



NFDW Founder's Internship Award Agnes Bird Internship Award

The National Federation of Democratic Women was formed in October, 1971, when Rilla Moran convened a breakfast meeting of twenty-seven women at the Democratic Women's Leadership Conference at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, D. C. Rilla was elected temporary chair and the group set May, 1972, in Nashville, Tennessee, as the first annual meeting.

AWARD HISTORY

Rilla was elected the first President of the Federation at the May, 1972, meeting and served until 1977 when Jean Ohm of South Dakota was elected President during the annual convention at the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix, AZ. At this convention, the Rilla Moran Woods Fellowship for young women between the ages of 18 and 25 to work at the Democratic National Committee was established in honor of Rilla and to demonstrate NFDW's commitment to involving young Democratic women in the Democratic Party. [Jean Ohm named Agnes Bird of Tennessee Parliamentarian in 1977]. The first winner in 1978 was Patricia Bunner, a law student from West Virginia. The Award was \$500 to help pay room and board. The Award increased to \$1,000 in the 1980s; \$2,000 in the 1990s and \$3,000 in 2003.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Award was to help young women who had demonstrated an interest in Democratic politics at the local and state level to gain experience at the national level. Shortly after it was established, the word "internship" was substituted for "fellowship." Later following Rilla's request, the name was changed to Founder's Internship Award.

PROCEDURE

Application is made at the state level to the State Democratic Women's organization affiliated with NFDW. A state committee evaluates applications and forwards the state winner's application to the NFDW Committee Chair. The winner is presented with the check on Saturday of Convention at the Awards luncheon and addresses the delegates.

The application form, criteria and selection process has remained much as it originally was set by the first Committee led by Dr. Gwen McFarland of Nashville, Tennessee. The applicant must be between the ages of 18-25, fill out the application form and write an essay of at least 200 words which outlines her political experience, career aspirations and how the internship award would relate to furthering her goals. Members of the Committee follow an evaluation form which ranks the applicants on the criteria.

AGNES BIRD INTERNSHIP

Agnes Thornton Bird, PhD. ,J. D., was the first Parliamentarian of NFDW named by Jean Ohm in 1977. She was Legal Counsel in 1985-87; named Outstanding OFDW Member in 1988 and Parliamentarian again in 91-93. She served as President of the Tennessee Federation and on the DNC as Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Tennessee. She was a partner in a Maryville law firm which included her husband, Frank. She taught law, government, and foreign relations at Maryville College and University of Tennessee. She served on the Tennessee Human Relations Commission and was Vice Chair of the Tennessee Advisory Committee to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission. She served on the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Advisory Committee which advised on LAF grants to pursue sex discrimination cases. Frank established the Agnes Bird Internship Award in her memory in 1994 and the first Award, for \$1,000, was given in Portland, Oregon, in 1995, to Jennifer Grondahl, KS.

The criteria for the Agnes Bird Internship Award are the same as the Founder's Internship Award, but the internship is for two weeks in the State Party office or a Congressional District office and is arranged by the State Democratic Federation. It is not necessary for the winner of this Award to be present at the Awards luncheon, but the check is issued for the stipend to the State President of the winner at the annual convention.

Rilla Moran Woods Internship Award

1978 Patricia Bunner, WV
1979
1980
1981
1982 Cathy Reiger, NC
1983 3 way tie winners given \$200 each: Karen Stratton, Spokane, WA; 2 others
1984 Sherrille Diane Bailey, FL
1985 Theresa Mulligan, WA
1986 Alexandra L. E. Ryan, TN
1987 Esther Watkins, TN
1988 Natalie Lile, KY
1989 Julie E. Mitrovich, TN
1990 Angela Uherbebeau, Ashland, OR
1991 Christina Stack, MO
1992 Jennifer Johnson, KS
1993 Jeanne Bruland, Medford, OR
1994 Anne Catherine Barkus, KS
1995 Toby Allison, TN
1996 Margaret Keating, KS
1997 Rachel Exposito, NC
1998 Kelli Green, Detroit, MI
1999 Brooke Densmore, Medford, OR
2000 Stacie Harder, IN
2001 Rebekah Cook, Portland, OR
2002 Tonya Fulkerson, LA
2003 Breanna Miller, KS
2004 Courtney Jennifer Warner, Baker City, OR
2005 Anna York, TN
2006 Kayleen Seymore, KS
2007 Terra Gearhardt, NM
2008 Shannon Clark, FL
2009 Annabel Osburn, KS
2010 Sarah Prince, AR
2011 Caitlin Doornbos, KS

Agnes Thornton Bird Internship Award

1995 Jennifer Grondahl, KS
1996 Amy Lynch, East Hartford, CT
1997 Amy Lynn Cunningham, IN
1998 Wendy Jane Moore, FL, 1066 N. W. 7th Pl., Coral Springs, FL 33071
1999 Nicole Stockdale, KS
2000 Hayley Rumback, KS
2001 Erin Dorshorst, Springfield, MO
2002 Nicole Lefor, Beaverton, OR
2003 Anne Ultican, Springfield, MO
2004 Sarah Tilleman, Ft. Collins, CO
2005 Katherine Kuhl, MO
2006 Angela Perkey, TN
2007 no winner
2008 Monica Gomez, NM
2009 No winner
2010 Lauren Grogan, FL
2011 Jana Musleh, MI