



Communicator

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Winter 2008

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Dear Federation Members

In 2007, at our West Virginia convention, the momentum started with the election of new NFDW officers and wonderful motivational speeches by West Virginia's Governor Manchin, Senator Jay Rockefeller, Governor Howard Dean and many others. I was motivated to do anything I could to be part of Americans from red & blue states that have the opportunity to send a Democrat to the White House. Our 2008 convention in Albuquerque, NM will be another step to a democratic victory.

NFDW President Knetzer has asked me to chair a public relations committee which includes keeping our web site, www.nfdw.com updated and our newsletter the Communicator. I believe the web site is now current with all the new state Presidents & links to all Democratic state parties, links to known state federation web sites, our by-laws have been added, the Communicator is on line as well as other news worthy articles. I still need your help! E-mail me your states calendar of events, changes in your state Presidents, important accomplishments of the women in your state. I can also incorporate some of these items in our newsletter. I believe we have accomplished a lot but there is always more to be done. I welcome your input. My e-mail is pattyobbs@aol.com or I can be reached at 661-424-9077. The challenge for us all will be to work toward a better America by getting democrats elected at all local, state & national levels! We women can do this together!

I look forward to serving you as your 1st Vice President and I thank you for the opportunity.

Democratically Yours,
Pat Hobbs
NFDW 1st Vice President

Oklahoma Highlights

The Oklahoma Federation has had a busy summer and fall so far. After NFDW convention we had an Emily's list training in Oklahoma City which was attended by several of our State Executive Board Members at no charge to them.

As President, I have been seated on the State Democratic Party Central Committee to vote for the Federation. In July several members and officers greeted Elizabeth Edwards when she was speaking in Oklahoma City.

We have had two Executive Board meetings, one in July and the other in October, as well as a retreat to work on our State Policy and Procedures Manual.

August 16, the state Democratic Party hosted several of our members and officers with a reception to honor our statewide elected women and also honored the women elected to positions with the Party and myself as President of the Federation. This was held in conjunction with the anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. Included in our gift bags were Susan B. Anthony dollars.

Anita Norman and I traveled to Detroit, Michigan in October to a great Mid-West Regional meeting. Tami, Trina, and Virgie hosted a lovely, educational meeting.

Many of our members have been busy with their county fairs and the state fairs in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Democrat booths were available and "womaned" by Federation members.

Hope everyone is ready for winter and the final 12 months of this presidential election cycle. We are working hard to promote Democratic Candidates and still want to turn Oklahoma to a blue state.

Debi Thompson

President, Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women

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NFDW Member Attended DNCC Media Walk-Through

As a member of the Kansas Press Association, I have been given the go-ahead by my publisher at the newspaper I report for to register and attend a media walk-through for national, local and online media outlets interested in covering the 2008 Democratic National Convention. The walk-through took place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at the Pepsi Center in Denver. A pre-walk-through reception was held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 12, at the Wynkoop Brewing Company, Colorado's oldest brew pub.

In addition, the City of Denver offered complimentary guided tours of the Mile High City for media on Monday, November 12, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Stops included the Denver Art Museum, Coors Field, the Denver Performing Arts Complex and the historic LoDo (Lower Downtown) district.

"The walk-through will serve as an opportunity for news organizations to become acquainted with the Pepsi Center site and plans for the 2008 Convention, which will be held from August 25–28, 2008."

Convention officials provided a general overview for the media including the housing application and hotel room reservation process, the credential application and distribution process, the Convention transportation system, site access and security procedures, media workspace in and outside the Pepsi Center and information regarding DNCC selected vendors including telecommunication and exposition services.

I am very excited to be narrowing down the field in the chance to be selected to cover such a monumental event. During my two day stint in Denver, I looked forward to meeting the press so to speak. I am a relative newcomer to the world of reporting so this is a major deal for me on many levels! Alas, I will take lots of photographs, later share some newsworthy tidbits in the run-up to a long awaited event that promises to be *GREAT* in August of 08!

