



Communicator

APRIL 2023



"The Tennessee 3" (L-R): TN Rep. Justin Jones, TN Rep. Gloria Johnson, TN Rep. Justin Pearson
Photo Credit: ABC News

ACTION ALERT



DEMOCRATS

Lower costs for working families

Strengthen Social Security & Medicare

Protect reproductive rights



REPUBLICANS

Raise taxes on working families

Cut Social Security and Medicare

Ban abortion nationally

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LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Gail Buckner



Greetings National Federation of Democratic Women,

It is true, March comes in like a lamb and leaves like a lion.

These few months into 2023 have been very busy, and NFDW's Committees have once again risen to the occasion. Leading the way is the Louisiana Federation of Democratic Women's "Staying True to Blue" 52nd Annual Meeting scheduled for June 8, 9, and 10. LFDW has dynamic plans, and you don't want to miss this meeting. Don't let the rooms sell out before you make your reservation. Send LFDW your meeting registration and call the New Orleans Hilton Riverside to book your rooms TODAY by following the link you will find in this newsletter.

This term, NFDW's Legislative Committee and Political Education and Training Committee collaborated on a variety of projects. The Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Campaign has been rolled out by our ERA Subcommittee and I can't say enough about the great work by those leaders: Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Diane Lechner and Debbie Hogue Downing, ERA Chair Marena Groll, and members Roxanna Murray, Patricia Farley, Linda Stover, Audrey Dempsey, Shari Temple, Jeri Burton, and Committee Advisor Gini Ballou. Lovie West and Patricia Farley, Co-Chairs of the Political Education and Training Committee, were on board, as well as Communication Team Chair Monica Readus and Mary K. When you review the Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Campaign, you will see the great work that can be achieved when our members work together!

We must also thank R. Denise Everson, Monica Readus, Lovie West, and Patricia Farley for the great Technology Training they presented. Also, I hope you attended the 2023 Women In Blue conducted by Co-Chairs Hazel Thomas, Christine Pelosi, and the WIB Committee. It was another stellar presentation.

As President of NFDW, I have served on the DNC Executive Committee. I've included some highlights from the DNC Winter Meeting in Philadelphia. My DNC Winter Meeting highlights follow on pg. 5 and the report I contributed to with the Democratic Party of Georgia can be accessed through the link below:

[CLICK HERE](#)

As your President, my April schedule is filled with meetings and presentations around the country. I'm looking forward to being with the Kansas Federation of Democratic Women and the Democratic Women's Clubs of Florida for in-person meetings, and I'll be joining the Zoom Meeting of the Bell County Texas Democratic Women. I had the great experience of virtually attending the Nevada Federation's Kickoff to Women in Blue. As always, call me if you need me.

In closing, I will reiterate my favorite quote from the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "*Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.*"

Best Regards,

Gail Buckner

"It takes a monster to kill children. But to watch monsters kill children again and again and do nothing isn't just insanity—it's inhumanity."

- AMANDA GORMAN,
Poet

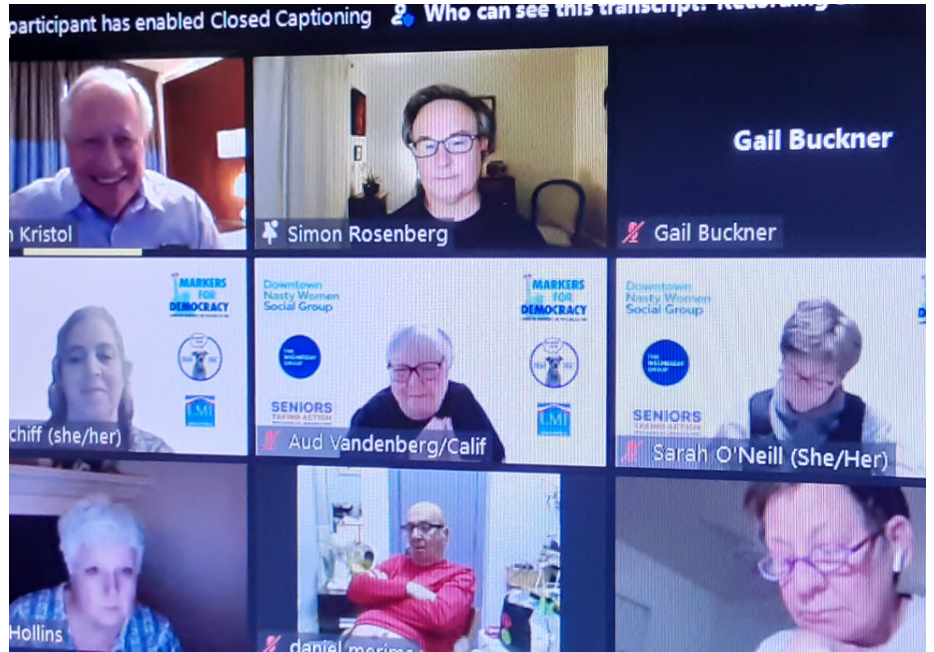


RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

By Gail Buckner



U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) with NFDW President Buckner



President Buckner participating in a Markers for Democracy program with Bill Kristol



President Buckner with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and Laura Whitaker at the Woman's National Democratic Club's Congressional Reception



NFDW Women in Blue Co-Chair, Hazel Thomas, with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi at the Woman's National Democratic Club's Congressional Reception

DNC WINTER MEETING RECAP

2023 DNC Report can be accessed through the link to the right:

[CLICK HERE](#)

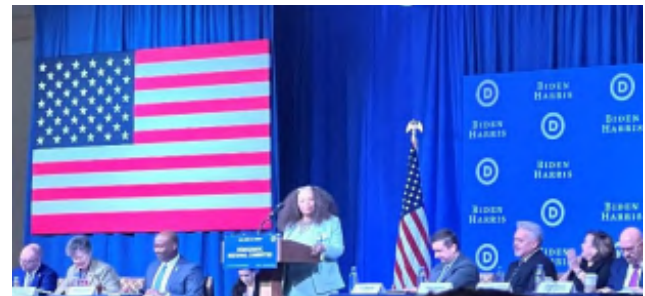
Overview

The Democratic National Committee met in Philadelphia, on February 2-4, 2023, for its Annual winter meeting. With over 1,000 DNC members, state party leaders, donors, press, and guests in attendance, the 3-day meeting was headlined Thursday night by a visit from President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi. The Regional Caucuses and the Constituency Caucuses and Councils held their meetings on Friday to discuss ways to energize within their communities as we gear up for the Presidential election in 2024.

At the Saturday General Session, DNC delegates approved the recommendations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee to reshuffle the Presidential Primary Calendar to allow South Carolina to hold the first primary on February 3, followed by New Hampshire, and Nevada to be more in line with our democratic demographics and expands the number of voices for our diverse communities.



DNC Chair, Jamie Harrison, presenting the inaugural DNC Leadership Award to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi



DNC Black Caucus Chair, Virgie Rollins, presented to the 1,000 DNC members, state party leaders, guests, donors and staff at the Saturday general Session.

DNC Black Caucus Breakfast to Celebrate Black History Month

Another great event at the DNC Winter meeting was the Black History Month breakfast sponsored by the DNC Black Caucus. With all seats filled and others standing, a fabulous program was presented that highlighted so many leaders and their accomplishments. As always, Congressman James Clyburn rocked the room with his statesman approach to everything, including when he pinged South Carolina Party Chair Trav Robertson who had walked over to the door, "Trav, are you walking out on my speech? He even calls me Daddy sometimes." The National Federation of Democratic Women were well represented with DNC Black Caucus Chair Virgie Rollins leading the program, Past President Joanne Sullivan, and President Gail Buckner in attendance.



Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) addresses attendees at the Black Caucus Breakfast

DNC WINTER MEETING RECAP

Early Primary States

As you are well aware, President Biden called on the DNC last year to alter the 2024 presidential primary calendar to ensure the early states better reflected the diversity of America and the inclusiveness of our great party. The proposed “early states” calendar would move South Carolina first, followed by Nevada and New Hampshire, then Georgia, followed by Michigan. For any state to move its primary up before March 5th, a waiver is required by the DNC. In December, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee formally approved President Biden’s plan and recommended the DNC grant waivers to each of these five states to allow them to set their primaries ahead of the regular window. This past Saturday, the DNC formally ratified the recommendations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee, providing waivers to each of these five states, allowing them to move their primary elections up in the cycle if they meet the conditional requirements set by the DNC.

