

THE COMMUNICATOR

National Federation of Democratic Women

www.nfdw.com

October 2021 Edition

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President's Message

Democratic Women are living through a riveting challenge to **Roe v Wade.**This morass delivered a **clarion call** to all who cherish democracy and privacy.
Thousands took to the streets during the October 2 Women's March for Reproductive Justice. Let's continue to march right to the polls to elect Democrats. We must be **engaged now** because the mid-terms are already upon us.

We are still dealing with the pandemic. More than **120,000 caregivers of** children have lost their lives because of the virus. According to John Hopkins, **2,000 are dying** daily in our country because of COVID. It is the second greatest cause of death just behind heart disease.

The census data has been crunched and our states are heading into **Redistricting**. Some states have already published their maps and it is clear that Democrats have a looming battle ahead of us. NFDW had an excellent Redistricting webinar with presentations by Georgia State **Representative Carolyn Hughley** and **Andre Fields**, **Fair Fight Action**, the organization created by **Stacey Abrams**.

Representative Hughley shared her conversation with former Attorney General Eric Holder who emphasized **the importance of making public comment** during this process. When the maps are challenged in court, these public comments will become evidence presented in the courtrooms.

Democrats have now been challenged to call **ALL U.S. Senators EVERYDAY** and ask for their vote for the **John Lewis Voting Rights Amendment Act** and the **Freedom to Vote Act.** Andre Fields, political director of **Fair Fight Action**, introduced us to this different approach of calling every day and calling more than our own Senators.

Andre Fields detailed the two major voting rights bills currenting in limbo in the U.S. Senate. The **John Lewis Voting Rights Act** will protect all citizens' right to vote and establishes new criteria which states and political subdivisions must obtain Justice Department preclearance before changes to voting practices may take effect

The **Freedom to Vote Act** expands voting by establishing national standards for voting. The bill goes further than the original Civil Rights Act. Numerous issues that impact voting, such as waiting in long lines, the closing of voting locations, and ensuring that fair districts are drawn during redistricting are covered in the bill.

On October 20, Republicans in the Senate voted down the **Freedom to Vote Act, so this should be another clarion call.** Make those calls EVERYDAY to ALL U.S. Senators. Continue to ask for both bills. Voting rights should be protected.

November will be NFDW's "**Democratic Women are Thankful" month**. We will bring back our position papers thanking nurses, all healthcare workers, first responders, store associates keeping the shelves stocked, housekeepers and janitors, who are keeping hospitals and businesses sanitized, and so many others. We want these people to know that **we appreciate them**. More on that later.

We do have Cause for Celebration: President Jimmy Carter celebrated his 97th birthday and Rev. Jesse Jackson has now turned 80 years young.

President Joe Biden presented the first proclamation recognizing Indigenous

People Day. These leaders are national treasurers we can Celebrate Every Day.

Best regards,

Gail Buckner

President

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CALL FOR BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

CALL FOR BYLAWS AMENDMENTS (date issued: September 16, 2021)

The call for Bylaws Amendments shall be issued at the convention and mailed within the quarter thereof. All proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be sent to both the Chair of the Bylaws Committee and to the President no later than February 1st. All amendments either proposed by the members-at-large or the Bylaws Committee shall be mailed with the Call to the Annual Meeting. The committee shall review all proposed amendments and make recommendations to the Annual Convention with respect to their adoption. (NFDW Bylaws, Article IX: Committees, Section 1 (a).

Corinne Williams Anderson, Ed.D., Chair, NFDW Bylaws Committee Gail Buckner, President, National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW)

Communicator Deadlines

Calling all State Presidents:

The Communicator is NFDW's newsletter and is published quarterly. All State Presidents are encouraged to submit articles for publication in The Communicator and share NFDW news with their members. Executive Board members and Committee Chairs are encouraged to submit articles (and pictures) of interest to the membership as well. Information about NFDW events and the COMMUNICATOR is posted on the Federation website, www.nfdw.com.

The deadlines for submitting articles of interest and pictures of activities in your states for the upcoming issues are as follows:

January 28, 2022 March 25, 2022

Please submit any articles of interest, pictures (with captions), or other important information for inclusion in The Communicator to Joanne Sullivan @ sullivanjl1028@gmail.com.