Denise Cassells
Kansas Federation of Democratic Women

Tennessee FDW Celebrating 50th Anniversary

The Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women is celebrating our Fiftieth (50th) Anniversary this year. With the theme of "A Golden Past—An Even Brighter Future," we are working hard to paint Tennessee "blue" in the 2008 elections.

We've set goals for this year and they include things such as: each local club being challenged to grow at least 10% in membership, each local club being asked to host one Women of Faith event to own our politics and our religion; asking each club to donate \$50 to our TFDW Gold Fund (a fund which will be used to purchase Democratic items in bulk which can then, in turn, be turned back over to the locals to use to promote the Democratic Party and candidates in their own counties); challenging each local to find one new community project to show that Democratic Women care and are willing to physically and financially put our "care" and concern into action for the betterment of our communities across Tennessee; hosting additional fund raisers so that we can award even more scholarships (the Anna Belle Clement O'Brien Scholarship) to young ladies in Tennessee; focusing on our Jean Livingston Fund (a fund set aside specifically to help female candidates) and also focusing on recruiting qualified female candidates; holding additional voter registration drives, and using all opportunities to increase the visibility of the Democratic Party in our communities.

It is an exciting year for us! We are organized, united, energized and motivated to do everything within our power to elect Democrats in our counties, our state, across the nation—and especially the White House. Rest assured that your sister club in Tennessee is marching toward Pennsylvania Avenue even as you read this newsletter. Together, with our NFDW sisters, we will achieve our goals!

Vicky Harwell
President, Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women

Kansas News

The annual “Demofest” state committee meeting and fundraiser was held at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita during the last weekend in September. Featured keynote speaker was chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council Harold Ford Jr. President Clinton was quoted as describing Ford as “the walking, living, embodiment of where America ought to go in the 21st Century. Ford who is “known to his colleagues as a fiscal watchdog,” worked alongside Kansas’ own Congressman Dennis Moore a co-member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group that supports bipartisan solutions to the issues facing our country. Ford is a former member of the United States House of Representatives from Tennessee who gave up his seat to run for the US Senate against Bill Frist. Albeit Ford lost his senate bid, we most likely will be hearing more on him in the future.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius hosted Demofest and revealed during the state party meeting that Kansas State Senator Donald Betts was “about to take the leap,” when she announced that Betts would be running for the US House of Reps. Against republican incumbant Todd Tiahrt in the 4th Congressional District . Sebelius proudly stated to a packed room, “Meet the future 4th District congressman.”

US Congresswoman Nancy Boyda from Kansas 2nd district was also in attendance as well as a guest speaker at the event.

Entertainment was provided by violinist and singer Elana James. James is an internationally acclaimed performer who has been featured at countless major concerts and music festivals worldwide. In 2005 James teamed up with Bob Dylan as part of his touring band, the first female instrumentalist to do so in thirty years. In the summer of 2006, James was invited to tour as the opening act for Bob Dylan’s summer US tour. What is more, James has been a regular guest on NPR’s A Prairie Home Companion as well as being featured on numerous television and radio shows that include NPR’s All Things Considered, World Cafe,

Mountain Stage, E-Town Live, Forty Dollars a Day with Rachel Ray, and many others.

During the excitement of the weekend, the Kansas Federation of Democrat Women were able to hold their meeting in a private room at the Hyatt. According to state president Ardena Matlack, we are focusing on “better communications and inclusiveness” of women not currently attending a Federated Democratic organization. Matlack stressed that, “One of our ongoing goals is to establish new clubs in counties that have none.”

Denise Cassells
Kansas Federation of Democratic Women



Harold Ford Jr., KFDWC member Carolyn Elmore.
Photo courtesy of Carolyn Elmore.

DNC American Majority Partnership Summit

Nine NFDW members attended the Summit in Las Vegas, August 23–25, 2007. It was very successful with workshops for women, African-Americans chaired by NFDW’s Virgie Rollins, Hispanics, LGBT, AAPI and joint summits. Four of our officers enjoyed some down time and music with Governor Howard Dean.