Of these early states, South Carolina, Nevada, and Michigan has already met the conditions required by the waiver. Saturday’s vote by the DNC extended the deadline to June 3, 2023, for Georgia and New Hampshire to meet the required conditions of the waiver. Unlike New Hampshire, for Georgia to move our Presidential Preference Primary up does not require a state law change. Our presidential primary dates are set solely by our Secretary of State. Secretary Raffensperger has said publicly that he supports the idea of moving Georgia’s primary earlier, citing Georgia’s “good cross-section of engaged voters from both parties,” but does not want to hold two separate primaries nor set a Georgia election calendar that would jeopardize the awarding of delegates on the Republican side (which the RNC rules—similar to the DNC rules in this regard—demand as a punishment for any state that moves its state primary up in the process without prior ratification by the RNC). Rest assured that we are continuing to engage on this topic with stakeholders across the state to make this happen, so stay tuned for developments.

DNC Rural Council

The Rural Caucus is composed of DNC members from throughout our country. Constant commentary leaned in the same direction: Democrats must meet rural voters where they are. We must talk to them about keeping their schools open, keeping their pharmacies and hospitals open, as well as keeping grocery stores open. They are concerned about water availability, clean water, and so many more critical issues.



President Gail Buckner with Congressman Andy Kim (D-NJ) during the DNC AAPI Caucus meeting.

DNC AAPI Caucus

The AAPI Caucus meeting was a celebration of the great accomplishments of this constituency group. AAPI Americans are the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in our country with 15 million citizens nationwide. They were dedicated to helping Democrats win the midterm (which we know firsthand in Georgia). A talented field organizer was on the ground in Savannah during Senator Warnock’s run-off election.

Entertainment executive and songwriter Tim Huang came down from New York to speak about the importance of AAPI citizens in the arts. This caucus is doing very exciting work!

DNC WINTER MEETING RECAP



NFDW 5th VP, Christine Pelosi; Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi; DNC Member Virgie Rollins



A polling Presentation at the DNC Executive Board meeting by Terrance Woodbury of HIT Strategies on Black Voters: 2022 Midterm Performance



DNC Chair, Jamie Harrison addresses the audience.

Join us for the next DNC Meeting:

October 5-7, 2023 in St. Louis, MO

You do not have to be an elected DNC Member to attend DNC meetings or to participate in DNC caucuses and councils. All Democrats are welcome to attend and can participate in many of the sessions, and DNC caucuses and councils are active throughout the year, not just during DNC meetings.



Photo credit: Al Drago for The New York Times

CALL TO CONVENTION

**Register no later than
MAY 7, 2023**

**National Federation of Democratic Women
52nd Annual Convention
June 8-10, 2023**

**HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE
TWO POYDRAS STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130**



The 2023 National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) Convention Committee is pleased to announce that registration for the 2023 NFDW 52nd Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana is now open. State Federations are encouraged to register early!

Click the links below for all Convention Details:

[NFDW 52nd Annual Convention Packet](#)

[NFDW 52nd Annual Convention Sponsorship Packet](#)

NOMINATING REPORT

by Virgie M. Rollins
Nominating Committee Chair



I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their willingness to participate in this process and for their thoughtful deliberation of each candidate's qualifications. It's an important task of NFDW to do the best to nominate good leaders to lead. All members and alternates were provided with the candidates' resumes and supporting documents.

The members of the Nominating Committee are Eastern Region: Denise Murphy McGraw, Hazel Thomas, and Alternate Dolores Williams; Midwestern Region: Virgie M. Rollins, Kim Savage, and Alternate Jana Lewis Harkins; Southern Region: Betty Ward Cooper, Telise Ezell-Turner, and Alternate Meri Fortenamuj; Western Region: Mary Kuehler, Susan Herring, and Alternate Ellen Spiegel. The board representative was Wanda Bynum Ashley. These ladies are the best!

According to the NFDW Bylaws, there can be no more than two members from each region on the NFDW Executive Board. All terms are 2-year terms and positions are limited to one term. I wish to thank everyone who took the time to apply to serve on the Board.

The 2023 NFDW Nominating Committee is proud to present the slate of approved candidates for the 2023-2025 term of office.

2023 SLATE

PRESIDENT

BARBARA FAISON

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

GINI BALLOU

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

DEBBIE THOMPSON

3RD VICE PRESIDENT

CHRISTINE PELOSI

4TH VICE PRESIDENT

LOVIE WEST

5TH VICE PRESIDENT

DIANE LECHNER

RECORDING SECRETARY

DOROTHY ADAMS

TREASURER

VACANT



PRESIDENT - BARBARA FAISON

Barbara Faison (South) wears many hats, and being a community and political activist is one. She has always belonged to something or been busy doing something in the community. She is a former teacher who is active in Democratic politics on the local, county, state, and national level.

On the NFDW level, Barbara Faison has been an active member since 2000. She currently serves as the 2nd Vice President and served as the Southern Regional Director from 2017 to 2021. She has served on several committees including Bylaws, Growth & Development, Nominations, and chair of the Awards Committee. She has attended every national convention since 2000.

She served as the President of the North Carolina Federation of Democratic Women (NCDW) from 2006 to 2008. She also held the positions of Historian, Fund Development Chair, Nominating Chair, and Legislative Chair of the North Carolina Federation of Democratic Women and was named as NCDW "The Woman of the Year" in 2019.

In her county of Sampson, North Carolina, she has a history of working with the local Democratic leadership, sharing her ideas, and providing guidance based upon her level of involvement and experience. She has an impressive work ethic, a passion for politics, and a "get the job done" attitude. Barbara looks forward to your support for the position of President and will work tirelessly on your behalf if elected to serve.



1ST VP - GINI BALLOU

Gini Ballou (West) currently serves as the 3rd Vice President, and you might recognize her from our most recent Women in Blue event. Gini served as Program Chair for the NFDW Women in Blue Committee for 2022 and 2023. She also served on the Budget Committee from 2021 to 2023. Her first NFDW Convention was in Tempe, Arizona in 2018 and she has attended Conventions on an annual basis since that time.

Gini currently serves as President of the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus. Additionally, she serves on the Rules & Bylaws Committee of the Idaho Democratic Party. She also was a Sanders State and National Delegate in both 2016 and 2020. She is a former Blaine County Democratic Party chair and served as a Precinct Captain and Committeewoman as well.

She has been an Ambassador/Lobbyist for the Alzheimer's Association in Idaho's Second Congressional District since 2008. She served as Chair of the City of Hailey's Planning & Zoning Commission from 1994 to 1998. She can be found on the golf course or the dance floor when she is not working.

She looks to continue the education and engagement of women around the country, though especially those in our dark red states. Her proven leadership ability, dedication, and positive attitude are all qualities that she will bring to her service on the Board. She looks forward to your support for the position of 1st Vice President.



2ND VP - DEBBIE THOMPSON

Debi Thompson (Midwest)'s dedication to the Federation of Democratic Women and the Democratic Party has taken many forms and she has devoted her life to activism. She generously uses her time, talent, and treasure to elect Democratic candidates (especially women candidates and causes).

Her NFDW service includes 4th Vice President from 2021 to 2023, Treasurer from 2019 to 2021, Midwest Regional Director from 2013 to 2017, Audit Committee Chair from 2018 to 2019, and member of various other committees in the last 10 years. She has also attended 16 prior National Conventions and served as Convention Chair in 2022 and 2023.

Her Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women service includes being President from 2007 to 2010 and Treasurer from 2017 to 2019. Her service with the Oklahoma Democratic Party has been as CD3 Chair from 2015 to 2019 and CD3 Vice Chair from 2011 to 2015. She has served as an alternate member of the Oklahoma state election board from 2017 to 2023 and as a Member of the Professional Responsibility Commission from 2016 to 2012.

Ms. Thompson's career has been in insurance where she worked as an accountant and agent for 37 years. She opened her insurance agency in 1983 and has over 2000 policyholders. She is a proud Democrat and is an outstanding representative of our Democratic Party values in her community endeavors. She appreciates your support and requests your consideration to vote for her to serve in the position of 2nd Vice President of the National Federation of Democratic Women.



3RD VP - CHRISTINE PELOSI

Christine Pelosi (West) is an attorney, author, and advocate who has a lifetime of grassroots organizing and public policy experience. She started her volunteerism as a young child in a stroller and never stopped. She has a proven record of training volunteers and activists from across the country in her efforts to get more women leaders elected to public office.

