zika Virus funding surfaced in September as a priority of the Legislative Committee. Florida Federation President Dr. Maureen McKenna and Florida Communications Director Judy Meyers created a Zika Virus statement that Democratic Women can use as part of our message. Florida Legislative Chair Milly Krause utilized this message in every possible way. After the coalition, to which the Democratic Women's Club of Florida belongs, delivered their paper to Governor Scott, their local television station covered the Florida effort.

Legislative Committee members have currently shifted our attention to campaigning for Democratic candidates. Following Election Day, the Committee will begin addressing legislative issues again. Questions or other information can be forwarded to Committee Chair Gail Buckner, [gailbuckner@bellsouth.net](mailto:gailbuckner@bellsouth.net).

Gail Buckner  
Committee Chair

## New York

New York State Democratic Women are turning themselves inside out to get New York's own, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton elected the first female President of the United States.

On October 22nd the fourteen counties in the Democratic Women of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes will hold their annual meeting and we expect to hear from women around the state running for federal, state and local office.

Making phone calls and travelling to swing states is our main objective.

WE'RE WITH HER.

Pat O'Dwyer  
President, NYSFDW

# Nominating Committee

Your Nominating Committee for 2016–2017 has been charged with compiling a list of names of proposed officers for the Federation. We are asking for your nominations to be sent it by March 1, 2017.

## Nominating Process NFDW Officers

- Officers must be from states holding full membership
- Officers are elected in the odd numbered year for a term of two (2) years.
- No officer may serve more than one (1) term in the same office.
- A nominee must have participated in at least one (1) NFDW Convention in addition to the one at which the election of officers is held.
- Nominee's resumes must be submitted with talents/skills highlighted along with endorsements from her state Federation Executive Board.
- Submission of a black and white photo
- A signed statement from the candidate that says she will serve if elected to the office of "\_\_\_\_\_". This statement is requested after the candidate has been contacted by the Nominating Committee for permission to put forth her name.
- No region shall have more than two (2) elected officers nor more than one (1) from the same state.

Complete by-laws can be located on our web site [www.nfdw.com](http://www.nfdw.com).

Please send your nominations to me at 26409 Misty Ridge Place, Santa Clarita, CA 91387.

Democratically yours,  
Pat Hobbs, Committee Chair  
[pattyhobbs@aol.com](mailto:pattyhobbs@aol.com)



# The National Federation of Democratic Women's Library of Congress Collection

In November, 2015, the History Committee presented the NFDW Papers to the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. This was the culmination of many years of collecting and organizing. The Collection mainly contains information about the NFDW history, presidents, executive board, yearly conventions, and publications. It also contains some information on state Federations of Democratic Women, the Democratic National Committee, and other women's organizations. The NFDW Collection is now permanently housed at the Madison Building of the Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D.C. 20540.

One can obtain access to the Collection by entering the Madison Building, going through security, and proceeding to the Reading Registration Station located in Room LM 140. Hours are 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday–Saturday. The Library of Congress is open to the public. Requirements for using the Collection are that you must be at least 16 years of age, have a photo ID (driver's license, state issued identification card, or a passport) and obtain a Reader Identification Card. The card can be obtained at the Reading Registration Station. It is also possible to pre-register online by completing a Web form two weeks prior to a visit, reporting to the Reader Registration Station on the day of the visit, where a person's ID will be verified, an identification photo taken, a signature obtained, and a Reader Identification Card issued. (All of the above information can be found on the Library of Congress website: [www.LOC.gov](http://www.LOC.gov))

The main reading room where a person can then obtain access to the NFDW Collection is LJ 100. To prepare for the visit, one could check the outline of the Collection to be found on the NFDW website ([www.NFDW.com](http://www.NFDW.com).) For further information, contact Jeanne Marszalek, chair of the History Committee: [jamdems@yahoo.com](mailto:jamdems@yahoo.com).

## New York State Federation



*Eileen Konecny, Candidate, Town of Union Supervisor, Deanna Caiati and Heather Staley, Candidates, Town of Union Councilwomen at the BCDC Annual Picnic, July, 2016*



*Bridget Callaghan Kane, Secretary DWBC manages the Broome County Democratic Committee's tent at the Binghamton Spiedie Fest and Balloon Rally, August, 2016.*

# NJFDW Summer of 2016 Activities

On 9/10/2016, the NJ FDW held its annual meeting and the 2016 Peg Roberts Award celebration. This year, we were extremely fortunate to have an amazing award recipient as well as former NJ Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts, the son of Peg Roberts; the award namesake.

Also joining the day were many elected officials from throughout New Jersey as well as one of NJ's Congressmen; Representative Donald Norcross. State elected legislators joined us as well as County Free-holders, Mayors, councilmen and women and members of many of New Jersey's regional democratic committees.