Ohio Holds Annual Meeting

Former State Representative Eileen Krupinski, (D) Steubenville, was elected President of the Federated Democratic Women of Ohio (FDWO) at the organization's annual meeting in Columbus in October. Founded in 1931, the FDWO is one of the longest running women's political organizations in the country. "I am humbled by this honor and excited about helping to craft and implement our organization's role in making Ohio a blue state in 2008 and beyond," Krupinski said.

Krupinski is the 30th Senate District State Committeewoman and a member of the Jefferson County and State Democratic Executive committees. She is past president of the Wintersville Democratic Women's Club and also serves as president of the non-partisan Women's Club of Steubenville.

Eileen Krupinski, President Ohio Federation of Democratic Women



Left to right: Lorraine Hazlett, Wintersville, District 8 Regional Vice President; Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; and Eileen Krupinski, FDWO President.

Over 250 Attend West Virginia's Annual Meeting

Over 250 democratic women and their guests attended the 43rd Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Federation of Democratic Women held in Huntington, West Virginia and hosted by the 3rd District East and West, Mary Ann Henry, Arrangements Chair on September 14th-16th, 2007.

"The Annual Meeting brings together democrats from around the state with a focus on rebuilding friendships, energizing and educating its members and most importantly offering a venue for women with like minds and hearts," said Karen Coria, President of the Federation. The opening session was highlighted by the guest speaker, The First Lady of West Virginia, Gayle Conelly Manchin, who charmed us with her poise and strong democratic ideals. The theme of this year's annual convention "We Are Women...Hear Us Roar" brought together the excitement of democratic women and the role they play, particularly in the 2008 campaign, and the outcome of their actions in the everyday lives of their community and their state.

Among the events was a rousing round table discussion focusing on "2008 The Year Of The Woman" Will We Be Heard!, speeches from the Communications Director of the Governor's Office, Lara Ramsburg, from the Executive Director of the DNC Women's Leadership Forum, Sharon Grosfeld, and the special guest of honor, Supreme Court Justice Joseph P. Albright, reminding us of our good fortune to have democratic leaders with the expertise and knowledge to make good things happen for all West Virginians.

Throughout the weekend there were a host of fun receptions, live music, dancing, and the laughter that goes with being among good friends. Individual clubs received recognition for their hard work throughout the year and tribute was paid to them at an annual awards banquet. Numerous county and state elected officials attended the event, showing their support and gratitude for the continued participation in electing democrats to office.

The Annual Meeting allows us to continue with our traditions that establish and seek ways to enhance our existing programs. Our organization is strong. We honor those who have served and we recognize those who have excelled. We promote our party's candidates and we truly make a difference in each of our counties.

With the election and installation of new officers, the West Virginia Federation of Democratic Women will set goals for the year 2008 in hopes that we will attract, motivate and enthuse our members to success.

Carye Blaney, 4th Vice President, National Federation of Democratic Women

News from Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women is busy organizing its new Board following our election in June, and working hard to elect Democrats in our Court Houses, City Halls, Townships, Boroughs and School Boards, many of whom are Federation members. We have an outstanding slate of Statewide Judicial candidates, and the opportunity to elect the first Democratic woman to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the Court's history! That woman is Judge Debra Todd, who presently serves on the Pennsylvania Superior Court. The next big statewide event our Federation is planning is our Outstanding Elected Democratic Women's Luncheon, which will be held in Camp Hill on Sunday, December 2. Our honoree this year is Judge Debra Todd. We will also be awarding the Second Annual Senator Jeanette Reibman Memorial Award to Pennsylvania State Senator Connie Williams, an exceptional elected official and a true member of our Federation. Our Woman of the Year for 2007 will be chosen at this luncheon.

At the luncheon, we will also be recognizing the members of our Federation's Century Club. This was started as a way to raise the funds necessary to support our women candidates and our Statewide candidates. We have several levels of membership, and we encourage our members, our clubs, our elected women officeholders, and especially our Democratic women members of Congress, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate to join. Each year, this enables us to contribute thousands of dollars across the State. We will also hold a silent auction at our December 2 luncheon, and funds raised from this will go to our Federal PAC to support candidates in 2008. We ask our Board members to contribute a prize to the auction, and suggest that they can either purchase something, or be creative in asking an elected official to contribute a luncheon with the winning bidder at a time and place mutually agreeable to both. This has proved very successful at our past auctions.