She currently serves as the 5th Vice President and was a member of the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee. Her current role as Co-Chair of the Women in Blue Committee has empowered Democratic women, and she campaigned with many of our sisters in service to elect Democrats and advanced our message on social and broadcast media.

During the ten years that she served as the President of the California Democratic Party's Women's Caucus, she attended and addressed several Regional Meetings and National Conventions. She also traveled throughout California to meet with groups both large and small in an effort to lift up women and the voices of under-served communities. She also serves as a Democratic National Committee member from California.

As we begin President Biden's 2024 re-election campaign, she wants to continue defending our rights and electing more female and feminist Democrats. She has shown time and time again that she is committed to all of the Democratic values that we cherish by lending her time, talent, and expertise to our organization. Please join us in supporting her nomination to be the next 3rd Vice President.



4TH VP - LOVIE WEST

Lovie West (South) is known as a force to be reckoned with in her state of Mississippi. She is an effective leader who leads by example with a clear purpose to inspire others in reaching organizational vision and goals. She does not ask people to do things that she would not do herself.

Her NFDW experience includes serving as the Co-Chair of the Political Education from 2021 to 2023, serving on the Nominating Committee from 2019 to 2021 and on the Resolutions Committee. She has attended 3 NFDW Conventions as required by our Bylaws.

She has been the President of the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women since October of 2011. Her presidency has seen membership almost double and the installation of four new clubs. She also helped launch the Mary Katherine Brown Leadership Institute with a focus on providing membership and political training. Her experience also includes being the founding President of the DeSoto-Marshall County Federation of Democratic Women.

On a social organizational level, she has served in many leadership roles with organizations such as the Democratic Party, Urban League, NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., and the Kennedy Center. Her career background has primarily been in the hospitality industry with Marriott Hotels, where she managed 17 hotels! She committed to share her skills and talents to the best of her ability. She asks for your support to elect her as the next 4th Vice President.



5TH VP - DIANE LECHNER

Diane Lechner (East) is a dynamic, innovative and collaborative leader with 10+ years of political experience, skilled in organizational development, issue advocacy and volunteer management. She is a strong advocate for public policies that advance racial, gender and socioeconomic equality.

She has served as Co-Chair/Tri-Chair of the NFDW Legislative Committee since 2022. She helped develop a "Social Media Toolkit" for the ERA Subcommittee Centennial Commemoration Program. She also helped oversee the composition and roll-out of position papers in 2022 prior to Women in Blue. She has attended every Convention since 2019 held in Albany, New York.

She has been serving as the President of the New York State Federation of Democratic Women for the past three and a half years. She significantly increased membership by adding several county chapters and many new individual members to the roster. She also developed an educational program called "Lunch and Learn with the NYSFDW". Finally, she more than doubled the state federation's available funds through increased fundraising efforts.

Simply stated, she is the best of what it means to be a female Democratic Party leader. She supports others (especially women), encourages young leaders and amplifies the voices of those who might not always be heard. She is asking for your support to be the next 5th Vice President.



**RECORDING SECRETARY
DOROTHY ADAMS**

Dorothy Adams (Midwest) is the "go to" person to get any kind of event up and going. She is a great communicator with deep commitment to the NFDW, possessing good personal qualities which make her admirable. She lights up a room with her love and affection towards all Democrats, a quality unmatched.

Her NFDW experience includes serving as the Midwestern Regional Director from 2017 to 2021. She currently serves as the Corresponding Secretary for the Executive Board. She also serves as the NFDW PAC Assistant Treasurer. She has attended every convention since 2013 where she got "hooked" in her words on the amount of enthusiasm and friendship the attendees offered. She also received our Outstanding Member of the Year Award in 2018.

She currently serves as the Vice President of the Missouri Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs. She previously served as Parliamentarian. She is President of the 8th District Democratic Women's Club as well as President of the Dunklin County Democratic Women. She also serves as the Missouri Democratic Party's State Committeewoman representing the 25th Senatorial District.

She is organized, proactive and will bring much expertise to our Executive Board. She has an excellent work ethic and when she makes a commitment, she is true to that commitment and will finish the task. She is asking for your support and consideration to be our next Secretary.



The position of Treasurer is now open. We are asking any candidate from the following federations in the **Eastern Region who meets the requirements to apply: New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia and Women's National Democratic Club.**

The duties of the Treasurer per Bylaws are: Shall cosign all checks with the President or other authorized persons. No less than thirty (30) days prior to the close of the fiscal year, the Treasurer shall send bills for the next fiscal year's dues; she shall collect the same and notify the President and the Executive Board of states in arrears. She shall pay all bills, which have been approved by the President or the Executive Board. She shall submit to the Executive Board a quarterly statement of all receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer shall furnish a surety bond, which shall meet the requirements specified by the Executive Board. The bond premium shall be paid by the NFDW. The Treasurer's books shall be audited at the end of each fiscal year by an Audit Committee consisting of three members, each from a different state, to be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

The requirements per Bylaws are: a nominee must have been a Federation member in the state in which she resides for no less than two (2) years and have participated in at least three (3) previous conventions in addition to the one where the election of officers is held.

You need to submit the documentation as listed on page 14 in the NFDW Policy and Procedures Handbook, which can be found on our website.

Resumes and additional supporting documents should be submitted to the President by:

June 1, 2023

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS



Corinne W. Anderson (MS)

Chair



Norma Lester (TN)

Co-Chair

Bylaws Committee

Meri Forte-Namuj (FL)

Inez James (OH)

Linda Jefferson (DC)

Gini Sims Johnson (TN)

Diane Lechner (NY)

Constance Smith-Burwell (TN)

Melissa Watson (SC)

Sandra Shaw (LA)

Margaret Weinberger (NJ)

Norma Welling (OH)

Alice Geoghegan (NJ)



For Review at the 2023 National Convention

NFDW CURRENT BYLAW	Proposed Change	Proposer and Rationale
<p>ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS</p> <p>Sec. 1. The officers of the NFDW shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers, together with such duties as shall be prescribed by the Bylaws or the Executive Board including the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: Shall have general supervision over the affairs of the NFDW. She shall appoint the Parliamentarian and Corresponding Secretary. She shall assign all check with the Treasurer or other authorized person • First Vice-President... • Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Vice President... • Recording Secretary... • Regional Directors... <p>Sec 3- The Executive Board shall be the administrative body of the NFDW and shall have the power and authority to do and perform all acts and perform that are not inconsistent with these bylaws.</p> <p>(COMMITTEE'S NOTE TO PROPOSER: This wording is not in Article V. Section 3.)</p>	<p>ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS</p> <p>Sec. 1. The officers of the NFDW shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers, together with such duties as shall be prescribed by the Bylaws or the Executive Board including the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President : Shall have general supervision over the affairs of the NFDW. She shall appoint the Parliamentarian and Corresponding Secretary and Financial Secretary. She shall assign all checks with the Treasurer or other authorized person. • Proposed Change: (Add after Recording Secretary and before Regional Directors) Financial Secretary The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for receiving all NFDW funds and transferring said income to the Treasurer via transmittal form <p>BYLAWS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>CHANGE RECOMMENDED</p>	<p>Monica Readus, President, Democratic Women's Club of Florida</p> <p>(1). Keeping the financial records of this national organization is an extensive and meticulous responsibility. NFDW's elected Treasurer greatly needs and has asked for the help of a Financial Secretary. There are NFDW state federations that have the position of Financial Secretary. NFDW's PAC has an Assistant Treasurer and NFDW needs an Assistant Treasurer, as well. (2). Finding candidates for Treasurer sometimes can be challenging; adding the financial Secretary position will provide support for the Treasurer and create a succession plan for future financial officers. (3). The Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) used by corporate America and the federal government, recommends separation of financial duties. Definition: no one person has sole control over the entire financial processing of funds (initiate, record, authorize, and reconcile a transaction). The separation of duties assures that mistakes, intentional or unintentional, cannot be made without being discovered by another person... page 1 of 5</p> <p>Bylaws Amendments 2023- for Review at Convention 4/2/2023</p>