The Peg Roberts award is one that has been given annually since 1983. As is always true, the production of the Awards Luncheon did take the NJ Federation village to pull together and join forces to ensure that we had great representation from all areas of the State.

The Peg Roberts Award for 2016 was presented to Retha Onitiri. Retha was nominated by her local chapter and she is the epitome of working toward the greater good. She is a board member of a number of relevant organizations that strive to mentor and address women's and political issues throughout New Jersey. In her professional career, she works at the Institute of Social Justice. Her commitment to supporting Democratic women extends beyond the State of NJ as she led the local delegation to work on the Hillary Clinton Campaign in New Hampshire this year.

The 2015 award slot will remain blank – as this is the year that the NJFDW lost its leader of so many years: Nancee May. Accordingly, Nancee May received special recognition, posthumously, with her son Jeffrey on hand to accept the recognition from the Federation, the State Legislature and the US Congress.

Moving forward, the NJFDW is actively working on Hillary's campaign and will continue to be in the forefront of NJ's Hillary efforts to get her elected. We're With HER!



*Retha Onitiri & US Rep Norcross*



*Elected Officials*



*Retha and her supporters*



*NJFDW Board members*



*Retha and Congressman*



*Retha and Asw Sumpter*



New Jersey *continued*



*Retha's award presentation*



*NJFDW Members*



*Mayor/US Rep/Councilwoman*



*Guests*



*Guests*



*NJFDW Executive Board Member  
Andres Mastro*

Florida



*Susannah French and Maureen McKenna*

*In September 2016, Democratic Women's Club of Florida celebrated its 60th Anniversary Annual Convention. Below is the group photo taken at the event. Dr. Maureen McKenna is President of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida.*



## A Message from Hillary for America

We are so grateful to our friends at the NFDW for all their work for Hillary, but we're not done yet! With only a few weeks to go before Election Day, here are a few things you can do to help.

If you have any questions, please email [womensoutreach@hillaryclinton.com](mailto:womensoutreach@hillaryclinton.com) and our team will get back to you as soon as we can.

### Join us because YOU are the most important part of our campaign

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Join our Women's Working Group to get more frequent communication from our team about the latest volunteer opportunities, campaign messaging, policy rollouts, and more. Sign up to receive further communications from our Women for Hillary Outreach Team by using [this form](#).

Please check out and share our [Women For Hillary](#) page with your networks to encourage others to become a member of our volunteer leadership network.

### Organize, organize, organize

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Travel to a battleground state to volunteer the last few weeks of the campaign: Sign up [here!](#)

*Are you able to spend time in a local campaign office volunteering on the weekends? Make calls, knock doors, enter data, or support staff in your neighborhood. Learn more here: [HillaryClinton.com/events](http://HillaryClinton.com/events)*

*Can you volunteer from your home or a friend's home? If you're too busy to travel or work from a local office, consider volunteering from home by making calls from our online call tool found [here](#).*

*Do you have a smartphone? Download our GOTV app on your iPhone at the App Store, (it's free!) and do your part in electing our next president right at your fingertips by taking challenges and winning prizes!*

### Get to dialing!

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Phonebank other women just like you with our easy tool that lets you make calls from anywhere. Using our online call tool, you can tell other women about why you support Hillary Clinton. Calls like these are one of the most effective ways we can reach new supporters and win this election. You can make calls from your home, by yourself or with a group. If you've never phonebanked before, our call tool makes it easy. Help Hillary win from home. [Check it out here.](#)

Get regular text message updates from the campaign. Text WOMEN to 47246.

### Host a House Party

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Now that the primary season has ended, we are working to mobilize voters across the country for the general election. Help us by organizing women in your own communities! Sign up to learn more about hosting a house party [here](#).

### Protect the vote

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If you're a lawyer or a law student, join the Victory Counsel and help us with voter protection by serving as a poll observer on election day, staffing a voter hotline, or recruiting other lawyers. Sign up [here](#).





# Dr. Pamela Pugh, NFDW 5th Vice President, accepts appointment to help Flint, Michigan

**D**r. Pamela Pugh was recently appointed as the City of Flint Michigan's Chief Public Health Advisor by Flint Mayor, Dr. Karen Weaver.

Pugh is the owner of Urban Regeneration LLC, a business which serves as a catalyst for economically sustainable and healthy urban communities by assisting public agencies, organizations, and businesses in building capacity through effective operations and winning partnerships. Prior to starting Urban Regeneration, Pugh worked at the Saginaw County Department of Public Health for 14 years.



*Dr. Pamela Pugh*

She earned a Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Florida A&M University (Go Rattlers!). She is eager to use her knowledge, skills and experience to help make a difference in the lives of families in Flint.

Dr. Pugh is responsible for providing increased capacity for the City of Flint to enhance the health, wellness and resilience of its residents by providing crucial advice and support to the Mayor and City Council on all matters affecting the health of the City of Flint. She serves as the go-to convener and liaison for the City with County, State, and national bodies engaged in health and human services work supporting City of Flint residents.