In June, we will be holding our 81st Annual State Convention at the Ramada Hotel in Altoona, Pennsylvania—we haven't met there since 1944, and we are looking forward to an exciting event.

We also hope to send a large delegation to the NFDW's National Convention in Albuquerque.

Susan Rutt

President, Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women

Indiana Federation of Democratic Women

Malissa Gross, the Kokomo Womans Club Treasurer, helped to a wonderful Womans Tea Luncheon the speaker was former Senator Billie Broudx. At the Federation Annual Fall Meeting we had a wonderful attendance. Candidate for Indiana Governor Jill Long was present and Woman Democratic president Barbara McKenny from Madison County put on a workshop about Increasing Your Meeting Attendance and Orderly meetings with powerful message to increase participation.

The Indiana Federation of Democratic Women will have their spring meeting in Madison County. the host club will be Madison County, president Barbara McKenny. More info later as to place and time. Indiana has Federation Women running for public office in the city election, we will publish the results after the election November 6th. Indiana Federation of Women have increased their Club membership to seven active clubs paying dues. Indiana Women, are doing a survey to assess the possibility of hosting a Indiana Federation of Women Conference in 2009. You will receive more info. later.

Janie Young

President, Indiana Federation of Women

NFDW Awards

NFDW presents three awards during Convention each year unless there are no nominees or nominees do not meet the criteria. These awards began informally in 1986 at Convention in Arkansas. That year Rilla Moran Woods, NFDW Founder; Dorothy V. Bush, longtime DNC Secretary; Pamela Harriman, Democratic fundraiser; and Betty Flanagan Bumpers, founder of Peace Links, received special recognition during the Convention.

By 1987, the Awards were formalized and criteria for nominations sent to NFDW members. States were encouraged to recognize outstanding Democrats in the three categories and forward the State choices as nominees to NFDW. The Awards Committee presents the annual winners at the Awards luncheon during convention.

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR NOMINATIONS & SELECTION OF NFDW AWARDS

1. In submitting the supporting information for a nominee, follow the criteria which is the basis for evaluating nominees for the Awards.
2. Present supportive material as numbered exhibits with the letter of nomination.
3. Nominations are to be submitted by State Federations, or where the entire state is not federated by a member club. The nominee need not be a resident of the state submitting the nomination.
4. The nominee must be present at the National Convention to receive the award, unless some unforeseen event occurs to prevent attendance.
5. Organizations are requested to limit nominations to one per category.

Outstanding NFDW Member of the Year

1. Current active member of NFDW who personifies NFDW objective (i.e., Art. II, Bylaws: The objective of NFDW shall be to unite women of the Democratic Party, to promote the cause of the Democratic Party and to encourage full participation of women in every level of the Democratic Party structure.)
2. Contribution by the nominee to the growth, development and promotion of NFDW.
3. National scope and stature of the nominee.
4. Personal political involvement by the nominee.

Outstanding Elected Democratic Woman Holding Public Office

1. Current elected Democratic office holder of statewide, regional or national scope.
2. Demonstrated support of NFDW by nominee.
3. Significant contribution to the Democratic Party and its principles by the nominee.
4. Demonstrated commitment by the nominee to the success of other Democratic women in the Party organization and for elective office.

NFDW Humanitarian Award

1. Significant contribution to the cause of human and/or civil rights.
2. Demonstrated support of NFDW.
3. Nominee possesses leadership qualities.
4. Nominee's success in achieving human and/or civil rights. (The nominee may be either male or female, but must meet the criteria.)

Deadline for Receiving Nominations

Nominations must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2008.

Send nominations to: Gayle Owens, NFDW Awards Committee, 6821 Haynie Rd., Jacksonville, AR 72076
Email address: gowens5639@aol.com

Since we have so many wonderful, talented, caring leaders in this organization, I look forward to receiving hundreds of nominations.