For Review at the 2023 National Convention

<p>NFDW Current Bylaw:</p> <p>ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS (continued)</p> <p>Sec. 1 The officers of the NFDW shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers, together with such duties as shall be prescribed by the Bylaws or the Executive Board including the following responsibilities: [see previous page for the listing of the other officers' titles , page 1]</p> <hr/> <p>(Article V)</p> <p>Sec. 3 Appointed Officers shall be named no later than the first quarterly Executive Board Meeting. Any national board member not fulfilling duties as described for the office and/or who has exceeded absences as defined and described (see: <i>NFDW Policies and Procedures Handbook</i>) shall be considered as having vacated her office. The process for appeal and for filling the vacancy will proceed as described in the <i>NFDW Policies and Procedures Handbook</i>.</p> <p>NFDW Current Bylaws Article VI: Executive Board</p>	<p>Proposed change:</p> <p>ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS (continued)</p> <p>Sec. 1 The officers of the NFDW shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers, together with such duties as shall be prescribed by the Bylaws or the Executive Board including the following responsibilities: (NOTE: see previous listing of the other officers' titles, pg.1) Sergeant-at-Arms: Shall have the responsibility to advise any member when they need to abide by NFDW's Bylaws.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>BYLAWS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>CHANGE NOT RECOMMENDED</p> <hr/> <p>Proposed Change</p> <p>Sec 3 Appointed Officers shall be named no later than the first quarterly Executive Board Meeting. Any national board member not fulfilling duties as described for the office and/or who has exceeded absences as defined and described (see: <i>NFDW Policies and Procedures Handbook</i>) shall be considered as having vacated her office. The process for appeal and for filling the vacancy will proceed as described in the <i>NFDW Policies and Procedures Handbook</i>. Appointed Officers shall be appointed for one year. The President may reappoint or change any appointed officer after one year.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>BYLAWS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>CHANGE RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Proposed Change Article VI: Executive Board</p>	<p>Proposer and Rationale:</p> <p>Gail Buckner (GA) NFDW President</p> <p>Rationale: NFDW's Executive Board conducts numerous discussions about issues impacting NFDW and the projects that are proposed to keep the organization strong and moving forward. There are times when a Sergeant-at-Arms is needed to remind individuals (of) the mandates of our Bylaws.</p> <hr/> <p>Article V.</p> <p>Gail Buckner : Section 3 : RATIONALE</p> <p>Appointed positions are the President's decision. These individuals should be readily available to work with the President in a manner that strengthens the teamwork of the Executive Board. Elected positions are specified in the Bylaws for two years. Our founders did not specify a specific term for appointed positions because they understood these positions are the President's appointment and these individuals serve at the pleasure of the President.</p>	<p>page 2 of 5</p> <p>Bylaws Amendments 2023- for Review at Convention 4/2/2023</p> <p>Proposer and Rationale</p>
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For Review at the 2023 National Convention

<p>Sec. 6 If necessary, the Executive Board may meet by conference call; via telephone. Votes taken by telephone, email or virtually shall be as valid as votes taken in person, except in cases where a signed ballot is a requirement. (See Art. VIII, Sec. 9c.) Signed ballots may be completed on a secure ballot system.</p> <p>Article IX: COMMITTEES</p> <p>Standing and Special Committees shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Board. Standing Committee Chairs shall be appointed for one (1) year. Reappointment shall be at the option of the President with the consent of the Board.</p> <p>Sec. 1. The organization shall have the following Standing Committees:</p> <p>(a) Bylaws... (b) Legislative ... (c) Budget... (d) Finance... (e) Resolutions... (f) History... (g) Public Relations: Shall consist of four (4) members, one from each region, who shall be responsible for the submission of accurate information concerning their region for the web site as well as the Communicator newsletter and sending it to the webmaster for posting. Members shall be appointed by the President for a term of two (2) years that shall coincide with the election of officers.</p> <p>(h) Audit...</p> <p>NFDW CURRENT BYLAW</p> <p>Article IX: COMMITTEES</p>	<p>Sec. 6 If necessary , the Executive Board may meet by conference call; via telephone. Votes taken by telephone , email or virtually (via an internet-based video service such as Zoom) shall be as valid as votes taken in person, except in cases where a signed ballot is a requirement. (See Art. VIII, Sec. 9c.) Signed ballots may be completed on a secure system ballot.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>BYLAW'S COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>CHANGE RECOMMENDED</p> <p>ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES</p> <p>Sec. 1. The organization shall have the following Standing Committees: (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) Public Relations</p> <p>CHANGE to (h) Communications : Shall consist of a total of eight (8) members. Members, two from each region, shall be appointed by the President for a term of two (2) years that shall coincide with the election of officers. The committee shall be responsible for the creation and distribution of the Communicator newsletter, monitoring of the NFDW social media channels, distribution of action alerts and other relevant information from the President to the general membership. The committee shall also be responsible for maintaining and updating the NFDW's website as needed per request of the President.</p> <p>(SEE NEXT PAGE)</p> <p>PROPOSED CHANGE (continued)</p> <p>Article IX: COMMITTEES</p> <p>ADD:</p> <p>(i) Administrative Documents Committee:</p>	<p>Audrey Dempsey (NV) Nevada Board of Directors, Gimi Ballou, (ID), Monica Readus (FL), Carin Chase (MA), Carolyn Fowler (CA), Gwen Collins Greenup (LA)</p> <hr/> <p>Proposer and Rationale</p> <p>Mary Kuehler , Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus Vice President :</p> <p>The public relations committee is more than just PR and is typically called the communications committee. The committee has a lot of responsibility and just 4 people (1 from each region) is no longer sufficient to meet the needs of the NFDW. The purpose of the committee is no longer just the Communicator as described in the current bylaws is no longer accurate and <u>should be more generalized as a result.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 3 of 5 Bylaws Amendments 2023- for Review at Convention 4/2/2023</p> <p>PROPOSER/RATIONALE</p> <p>Proposer: Margaret Weinberger (NJ)</p>
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For Review at the 2023 National Convention

<p>Standing and Special Committees shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Board. Standing Committee Chairs shall be appointed for one (1) year. Reappointment shall be at the option of the President with the consent of the Board.</p> <p>Sec. 1. The organization shall have the following Standing Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Bylaws... (b) Legislative ... (c) Budget... d) Finance... (e) Resolutions... (f) History... (g) Public Relations: Shall consist of four (4) members, one from each region who shall be responsible for the submission of accurate information concerning their region for the web site as well as the Communicator newsletter and sending it to the webmaster for posting. Members shall be appointed by the President for a term of two (2) years that shall coincide with the election of officers. (i) Audit... <p>NFDW CURRENT BYLAW ARTICLE VII: Meetings</p>	<p>The Administrative Documents Committee shall review and update NFDW's major documents including, but not limited to (1) The Policy and Procedures Handbook, and (2) a Handbook to guide new state presidents that includes other documents as deemed needed by the President and Executive Committee. At least two members from each region shall be appointed to the committee. The committee may recommend adding new sections to all documents with Executive Board approval.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>BYLAWS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION CHANGE RECOMMENDED</p> <p>(g) Change "Public Relations Committee to Communications ADD:</p> <p>(j) Administrative Documents Committee</p> <p>PROPOSED CHANGE ARTICLE VII: Meetings Sec. 1 The Annual Meeting of the NFDW shall be held between April 1st and June 30th. States are asked to bid for the annual meeting and work collaboratively with</p>	<p>Rationale: Currently, NFDW's Policy and Procedures Handbook is only updated at the end of each administration, which means only every two years. There should be other documents available from NFDW to help encourage our organization. New presidents need a handbook that will guide and help them understand their responsibilities and how their federation relates to the s have been asking for a tri fold brochure to help recruit new members. Documents that are current and updated in a timely fashion are critical to the ongoing development and success of any organization, including NFDW. These documents need a diversity of input and ideas. NFDW's documents must be up to date and quickly edited when needed.</p> <p>page 4 of 5 Bylaws Amendments 2023- for Review at Convention 4/2/2023</p> <p>PROPOSER AND RATIONALE Audrey Dempsey (NV); Nevada Board of Directors, Gini Bailou (ID), Monica Reardon (FL), Carin Chase (MS), Carolyn Fowler (CA), Gwen Collins (Group)(LA)</p>
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For Review at the 2023 National Convention