NFDW SCARVES

Here's a reminder that the "official" NFDW scarves are still available for sale. As more meetings and more events are being held in person, this is a wonderful opportunity to show off our NFDW logo. Scarves are a white background, with our logo repeated in blue. They are 58" long by 10.5" wide and can be ordered by going to: www.nfdw.com. Cost is \$20.00, plus \$3.25 added for transaction fee and shipping. Wear yours proudly today!



SOUTHERN REGION

Arkansas

The leaves are falling but the temperature keeps fluctuating - it must be fall in Arkansas! Over the last few weeks, we've seen highs and lows (just like the weather) in the State Legislature, and although it's been mainly "lows" when it comes to how the GOP majority is behaving and abusing their power, we are forever grateful to our dedicated Democrats who continue to stand up for what is right.

We have new, and ridiculously gerrymandered, congressional lines in Arkansas. They are so gerrymandered and that they divide up Pulaski County, where Little Rock is, into three different districts. This actions of splitting up a county and the precincts with in is, without a doubt, racist and shows how scared the Republican party is of Democrats organizing and voting. It will be challenged in court!

Republican Governor Asa Hutchinson announced he will put out the call for a special session—tentatively the week of October 25th—to address tax cuts which includes potentially eliminating the state income tax which of course will gravely cut funding for some of our most needed budget items.

Way back in August – we held a membership update meeting and invited our members to zoom in for an update on what's been going on within the organization. We typically host virtual session to ENGAGE & EDUCATE Arkansans on the issues facing our communities today so that we will all be prepared to ELECT more Democrats in Arkansas in 2022. You can see the recording here: <u>AFDW Member Update</u>; or just view the slides here: <u>AFDW SLIDES</u>. The Democratic Party of Arkansas elected a new chair, and we are excited to partner with the DPA and support his vision for the party as a whole.

More recently, AFDW was proud to have members at all five of the marches for reproductive justice on October 2 – unfortunately Arkansas will be close behind Texas in passing hateful legislation directly targeting women's healthcare.

Additionally, AFDW members stood in solidarity with the Democratic Black Caucus and the Democratic Party of Arkansas in a protest at the state capital on Thursday 10/14 signaling that we will not stop fighting for #FairMaps all across the state.

As we look forward – we are set to update and upgrade our bylaws for the organization. We are hosting "Bylaws Boot Camps" to provide the opportunity for our members to learn and understand where our bylaws stand today (revised last in 2017) and what we need to do improve our guiding documents overall.

Filing in Arkansas begins in late February, and we are actively working to help county parties and our statewide auxiliary and caucus groups recruit over 1,500 Democrats to run for office across the state.

We invite you to follow along in our journey on social media:

Facebook www.facebook.com/ARFDW

Facebook Group www.facebook.com/groups/AFofDW

Instagram www.Instagram.com/ar dem women

Twitter www.twitter.com/ArkDemWomen

Website https://www.arkansasdemocraticwomen.com/

And sign up for our newsletter here:

https://www.arkansasdemocraticwomen.com/newsletters-and-media













Florida

The Democratic Women's Club of Florida has been on fire and I need to give our members a big round of applause. We have new Board Members, Region Chairs and new Club Presidents will be elected in office shortly. Congratulations to you all! And thank you for volunteering your time and service to the DWCF.

Just look at some of our impressive DWCF statewide activity:

The Grassroots committee, led by Mary Lou Woods and Marie Garnes, is working with local DWC's throughout the state to increase Democratic turnout, increase Vote-By-Mail, and advance our organization. Many of our clubs have sent thousands of letters, 100K text messages, and phone banked to encourage voter participation. Canvassing will ramp up soon, and we are just getting started. In September local clubs around the state responded to a National Federation of Democratic Women's Call to Action. We called, emailed, mailed post cards, and visited legislators advocating for the Women's Health Protection Act, and the Freedom to Vote Act. October delivered another call. In solidarity with women everywhere, we marched and rallied statewide railing against bad legislation aimed at stripping women of their right to safe, private, secure healthcare and abortion access. I am so proud and thankful for your work!!

The Legislative committee, led by Jean Siebenaler, has begun laying the groundwork for our mini-Tally Days Series. DWCF members will walk the halls at the Capitol, attend committee meetings and meet with their local legislators commencing October 18 through the end of the legislative session in March '22. Every Region has been assigned one week in Tallahassee to; attend committee meetings, meet with Legislators and advocate for our DWCF Platform Issues. Tuesday evening legislative team Zoom meetings and participation will ramp up in the coming weeks as legislators increase their bill filings. Additionally, we will restart our "This Week in Tallahassee" Monday night meetings with our Legislators in January.