Southern Region Holds Annual Meeting

The Southern Region held their traditional Veteran's Day Yearly Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jacksonville, FL on November 9–10 as agreed to at the Annual Convention.

The weekend began with a Friday evening reception hosted by the Democratic Women's Club of Florida, Inc., (DWCF). The attendees were welcomed by Southern Regional Director Sarah Brown, Florida President Janie Holman and Duval County Democratic Party Vice Chair Patt Sher, who read a welcoming letter from Florida Democratic Party Chair Karen Thurman who was unable to attend.



The Saturday morning Business Session was called to order at 9:00 AM. As the highest ranking member in attendance, NFDW 4th Vice President Carye Blaney was the first speaker. She spoke of the importance of women in the political process and how we must find, train, support and elect women and prepare them to move up the ladder in all legislative offices. Carye will be on the ballot this year, as she campaigns to be elected to her current appointed position. *Good luck, Carye.* Arkansas President Faye Abernathy continued the theme by encouraging women to “put your name out there,” She has run for election in the past, and we hope she will run again.

A discussion of the purpose and goals of the Southern Region indicated that we need to be stronger and improve our communications. Brenda Jahns-Nelson (FL) asked if we had a Yahoo site and **WOW**, it was like a light bulb went off. Jodi James (FL) and Carye Blaney (WV) created the site, and we are proud to announce that we now have a list serve for the Southern Region with 98 names and we hope you will join us. If you want to be included, please send an e-mail to demwoman@aol.com and you will receive an invitation to join. This is a moderated site and is not directly accessible to the public.

The morning session closed with a visit from Florida State Representative Audrey Gibson who also encouraged us to run for office to provide the votes that women need to pass legislation to address the needs of the people.

The luncheon speaker was former Ambassador and foreign policy expert Nancy Soderberg. The Ambassador served as adviser to President Clinton and has written several books on foreign policy. But, best of all she is young and of course a woman. What an inspiration!

The afternoon Business Session began with Shannon Clarke, the 23 year old Vice President of the local Young Democrats who also interns in U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's office while she attends college. She addressed issues of concern to the youth vote. We then heard from Marilyn Boren, niece of former U.S. Senator David Boren (OK), who reminded us of how much fun politics can be and how we need to get back to the grass roots and train our volunteers on how to talk to voters on the phone and what to say when we knock on doors—things we have not heard in awhile but need to remember. NFDW Awards Chair Gayle Owens (AR) explained the Awards the NFDW offers and spoke of the scholarships that are available.

Then, in the very best Southern Region tradition, the workshop began. Marge Burke, NFDW Resolutions Chair, explained that Resolutions should be short and to the point. As usual we worked in groups and each group was told to write a resolution. We did; they were written, corrected and adopted in about 40 minutes. They will be presented to the NFDW for acceptance this coming year and you can see them on the NFDW web page at www.nfdw.com

Our dinner speaker Faye Armitage (image two Faye A's in the same group) spoke of the crisis in

(continued on next page)

Colorado Federation's Annual Seminar

The Colorado Federation of Democratic Women held its annual seminar and meeting at the Cottonwood Club in Fort Collins on Saturday, October 14th. Attending from Fort Morgan were Judy Blake, Ellen Hellyer and Viola Bristol-Johnson.

After registration and a continental breakfast, the meeting was called to order by the Larimer County Jane Jeffersons Democratic Women's Club, Trudi Manuel. She introduced Viola Bristol-Johnson, President of the state organization, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The president then explained the issues format as part of the community educational platform of the state club. She further explained that issues education was most necessary with the second plank of the platform being encouragement and support to the Democratic candidates. These are the primary reasons for the existence of the association.