<p>Sec. 1 The Annual Meeting of the NFDW shall be held between April 1st and June 30th. States are asked to bid for the annual meeting and work collaboratively with the Executive Board to plan and conduct the aforementioned meeting. In bidding and/or hosting the Annual Meeting of the NFDW, the host state shall follow the guidelines as outlined in the NFDW Convention Guidelines. The time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the Executive Board and announced at least six (6) months (October 1st – January 31st) before the date so fixed.</p>	<p>the Executive Board to plan and conduct the aforementioned meeting. In bidding and/or hosting the Annual Meeting of the NFDW, the host state shall follow the guidelines as outlined in the NFDW Convention Guidelines. The time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the Executive Board and announced at least six (6) months (October 1st – January 31st) before the date so fixed.</p> <p>Change/ADD: The host state for the National Convention shall be entitled to a 50/50 split of the net proceeds with NFDW.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>BYLAWS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>Note 1: The Rationale mentions "Rules page 81"; there is no such "Rules" subheading; however, there is NFDW Policy and Procedures Manual, p.81, which states "The NFDW convention is not considered to be a fundraiser for the host state and the convention is expected to be self-sustaining."</p> <p>NO BYLAW CHANGE RECOMMENDED at this time. The committee views this as a POLICY Change and refers this proposal/change/addition back to the Executive Board for a discussion with the State Presidents.</p>	<p>Rules page 81 : The convention MUST be self-sustaining and all costs over budget must be paid by the host state. The NFDW Convention is not considered a fundraiser for the host state. Therefore, all monies raised from the convention go directly back to the NFDW.</p> <p>Rationale: In order to encourage states to agree to host the National Convention and undertake the enormous amount of work involved, there should be an incentive for that state by sharing in any profit with NFDW.</p>
<p>Bylaws Amendments 2023- for Review at Convention 4/2/2023</p> <p>Page 5 of 5</p>		

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Timeline for Resolutions Submission:

- Any time between April 1st through May 10th – resolutions must be submitted to the Chairs of the Resolutions Committee by to comply with lead time before the Annual Meeting in June.
- All submissions will be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee for review and editing suggestions;
- Substantive edits will be sent back to the original submitter;
- **May 10th – deadline for submission of all revisions or amendments.**
- Final drafts will be shared with all club presidents.
- The Resolutions Committee shall present all resolutions for a vote of approval at the Annual Meeting in June 2023.
- Resolutions from the floor will be accepted only for an emergent issue and must be signed by at least ten (10) delegates representing at least five (5) states.

Required Resolutions Format:

- Resolutions should be short and to the point, addressing only one concern, should contain no more than three statements beginning with "Whereas," and should make only one recommendation as an action statement beginning with "Resolved."
- The resolve should require action that is of national importance that can be accomplished. There should be only one issue in a resolution. If more than one is needed, a separate resolution should address that issue.
- These requirements are consistent with the DNC resolutions format and platform as approved NFDW resolutions are submitted to the DNC for consideration.

The total number of resolutions that are statements of principles is limited to seven (7) each year; commemorative or honorary resolutions may also be accepted. Each year, NFDW's adopted resolutions are filed with the Library of Congress, forwarded to the DNC, published in the Federation newsletter, and posted to the NFDW website.

Resolutions should be sent electronically to these email addresses:

dmurphymcgraw@hgmlobby.com

cesrosales@gmail.com

File Format: Easily editable electronic document (e.g. Word doc, No PDFs)

Suggested font: Verdana or Calibri or Tahoma

Suggested font size: 12 pt

If you have any questions, please call Co-Chairs

Ces Rosales (415)994-5101

Denise Murphy McGraw (518)463-5449

or NFDW President Gail Buckner (912)445-0230

Resolutions will be accepted starting April 1, 2023
Final Submission Deadline: May 1, 2023

ARKANSAS UPDATES

By Gracie Ziegler
President

Arkansas Under Attack

Arkansans are under attack. With our new governor, Sarah Sanders—yes, the former Press Secretary for the Trump administration—and a Republican supermajority in the state house and senate, laws are being passed with no consideration or discussion from constituents at a record pace.

Our state legislature came together at the beginning of January. In just this short amount of time, legislators passed some of the most egregious legislation in the country.

- Banning trans people from using the bathroom they identify with, and it's now considered a sex crime if they are in a public bathroom and a minor is present.
- The "LEARNS Act" overhauls public schools, making way for vouchers for private and home-schooling that will not be held to the same standards as public schools. Inside that act, they have disguised a one-time teacher pay raise/minimum to hide the fact that long-tenured teachers may never get a raise again.
- They've passed a bill to construct a "monument to the unborn, aborted children of Arkansas" on the Capitol grounds.
- A bill requiring "adult" website operators to verify user's age passed the state house.
- Banning gender-affirming care for trans youth created a dangerous, first-of-its-kind provision that—unlike existing medical malpractice laws—would allow legal action against physicians who violate standards of care.
- A frightening and dangerous bill allows someone who does not live in your community or use your library to bring a claim against a book for almost any reason.
- Right now, there is a bill sailing through that will eliminate Affirmative Action in Arkansas, threatening the funding and the operation of all HBCUs, Black History Museums, and even businesses owned by women and disabled veterans.
- And very recently, the Governor introduced a bill to build more prisons and keep people incarcerated longer. Arkansas already has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world.

We have also had a few wins at the county and state levels. As an organization, we are proud of our small but mighty Democratic caucus that shows up every day and never quits fighting.

A pro-life county resolution has been voted down!

- JP Esther Dixon (D)—one of three Dems and only two women on the Garland Co Quorum Court of 13, organized preliminary discussions with concerned citizens, invited many to speak, and many more to attend. Those in opposition to the Resolution packed the courtroom! About a dozen people spoke, and only three spoke in favor of the resolution. The Committee voted, and the Resolution was defeated at Committee level 4-3!!! This means it was not to be forwarded to the full court for further review (at least for now!). This is a common "resolution" making its way county to county in Arkansas, looking to proclaim a county pro-life even when there are unhoused people, hungry people, and exponentially growing rates of targeted incarceration and deportation. That's not very "pro-life" in our eyes.
- Representative Ashley Hudson (D) sponsored Act 128, which requires schools to "excuse absences due to conditions related to pregnancy or parenting," including for labor, delivery, recovery, prenatal, and postnatal appointments. This has successfully passed. Unfortunately, this is the type of reactive measures we are having to take to mitigate our wildly strict bans on reproductive healthcare.
- Representative Denise Garner introduced HB1684, which would give an exception for abortion to save the life of a mother. The bill will be assigned to a committee Monday. This is another attempt in this session to help support reproductive healthcare for Arkansans under the current strict bans on abortion.
- Governor Sanders signed House Bill 1315 into law bringing Seizure Safe Schools legislation to 20 states nationwide. Representative Denise Ennett (D) and Senator Linda Chesterfield (D) sponsored this legislation!

ARKANSAS UPDATES



Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Organizational News

AFDW will elect new leadership on Monday, April 24th. We are excited to welcome new and returning leaders to the work!

Congratulations to current AFDW President Gracie Ziegler, who has been elected Vice Chair of Auxiliaries for the Democratic Party of Arkansas. She will help all the aux and caucus groups across the state continue their momentum of voter connection and outreach through strategic communications strategies.

AFDW continues to be a part of a “trifecta of supporting progressive women” in partnership with Emerge Arkansas and PAWPAC! We are able to recruit, train, and financially support women running for school board seats to Senate seats across the state.

Each week we email a “preview” of what to expect in the Legislature and provide specific calls to action so that people can participate in politics and use their voices. While often our calls, emails, letters, texts, protests, and testimonies in hearings fall on ignorant ears, we are confident we are building a strong base for continued active engagement and inspiring women across Arkansas to get involved and run for office!

At the base of it all, our county organizations are doing **HARD WORK** to engage and educate their members to ensure our work will continue.



CALIFORNIA UPDATES

By Carolyn Fowler
State Chair

Many times while traveling the country I am often asked how does California maintain its majority of seats in the state? So I thought it a good time to share our contributions on "How the West was Won". California Women's Caucus has been up to good trouble with many partners like NFDW, Planned Parenthood, Emerge, Close the Gap and the ERA Coalition. The right to control and make decisions about our bodies was fundamental to our freedom and going back was not an option.

We began small, but with member support, we grew to over 1,300 strong and built alliances with key women organizations across the state. Our goal was to bring awareness about Prop 1, provide voter education, and community outreach. So heels off and gloves on, we made our voices heard, organized, mobilized and got out the vote. There was a resounding show of voter support, especially from women!

With Prop 1 codified in our constitution led by Senate pro Tempore, Toni Atkins, Legislative Women's Caucus, and Speaker Anthony Rendon, we can now focus on assisting surrounding states.