Thank you for responding to the ROAR Action Alerts. Remember to take pictures of your events and activism. Post pictures and comments on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. And don't forget to email your pictures to DWCFPICS@gmail.com. The Communications Committee will share our collective statewide engagement. You know the saying: "If it's not posted on Facebook, it probably never happened" ... Finally, I am incredibly honored to serve as your President, and look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with you to generate good and necessary trouble. Our democracy depends on it.

Monica Readus, President Democratic Women's Club of Florida





Dozens of area residents participated in a march over the Hathaway Bridge in Panama City Saturday in support of national Women's March Day.

Georgia

Equal Rights Amendment Rally by Chinita Allen, President Georgia Federation of Democratic Women

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

The Equal Rights Amendment Rally, held at the Supreme Court in Washington, DC on August 26, 2021 was well attended by diverse and multigenerational supporters. Activists, organizers and elected officials from across the United States rallied alongside the Equal Rights Amendment Coalition (ERA) led by Carol Jenkins, Executive Director of ERA Coalition and the Feminist Majority lead by co-founder Eleanor Smeal. This is a very critical time for the Equal Rights Amendment. The U.S. House has removed the ERA time limit and now the U.S. Senate must act. Gail Buckner, National Federation of Democratic Women, says it the best, "There is no time limit on Equality, but it is time to publish the ERA in the U.S. Constitution," and as we all know despite the significant legal and legislative advances made in recent decades, women continue to face discrimination on the basis of sex. We still face ongoing discrimination and continue to fight against unequal pay, workplace harassment, pregnancy discrimination, domestic violence and limited access to comprehensive healthcare. We must address the root cause of inequality by amending the Constitution.

NFDW President Gail Buckner and Georgia Federation of Democratic Women President Chinita Allen attended the ERA Rally at the U.S. Supreme Court in DC.







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EASTERN REGION

Connecticut

The Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women recently held their election of officers for the 2021-22 club year. The following members were elected to serve:

Joyce Petteway, President

Susan Owens, 1st VP

Beverly Washington, 2nd VP

Judy Villa, Recording Secretary

Joanne Sullivan, Treasurer

Special thanks to Deb Dickey for her dedication and years of service as President of CFDW.

East Hartford, CT Annual Meet the Candidates and Membership Drive



Congressman John Larson

LT. Governor Susan Bysiewicz









Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women met in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania for its 93rd Annual Convention over the weekend of August 12-15. Over 100 board members, club presidents, delegates and guests gathered for this event. Business sessions were held, along with a luncheon to honor club presidents and Regional Directors, a luncheon at which four scholarships was presented to college students, and a Woman of the Year Banquet were all part of the convention. Two Women of the Year were honored, since we were unable to meet in person in 2020. They were Joanne McGaghan and the late Eileen Belanger. A scholarship was also presented in Eileen's memory. Elections were held for all the officers and 10 of the 18 Regional Directors. Dianne Gregg of Centre County was elected President for the next two years. As President, she is dedicated to growing the influence and impact of the PFDW.

New officers and directors were installed on the final day of the convention by Past President Susan Rutt. Speakers included Pennsylvania Statewide Judicial candidates: Maria McLaughlin for Supreme Court, Timika Lane for Superior Court, and Lori Dumas and David Spurgeon for Commonwealth Court, along with many local elected officials. At the convention, plans were announced for the upcoming Outstanding Elected Democratic Women's Brunch being held in Harrisburg on November 14. Judge Maria McLaughlin will be honored along with 19 elected Democratic women from across Pennsylvania. These 19 outstanding women were selected by their own local organizations. Deanne McNally and Susan Rutt are co-chairs of this event. The Sunday brunch will follow the PFDW Board meeting on November 13.





YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE, Susan Rutt, Chair

"DID YOU KNOW" from the Young Democrats of America"

DID YOU KNOW?

IT TAKES LESS THEN 2 MINUTES TO REGISTER

MILLENNIALS AND GEN-Z CURRENTLY MAKE UP THE LARGEST VOTING BLOCK

IF YOU TURN 18 BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTION DAY, YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE RIGHT NOW

DEMOCRATS ARE MORE LIKELY TO WIN WHEN MORE VOTING-AGED PEOPLE REGISTER AND VOTE

YOU CAN GO TO iwillvote.com TO CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION AND REGISTER TO VOTE.