Cathy Cronin of Larimer County was moderator for the speakers' panel: **Earth, Wind, Fire & Water: Conservation Issues for the 21st Century.**

Speakers were: **Dan Bihn**, strategic communications consultant, focused on the new energy market, high tech systems engineer. **Gerry Frank**, former Colorado House of Representative, 1975, served the House Committee on Transportation and Energy, now a "green" developer. **Jeffrey C. Parsons**, senior attorney for Western Mining Action Project, focused on the impact of the nuclear fuel cycle, affect of new uranium mines and mills proposed for the state and the southwest. **Sue Radford**, engineer, former Democratic candidate for CO House District #49, emphasis centered on Colorado's strong potential to lead the country in renewable energy, especially sun and wind. **Patty Stulp**, Pueblo, former owner Ethanol Management CO., Pueblo, use, manufacture and distribution of ethanol, The negatives and positives of a non-fossil fuel, environmental and market.

This panel began a discussion with the audience of approximately 40 members and guests. Water was a heated subject with the wells along the South Platte and the Republican Rivers being shut down. The information, questions and answers flowed rapidly.

The moderator stopped the discussion after two hours to allow time for the next speaker, **Heidi Van Genderen**, Senior Advisor on Climate Change and Energy in the Office of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. She has a 20 year work history in the field of natural resource issues and climate changes ranging from the United Nations Environmental Programs to serving as Congressional staff. The affects of climate changes and environmental changes on our life styles and how to cope with "living green" were talking points with the audience. A simple thing like changing the type of light bulb used in our homes could result in energy savings. Growing different types of lawn grasses could save our water which is our most precious resource.

After a buffet luncheon, a movie by Joe Brown, a documentary filmmaker, was shown. This film is being considered by the Colorado School of Mines for inclusion in this fall's "Nature and Human Values" core course. The film depicts the big oil companies' devastation of western Colorado during the shale oil exploration. The affects on the land, water, economy of the area, and revenue loss by the county and state were portrayed in a forward manner with interviews of residents and property owners.

The annual business meeting was then called to order by President Viola Bristol-Johnson. A special thank-you was extended to the Larimer County Jane Jeffersons Democratic Womens' club for the excellent seminar. Plans were made for the next meeting to be at the home of Ellen Hellyer, 811 Walnut Street, Fort Morgan on January 12th.

Viola Bristol-Johnson, President, Colorado Federation of Democratic Women

Southern Region *continued*

medical care in this country. Then, as if on cue, she concluded with an announcement that she has filed to run for the Florida District 7 seat in the US House of Representatives to unseat an eight-term, right-wing Republican man. What an ending to a great weekend for women. Only in the movies and at the Southern Region Yearly Meeting. Join us next year!

Sarah Brown, Southern Regional Director, NFDW

In Memory, Past President Gwendolyn E. McFarland

Gwendolyn E. Nation McFarland of Nashville, TN, died January 2, 2008. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, George H. McFarland; son and daughter-in-law, Anthony J. and Mary Jane McFarland of Goodlettsville, TN; daughter, Joni E. Baker of Navasota, TX; brother, Clark Nation of Bellevue, OH and three grandchildren, Matthew, Pat and Thomas McFarland of Goodlettsville, TN.

Gwen was born in Lawrenceburg, TN, graduated from Lawrence County High School in Lawrenceburg, TN at age 15, received her associate degree from Martin Junior College, then her Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctorate of Arts degrees, all from the George Peabody College for Teachers. She received her Doctorate of Law degree from the Nashville School of Law in 1981. Gwen was truly a renaissance person.

While employed with the Metro Davidson County Schools System, she was a school teacher at Amqui Elementary, a secondary school teacher at Cameron Middle School, principal of Ross Elementary, Director of Metro's Pre-service Teacher Education, served on the Community Education Advisory Committee for Hunters Lane and Stratford High Schools, and was a past President of the Metro Nashville Education Association, among other positions. Upon retirement from the school system, Gwen practiced law for 15 years, primarily with the firm of Cheatham & Palermo.

Much of Gwen's life was spent in the political arena. She was former member of the Metro Council, Vice Chair of the Tennessee Democratic Party from 1984–1993, past President of the National Federation of Democratic Women, past President of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women, past President of the Democratic Women's Club of Davidson County, past President of the Women's Civic forum, a seven-term State Democratic Committeewoman, a member of the Women's Political Caucus, and a delegate or alternate delegate to the 1972, 1976, 1984, 1988 and 1992 Democratic National Conventions.