We totally understood the importance of keeping the House and the Senate and partnered with Grassroots Headquarters not only in Georgia and Arizona but also with our Masto Mondays that we started in California and then partnered with Nevada. Our Amazing party officers and party staff were all in every step of the way, not to mention NFDW's 5th Vice President Christine Pelosi; Rules, Kristina Dixon, and Resolutions Co-Chair Ces Rosales. Women firsts occur in every area: Congress, State Controller, District Attorneys, Secretary of State, State Senate and Assembly, County Supervisors, School Boards, City Councils, and Mayors. The number of female lawmakers is 50 out of 120, a record, including 8 LGBTQ members. On the state Supreme Court, Patricia Guerrero as Chief Justice is a Latina and appointed Justice Martin Jenkins, is openly gay. Also, (51%) of our judges are women; (59%) are people of color. We have the most diverse leadership team in the nation.

A tribute shout out to our longest-standing Senator celebrating 30 years, Dianne Feinstein, who is ending an iconic 50-year career in public service.

In closing, we are most grateful for Speaker Nancy Pelosi, especially for her passion, unconditional commitment, and enduring dedicated service. Her legacy as the most brilliant Speaker in history and her message of self-empowerment imploring women to know their power have set amazing examples for generations to follow. So, to quote Speaker Pelosi: "We Don't Agonize, We Organize" and that's how the West Was Won from California! Look Out 2024; here we come!

SPRING PHOTO GALLERY CALIFORNIA WOMEN MAKING HISTORY & WOMEN IN BLUE EVENT



CADEM Women's Caucus Executive Board

Carolyn Fowler, Chair; Monica Wilson, Northern Vice-Chair; Tisa Rodriguez, Southern Vice-Chair; Anita Narayana, Corresponding Secretary; Susan Gutowsky, Recording Secretary; Becca Doten, Treasurer; Ces Rosales, Policy Chair; Pratima Gupta, Legislative Chair;

Kristina Dixon, Political Director; Lori Godsey-Anzini, Liaison, Commission on the Status of Women; Crystal Araujo, Bootcamp Chair; Megan Imperial, CYD Liaison

CONNECTICUT UPDATES

By Joyce Petteway
President

The Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women (CFDW) held their annual “Women in Blue Day” in the Private Dining Room of the Legislative Office Building at the State Capitol in Hartford, CT on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, to coincide with Women’s History Month. This was an afternoon reception for our members to celebrate our accomplishments as the “Oldest Federation of Democratic Women” in the country and to network with our State Senators and State Representatives.

Members had the chance to speak with their legislators about issues that directly affect all of us, particularly those that affect women and families. Of great importance to everyone was the issue of early voting. Connecticut is only one of four states that do not have early voting in place, and this is of the utmost importance to our legislators.

House Majority Leader Jason Rojas of East Hartford was able to secure the Private Dining Room for this event, which is traditionally reserved for legislators only. We were fortunate to have Representative Rojas attend the event as well as Speaker of the House, Matt Ritter (Hartford) along with several of our legislators on this very busy day at the Capitol.

It was a wonderful event that certainly drew the attention of many at the capitol with “a sea of blue”!



*Representative Hilda Santiago and
President Joyce Petteway*



CFDW President Joyce Petteway, Speaker Ritter, Past NFDW and CFDW President Joanne Sullivan, Majority Leader Rojas

CONNECTICUT UPDATES



Speaker Ritter with one of our dearest members, Juanita Giles



*CFDW President, Joyce Petteway, and
Past President Joanne Sullivan*



Connecticut Blue!

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA UPDATES

By Vonetta Dumas Jennings
President

WOMEN IN BLUE



On March 15, 2023, the DC Federation of Democratic Women (DCFDW) organized a successful virtual Women in Blue Advocacy Day, engaging the Mayor and the DC City Council in essential conversations surrounding pressing local issues. The Women in Blue Committee, Chaired by Gaby L. Fraser, facilitated rich discussions with Mayor Muriel Bowser and 11 City Council Members. Representatives were sent on behalf of the two Council members who were unable to attend.

The DCFDW provided the Mayor and City Council with a booklet of 17 position papers, addressing a range of topics including election fairness, reducing the fundraising burden on candidates, nurse-to-patient staffing ratios, employment opportunities for black and brown youth, and addressing the increase in gun violence within the District of Columbia. The members of the DCFDW also took the opportunity to discuss strategies for improving relations between cyclists and motor vehicle operators and promoting environmental equity within the city.

The Women in Blue Local Advocacy Day proved to be a well-organized and insightful event, allowing the women of the DCFDW to make their voices heard on critical issues affecting all 8 Wards in the city.



DC Mayor, Muriel Bowser, joined the DCFDW virtually for our annual Women in Blue.

Vivian Wilds was recently honored by the Eleanor Holmes Norton Legacy Scholarship Fund which was chartered in 2018 as an independent 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization established by the DC Federation of Democratic Women.

Vivian has been the Treasurer of the EHNLFF since its inception and was largely responsible for developing the incorporation filing with the local government and the IRS, as well as meticulously maintaining the organization's accounts for five years.

Vivian was recognized for her outstanding service, dedication, and commitment to the organization at the 2023 EHNLFF Awards Program on February 23, 2023.

According to Linda Jefferson, founder of EHNLFF, "We could not have made it without Vivian."

EHNLFF scholarships were presented to three exceptional students studying public policy law at the University of the District of Columbia David Clarke School of Law. The goal of the Fund is to assist in developing the next generation of activists, political leaders and elected officials who embody the passion and commitment to community service as modeled by Congresswoman Norton – "DC's Warrior on the Hill."

For more information about the scholarship fund, visit the www.EHNLFFund.org

VIVIAN WILDS Honored by the Eleanor Holmes Norton Legacy Fund



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA UPDATES

SISTERHOOD IN DEMOCRACY MEET & GREET



DCFDW President Vonetta Dumas Jennings brings greetings

On March 23, 2023, NFDW President Gail Buckner joined Vonetta Dumas Jennings, President of the DC Federation of Democratic Women for the Sisterhood in Democracy Meet and Greet at the historic Whittemore House in N.W. Washington, DC. DCFDW is comprised of the Metropolitan Women's Democratic Club and the DC Democratic Women's Club. The event, hosted by the Women's National Democratic Club, brought the DC Federation of Democratic Women (DCFDW) together with other esteemed clubs and leaders.

The need for on-going collaboration to protect vital rights and advocate for healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability was highlighted. We acknowledge the current political challenges but remain dedicated to empowering women and promoting progressive policies. The event was featured in the Afro newspaper.

American democracy is under attack, and with the Republican House majority, active engagement is crucial. Following the event's success, we'll reconvene on April 11th to strategize toward common goals. We're committed to working together to create a united front for progress and make a significant impact on our communities.



(L-R): R. Denise Everson, President Gail Buckner, Denise Reid, Dorinda White, and Dolly Turner at the Sisterhood in Democracy event; Washington, D.C.

DC LIBRARY NAMED FOR NAMED FOR LILLIAN J. HUFF



Photo Credit: DC Public Library

Lillian J. Huff, founding President of the DC Federation of Democratic Women (DCFDW), was honored on March 18, 2023, at an unveiling ceremony and renaming of the Lamond-Riggs building, now the Lillian J. Huff Library. With the renaming, the Lillian J. Huff Library became only the third library in the District of Columbia to be named in honor of a Black woman. DCFDW members Linda Jefferson, Hazel Thomas, Gwendolyn Johnson, Lyndia Grant, and Vivian Wilds served on the Lillian G. Huff Renaming Committee that advocated for over two years to garner support for the renaming of the new library.

Rilla Moran Woods, NFDW's first president, asked Mrs. Huff to establish a state affiliate in the District of Columbia; the latter worked with C. Dolores Tucker and others to create the DC Federation. Mrs. Huff was one of the first women to co-chair the DC Democratic State (previously the Central) Committee; she also chaired the first Home Rule Constitution Convention, essential to gaining statehood. Mrs. Huff was an activist and community organizer who lobbied Congress to secure funding to build the original Lamond-Riggs Library which opened in 1983.

FLORIDA UPDATES



The Florida Federation has had a busy first quarter in 2023. Our state legislature began committee weeks in January, with the Legislative Session beginning on March 6th. We continue to have members in Tallahassee every week to speak out against the DeSantis Agenda as it plays out in our Capitol. Our members bring snacks and gifts to our legislators and provide support in the meetings as they endeavor to introduce good legislation and stand against heinous bills that are ushered through daily without any consideration.



FLORIDA UPDATES

Regions 8 and 11, along with DWCF state leadership met with Florida's newly elected Democratic Party Chair, Nikki Fried, at the state party office in Tallahassee.