"Serving the people of Flint is a huge honor for me," Dr. Pamela Pugh commented. "I recognize the critical assignment before me and have hit the ground running. One of my foremost goals is to work with residents and other City partners to help restore trust in those charged with the task of protecting the health and well-being of residents. I am up to whatever it takes to ensure that this happens. The residents of Flint deserve nothing less."

The position of Public Health Advisor is an essential need identified by Dr. Nicole Lurie, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Assistant Surgeon General Admiral Michelle Dunwoody. Dunwoody and Lurie were appointed by the Obama Administration to assist Mayor Weaver and her administration with the pressing health needs facing Flint residents.

# DC Federation of Democratic Women

**D**CFDW Members have been very active and engaged, particularly during the 2016 election season. Two local clubs comprise the DC Federation and their members have been promoting the campaign to secure DC Statehood, are working to elect local Democratic candidates and to elect Hillary Clinton as President. An overview of DC Federation's recent engagements includes:

- Six DCFDW members attended the NFDW Convention in Charleston, SC; four Resolutions submitted by DCFDW passed; members participated the Legislative and Women in Blue Committees;
- Two dozen members attended the DNC Convention in Philadelphia, PA; four as delegates.
- DCFDW partnered with the Mayor's Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives to have hold a "Women's Equality Day" Reception;
- A number of members participated in the DC Statehood Constitution Convention; the President and other members have been trained as Spokespersons for the DC Statehood Referendum.
- DCFDW created and distributed a bi-monthly "Count Down to Victory" Newsletter which assembles local Clinton Campaign events and volunteer opportunities in one document;
- Numerous DCFDW members are doing phone banking at the DNC and at the Women National Democratic Club; have traveled to North Carolina, Philadelphia and Harrisonburg, PA to GOTV.



*DCFDW President Hazel Thomas, DCFDW Founding President, Mrs. Lillian Huff and Rev. Dr. Betty Deas Clark, the first female Pastor of the historic Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC*



*Hazel Thomas with Rev. Leah Daughtry, CEO of the DNC Convention; DCFDW Members: Ella Gilbert and Dorinda White.*



*Hector Rodriguez; Shelly Tomkin; CM Anita Bonds, Chair of the DC Democratic Committee; Don Isaac, Jr., Robert White, Interim CM; Janice Davis and Hazel Thomas at DNC Headquarters headed to PA for GOTV.*



*Linda Jefferson, Janice Haynes Davis and Estell Mathis Lloyd among other DCFDW members at the Women's Leadership Forum featuring Hillary Clinton in Washington, DC on October 12, 2016.*

# Feminine Hygiene and Diaper Sales Tax Exemption Bill

Councilmember and longtime Metropolitan Women Democratic Club (MWDC) member Anita Bonds introduced a bill recently, often referred to as the “Tampon and Diaper Tax, that would make diaper and feminine hygiene products exempt from sales taxes in District of Columbia. Bonds, a Democrat, introduced the bill, and six other members of the 13-member council signed on as co-introducers. This tax adversely affects women many of whom are heads of households and is particularly oppressive for low and moderate income women.

Currently sanitary products and diapers tend to be taxed as “luxury” instead of medical items, which do not accrue a tax. As any woman knows, sanitary products are an essential and expected part of life. At work, at school, or pretty much anywhere, it’s not an option to go without caring for your health and hygiene. And making sure you’re covered every month really adds up: If tampons are your go-to, you could be spending almost \$2,000 on those alone in your lifetime. Putting an extra tax on them only adds to that financial burden. And, the same goes for diapers. We cannot live without them.

Council member Anita Bonds (D-At Large), the lead author of the bill in D.C., said in a statement that “women should not be taxed because they are women, nor should babies be taxed for being babies.”

Bond also said it seemed unfair that the District taxes tampons while classifying other items including Viagra as essential and are therefore exempt.

Eleven states do not have a tax on feminine products, according to Newsweek. Minnesota, Maryland, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania do not tax menstrual products, and five other states (Oregon, Montana, Delaware New Hampshire, and Alaska) do not have a sales tax, Newsweek reported.

Join Councilmember and Federation member Anita Bonds (a numerous other national and international organizations in their push for parity and the removal of state sales taxes on necessary (and medical) feminine hygiene, adult hygiene items and child health items (diapers). Recently, the Metropolitan Women’s Democratic Club voted to support Councilmember Bonds’ legislation; and we added her legislation and our support letter to our FB page to get support for the legislation. Please come onto our page – Metropolitan Women Democratic Club – to access the link to the DC Council to submit comments. We need the support of all of our sister clubs for this most worthy legislation.

Winifred Carson Smith, Esq.  
MWDC President, Wash, DC