In 1992 & 1996, Gwen was nominated for Nashville's Athena Award. She was a past President of the Old Hickory/Madison BPW, a life member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 82, a past President of the Nashville Urban League, served as the chair of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, a former vice chair of the METRA Advisor Board, a past board member of Planned Parenthood Association of Nashville, and a former member of La Societe de Femme, Cabane 702. Gwen was an active member of St. James the Less Episcopal, Madison, TN, where she had served as a Licensed Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer, and Church School teacher.

Both born and married on July 4th, Gwen (Nation) McFarland was fond of saying a Nation was both born and lost on the fourth of July.

Arizona Federation of Democratic Women

The Arizona Federation of Democratic women's last meeting was Oct 10th 2007 in Tucson Arizona, There were approximately 20 members in attendance. We are working on revising our by-laws to be more in tune with the State party by-laws. Most of the County representatives reported they now have Democratic headquarters open to work and support Democratic candidates in the 08 elections.

Our next upcoming event will be Women in Blue at the state capitol in March 08

Women in Blue was founded five years ago to encourage all Democratic Women to become involved and active in the party. We meet once a year with our elected legislators, go to committee meetings and watch proceedings on the House and Senate floor. We have grown from 40 participants to over 500. Every Democratic woman in the state is invited to attend. Our mission is to educate, energize and empower women. Carolle Pearsall a Democratic activist has taken the helm and is doing a remarkable job of bringing women into the fight. We all know when Women Vote, Democrats WIN. Visit our web-site ArizonaWomeninBlue.com or Azfeddemwomen.com

Maudie Bray, President, Arizona Federation of Democratic Women

Connecticut Federation 85th Anniversary Celebration

The Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women's Club celebrated 85 years of helping to elect Democrats locally, and at the state and national level with a dinner and auction on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at Casa Mia at Mt. Carmel in East Hartford, Connecticut. The Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women's Club is the oldest Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs in the country. Fannie Dixon Welch, our first President, set the standard in 1922 when she founded the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs. Her involvement in the Suffragette Movement that allowed women to have the "right to vote" was pivotal to making women keenly aware of their responsibility of understanding the workings of government, getting involved in their own political parties and running for public office to "take their place side by side with men." We are proud of our history, dedication, and hard work. Our involvement in and commitment to the ideals of the Democratic Party has helped to elect Democrats for 85 years.

In attendance at this wonderful celebration were Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, Comptroller Nancy Wyman, State Senator Eileen Daily, State Senator Gary LeBeau, and State Representative Linda Orange. In celebration of our 85 years as a statewide organization, we also paid tribute to our past presidents of the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women. Past Presidents in attendance included Bernice Bowman, Louise Neary, Ana Gould, and our own Immediate Past President of the NFDW, Dorothy Mrowka. Past Presidents were honored with Legislative Citations from the Connecticut General Assembly.

Joanne LeBeau
Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women
President, 2007–2009



North Carolina State Convention

Our 47th Annual State Convention was held September 21–23 in Salisbury, NC. Our theme was "Democratic Women Making History at North Carolina Crossroads." Our convention speakers were Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue and Richard Moore, State Treasurer. Both are candidates for the governor's seat. On Saturday we honored our 31 Loyal Democratic Stars from around the state. On Sunday morning, our State Party Chair Jerry Meeks challenged us to great and better days for our party. We are the Worker Bees. If the work gets done, it is because of WOMEN. There were 200 person in attendance for the convention.

Barbara Faison
North Carolina Federation of Democratic Women

National Federation of Democratic Women

Helen Knetzer, President

7211 E. Lincoln

Wichita, KS 67207



The 37th Annual NFDW Convention

May 28–June 1, 2008

Marriott Hotels & Resorts

2101 Louisiana Bl., NE

Albuquerque, NM 87110

505-881-6800 or 800-228-9290 for reservations

Mention National Federation of Democratic Convention.

Room rates \$75 Single, \$95 double, \$115 triple & suites are \$250.

Plan now to attend!!