The DWC of Bay County, local League of Women Voters, and community activists chartered a bus to Montgomery, AL for a tour of African American museums in observance of Black History Month. The group had an opportunity to visit the Rosa Parks Museum, Legacy Museum, and National Memorial for Peace and Justice. It was an emotional experience with folks from all walks of life sharing an inspirational and at times extremely dark history of Black people on American soil.



IDAHO UPDATES



By Gini Ballou
President

While the calendar says that spring is here, we still have snow on the ground here in Idaho. We recently held our annual meeting in Boise. We came away from the meeting energized and motivated by the women across our great state. We would like to highlight our 2023 annual award winners. We selected some awesome women who are truly some of the best that our state has to offer.




"Worker
Bee"
Awardee
**Betty Hansen
Richardson**

Our final award is the Dottie Stimpson Award (otherwise known as the "worker bee" award). This year's award winner is Betty Hansen Richardson of Boise, pictured above with nominating member Susan Eastlake. She has been involved in all aspects of government in Idaho and is a dynamic speaker on mobilizing voters. She also is the co-founder of the Facebook page Idaho Women for Biden/Harris, which has more than 10,000 followers.

It is women like our award winners who put in the hard work every day to try to elect Democrats in Idaho. I echo the words of former Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb: "Thank you for standing, resolute, in the face of daunting opposition. Thank you for what you have done, and the incredible work you will do in the future. Thank you for your leadership in bringing opportunity, copious amounts of truth telling and tireless commitment."



Marguerite McLaughlin Awardee **State Senator Janie Ward-Engelking**

The Marguerite McLaughlin Award honors an elected Democratic woman serving in public office in Idaho. This year's award winner is State Senator Janie Ward-Engelking of Boise. She serves as the Minority Caucus Chair in the Senate and is a fierce advocate of public education.



Young Distinguished Woman Awardee **Kaylee Peterson**

This year our Young Distinguished Woman Award received an above average number of nominations. We are proud to announce that this year's award winner is Kaylee Peterson of Eagle. This remarkable young woman, who is the new Idaho Young Democrats President, ran for U.S. Congress last year as a sophomore in college while raising two young children. She plans on running again in 2024 in the 32nd reddest Congressional district in the entire country.

MICHIGAN UPDATES



By Marilyn Conner
Chair

Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus on the Move

Michigan Democratic Women attended the swearing-in of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Michigan State Supreme Court Justices on New Year's Day (winning the Governorship, House, and Senate, and electing the first Black woman to the Superior Court). In addition, we elected our MDWC officers on Saturday, January 21, 2023.

Our Annual State Convention took place on February 11, 2023. We heard from members of Congress, State Legislators (elected the first African-American leader of the House and the first woman leader in the Senate), Local elected officials, and candidates.



Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus Executive Board

Virgie M. Rollins, *Chair Emerita*

Marilyn Conner, *Chair*

Eleanor Carey, *Vice Chair*

Theresa Rich, *Recording Secretary*

Sandra Smith, *Correspondence Secretary*

Clarice Squillace, *Past President*

MISSISSIPPI UPDATES

By Lovie West
President

Women in Blue

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women convened at the Mississippi State Capitol in room 204 to begin our Women in Blue event. There were 39 attendees from Coahoma, Desoto-Marshall, Hancock, Hinds, Humphreys, Jones, Simpson, Warren, and Winston Counties. We were honored to begin our activities with a continental breakfast and a fireside chat from Attorney Ty Pinkins, a member of the Warren County Federation and a candidate for the Senate in 2024. Prior to going to the House Session, we shared talking points for meeting candidates, and Representative Hester Jackson McCray from the Desoto-Marshall County Club recognized us from the House floor.

After returning to our meeting room, Representative Latisha Jackson shared an update on Economic Development and Infrastructure for low tax-based Counties, and Representatives Hester Jackson McCray spoke on the status of funding education. As some of the members were still visiting with their representatives, Representatives Zakiya Summers, Gregory Holloway, William "Bo" Brown, and Chris Bell, as well as Senators Sollie Norwood, David Blount, and Rod Hickman stopped by for a visit and shared updates on active bills.

Tanya Gray, Women in Blue Chair, made reservations at Manship for lunch and an exchange of ideas, feedback, and excitement continued.



MISSISSIPPI UPDATES



Lovie West addresses members at the Capitol.



Members at the State Capitol building



Members at lunch for an exchange of ideas, feedback, and excitement



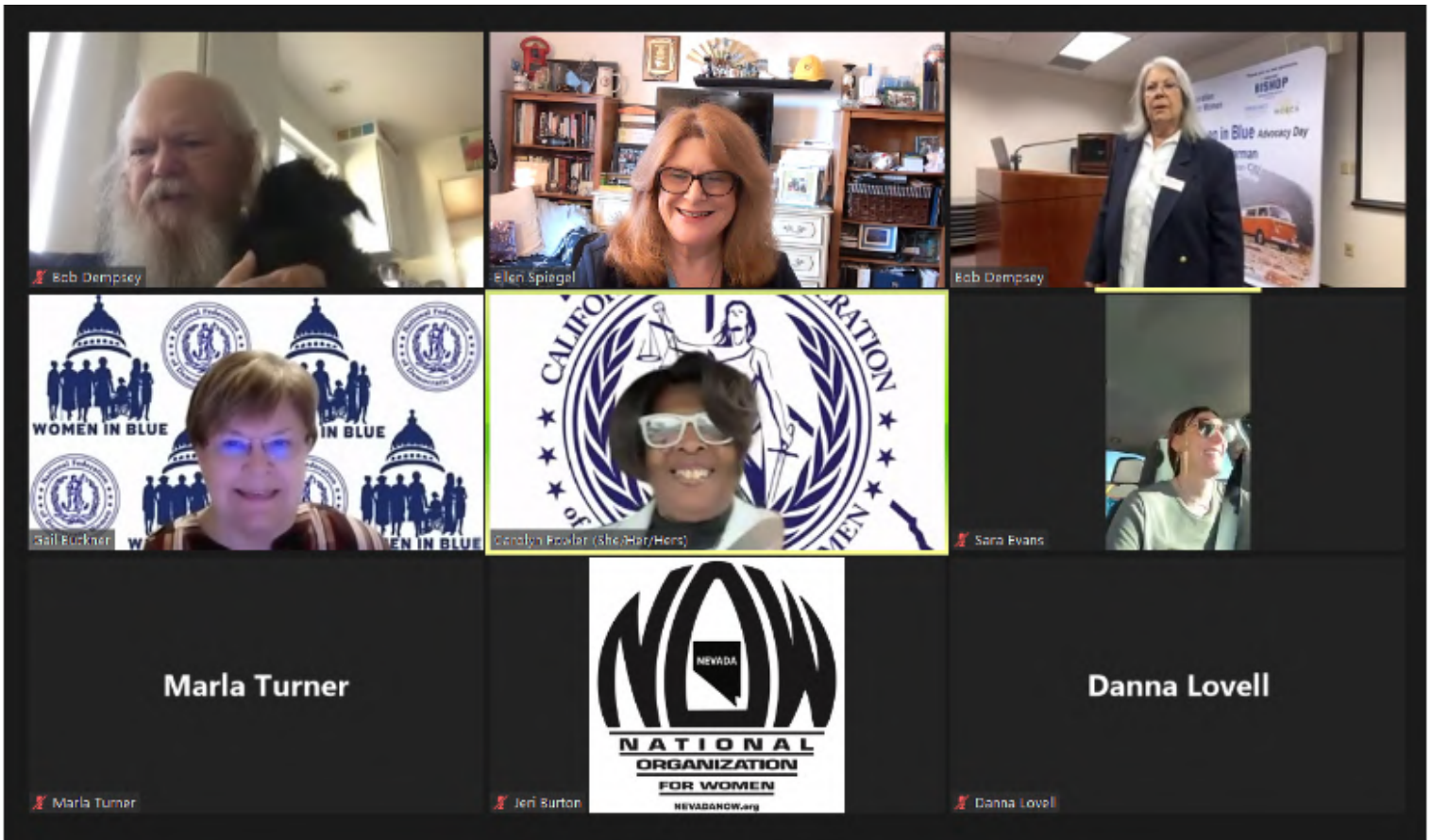
NEVADA UPDATES

By Audrey Dempsey
President



Women in Blue Kickoff

On April 11, 2023, the Nevada Federation of Democratic Women conducted “Women in Blue Kickoff” with a breakfast to honor former Senator Pat Spearman. A “Pinnacle Award” was presented to Sen. Spearman, and a National Federation True Blue Award was also presented. It was a great event!



