



## **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	Breaunna 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	Annnabel Osburn, KS
2010	Sarah Prince, AR

### **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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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