NEW JERSEY UPDATES



Busy at Work!

January 2023 was an opportunity for the New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women (NJFDW) to support and sign the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

Also, our South Jersey chapters continue to hold women's events. At our Statewide February '23 meeting, we heard from Mayor Jody Veler of Salem City, NJ and NJ Young Democrats President Fatima Heyward.

NJFDW celebrated two major events since the last Communicator! Our Annual Peg Roberts Volunteer Service Award went to Burlington County's own Yeta Markham Phillips. We welcomed Congresswomen Mikie Sherrill and Bonnie Watson Coleman at this event as well! Then, our January 2023 kickoff meeting was held on Saturday, January 7th, 2023. At this inaugural meeting, we inducted our new officers, made our 2023 plans, encouraged members to attend the National Convention, and celebrated lunch on the Delaware River!



Our NJ Burlington County Chapter worked with NJ State Senator Troy Singleton on a "Period Poverty Initiative" in addition to significant DEI legislation.



South Jersey Atlantic and Cape May County are meeting and thriving!

NEW JERSEY UPDATES



Our NJ Burlington County Chapter celebrated a New Year!

NEW YORK UPDATES

By Diane Ferranti-Lechner
President

Growth! Growth! Growth!

The NYSFDW continued on its path of growth and development in the new year with the addition of three new county chapters, two of which are highlighted here. We also resumed our highly successful “Lunch and Learn” series, which has served to educate and engage voters throughout the state.

In January, for the first time in the nearly 250-year history of the New York Senate, we saw the inauguration of a freshmen class of Democratic senators that was composed entirely of women. Among them was the youngest ever elected (Sen. Kristen Gonzalez) and the first Asian woman ever elected (Senator Iwen Chu). Sen. Lea Webb, who hails from Broome County and is the first person of color ever elected to the Senate in her district, was appointed to serve as Chair of the Senate’s Women’s Issues Committee. The NYSFDW later held a Lunch and Learn to celebrate this historic achievement in honor of Women’s History Month.

In February, the Dutchess Democratic Women’s Caucus, led by President Kenya Gadsden, held its annual meeting with keynote speaker Senator Michelle Hinchey of New York’s 41st Senate district. A large part of Dutchess County lies within New York’s newly redrawn 18th Congressional District, now represented by Congressman Pat Ryan. His race was a critical win for House Democrats in the midterm election.



President Amy Kobler, Legislator April Baskin and Erie County Democratic Party Chair Jeremy Zellner with members of the ECFDW



DDWC President Kenya Gadsden with State Senator Michelle Hinchey



David McGraw, Governor Kathy Hochul and NYSFDW 1st VP Denise Murphy-McGraw

NEW YORK UPDATES

In March, the Erie County Federation of Democratic Women, led by President Amy Kobler, gathered for a successful kick-off event in Buffalo where they honored the Chair of the Erie County Legislature, April Baskin. Ms. Baskin was the youngest person and the first freshman to serve in this capacity in the history of the legislature. Many thanks to Erie County Democratic Party Chair Jeremy Zellner for his support!

Later in March, many New Yorkers celebrated St. Patrick's Day by attending parades and other local events. NYSFDW First Vice-President Denise Murphy-McGraw was invited to celebrate at the Executive Mansion with New York's first female Governor, Kathy Hochul. She was greeted by good friend and supported candidate of the NYSFDW, Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado. The NYSFDW stays in regular contact with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on issues impacting women.

Our members are truly happy warriors in the effort to elect Democrats to local, state and federal offices throughout New York and will no doubt be engaged in the effort to take back control of Congress in 2024!



(Pictured left to right): Sen. Fernandez, Sen. Scarcella-Spanton, Sen. Chu, Sen. Webb, Sen. Martinez, Sen. Gonzalez

OKLAHOMA UPDATES

57th Annual OFDWC State Convention

Forced by Covid precautions to cancel their 2020 state convention, followed by two years of virtual conventions, members of the Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs were excited to convene at the Embassy Suites-OKC Airport once again for their 57th Annual OFDWC State Convention, March 24-25, 2023. The convention included the election of officers for 2023-2025 and other business, greetings from Oklahoma's Democratic Party elected officials and party leadership, and plenary sessions designed to Engage! Educate! Empower!

Entrepreneur and business owner, Merrilee Kick, who is the successful CEO and Founder of Buzzballz LLC, inspired convention delegates and guests as the Friday afternoon luncheon keynote speaker. Ms. Kick's topic was "Making a Decent Profit Decently." Ms. Kick is a mom, former classroom teacher, and the only woman to own a combined distillery, winery, and brewery. She is the daughter of OFDWC member Marilyn Alexander of Bryan County FDWC.

NFDW PAC Chair Virgie Rollins, who also serves as DNC Black Caucus Chair, attended both days of Oklahoma's convention and shared a powerful word with the delegates and guests attending on Saturday. Ms. Rollins' powerful message focused on "Making a Difference While Staying True to Yourself." Additionally, Ms. Rollins took the time to mentor several young women who aspire to also "have a seat at the table." Ms. Rollins also administered the oath of office to OFDWC's newly elected officers: President Bettye Rector (CD 1, Tulsa), 1st Vice President Denise Allen (CD 3, Perry), 2nd Vice President Marion Hill (CD 2, Durant), 3rd Vice President Saleema Muhammad (CD 5, OKC), Secretary Debbe Leftwich (CD 3, OKC), Treasurer Karen Gaddis (CD 1, Tulsa), and Affirmative Action Officers Debbie Hogue-Downing (CD 3, OKC) and Carolyn McLemore (CD 3, Enid).



OKLAHOMA UPDATES



2023 Hall of Fame inductees were: Sally Freeman Frasier of Tulsa (posthumously) and Marion Hill, OFDWC 2nd Vice President and prolific author, who resides in Durant, OK and is a member of Bryan County FDWC. In honor of Women's History Month, members in attendance who were previously inducted into the OFDWC Hall of Fame were presented with a commemorative medallion, including our oldest inductees: Loretta Y. Jackson of Chickasha, who was the first African American OFDWC state president, and Mona Mae Waymire, formerly of Carter County FDWC, who is the daughter of Oklahoma's 15th Governor, Raymond Gary.



2023 convention sponsors included Derrick Scobey, Candidate for Oklahoma County Clerk. If elected, Rev. Scobey will be the first African American elected to county-wide office in Oklahoma County and will join Oklahoma County Commissioner District 1 Carrie Blumert as the only two Democrats on the powerful Oklahoma County Budget Board. Other convention sponsors were: NFDW 4th Vice President Debi Thompson, OFDWC Immediate Past President Jana Lewis Harkins, The Chickasaw Nation, Sally's List, Women Involved IN Change (WINC), Garfield County Democratic Party, and Edmond activist Reese Todd.

Our two-day convention was preceded by our inaugural Women In Blue Advocacy Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Thursday, March 23, 2023, where we were greeted warmly and educated by several of our phenomenal Democratic legislators, including Representatives Trish Ranson (Stillwater), Monroe Nichols (Tulsa), Melissa Provenzano (Tulsa), and Oklahoma City State Senators Carri Hicks, Rev. George Young, Sr., and Democratic Leader Kay Floyd.

Thanks to Rep. John Waldron of Tulsa, we had an opportunity to meet Tulsa Public Schools teacher Traci Manuel, who was recently named the 2023 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. Women In Blue participants were in the House Gallery for the debate on the Republican-introduced "Women's Bill of Rights," which is nothing more than an anti-transgender bill. Despite the dissenting, powerful voices of Democratic Representatives Trish Ranson, Mauree Turner, and Jared Deck, the bill overwhelmingly passed.

Shop 'til We Win!



NFDW Rectangular Scarf
\$20.00

Rectangular scarf measures 58" long and 10.5" wide. \$20 per scarf plus \$3.25 for transaction fee and shipping. If order several scarves at once, we will refund amount of shipping fee you paid that is more than it cost us.

Item Number: 64248-Large
Size: 19"W x 14"H x 6"Gusset
FIMprint Area : 9"Wx 6"H



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50th Anniversary Tote Bag
\$25.00

All NFDW members are invited to purchase a bag, but the quantity available is limited, so make your purchase ASAP. The cost of this special bag is \$23 and includes shipping. A \$2 online transaction fee is added to the price making the total \$25.

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