WESTERN REGION

California

CONGRATULATIONS!
WHEN WE FIGHT... WE WIN!





Greetings,

On behalf of your Executive Board of the Women's Caucus we truly thank you for all your efforts to defeat this unnecessary and costly Recall Special Election. The polling showed that 66% of women were against this power grab from the beginning. When the results are in no doubt women will have played a significant difference in the margin of victory.



The Women's Caucus was proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with partners Speaker Pelosi, First Partner Jennifer Siegel Newsom, Congresswomen Barbara Lee and Karen Bass' (WAR) Women Against Recall) with over 70 organizations, California Black Women's Collective, Grassroots Democratic HQ, CDP Officers, Labor and Faith-Based Communities. Let us not lose

momentum and keep the public aware of policy happening on their behalf and how they can actively support.

All Best, Carolyn Fowler DNC Member Chair, California Women's Caucus

CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CAUCUS REPORT Carolyn Fowler (She, Her, Hers)

Caucus Chair, Carolyn Fowler made the following appointments:



NFDW (NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN)

CES ROSALES WOMEN IN BLUE, SPRING WASHINGTON D.C. KRISTINA DIXON, CHAIR RULES DARLENE TRUJILLO ELIOT, GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT CAROLYN WYSINGER, LEGISLATIVE

CALIFORNIA LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENT

MEGAN IMPERIAL CYD E-BOARD LIASION MEMBER (Inaugural)
VICE CHAIR, MONICA WILSON
TREASURER, BECCA DOTEN

CYD E-BOARD LIASION MEMBER (Inaugural)
DAY AT THE CAPITOL
FINANCIAL LITERACY PROJECT

California News



We celebrated the 101st Women's Equality Day with an Equali-Tea. A short video shared the teas held during suffrage to organize for the right to vote. We love our fem men members but are clear on Who Runs the World and no doubt women will

play a critical role in the outreach for the Recall.

After a moment of silence for those we have lost to co-vid 19, fires, storms in Haiti, Afghanistan and prayers for our frontline workers fire, police and healthcare was an introduction of Executive Board officers.

The Caucus was honored to have their EqualiTea Day, and Recall efforts kicked off by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom both who sponsored the Women's Caucus, Grassroots Dem HQ phonebank held August 26th. Additional Recall remarks whipped the crowd by Chair Rusty Hicks, Vice Chair Betty Yee, Secretary Melahat Rafiei and CYD Chair Diane Le. The Caucus also proudly partnered with The California Black Women's Collective, Women Against Recall (WAR) and 70 other organizations to VOTE NO & GO on recall efforts throughout the state. DNC Executive Board Member and NFDW 5th Vice Chair, Christine Pelosi gave the National update for both organizations and implications for Recall.

An email survey was administered by the Caucus for all members to identify the top four issues important for our Women's Caucus "DAY at THE CAPITOL" in Sacramento 2022. The survey and poll results prioritized Healthcare 60%, Housing 54%, Voting Rights 53% while Education and Climate tied at 49%.

California Legislative Women's Caucus Chair (CLWC), Assemblymember Cristina Garcia gave an extensive report on the current and upcoming legislation impacting women and girls. LA City Controller, Ron Galperin provided a timely excellent executive report on a recent study conducted reviewing Pay Equity. https://lacontroler.org/audits-and-reports/genderequity/

SEVERAL MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSTITUTION DAY RALLY ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2021. SPEAKER PELOSI HAS STEPPED FORWARD AND IS PUSHING H.R. 3755 WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION BILL AUTHORED BY OUR VERY OWN CONGRESSMEMBER JUDY CHU TO PROTECT PRIVACY AND CHOICE

Reproductive Rights at Stake!



Last month, the Supreme Court announced a Dec. 1 date to hear arguments on a Mississippi law that limits reproductive freedom with no exception for rape or incest. If the Supreme Court rules in favor of the Mississippi law, the consequences would not only potentially harm the ability of self-determination for millions, but also embolden anti-choice advocates.

The four women chairs of the respective caucuses at the Democratic National Committee, shared their message that it is vital that we, as women, rise collectively to speak up in defense of reproductive freedom and to encourage the Supreme Court to reinforce what we know to be a constitutional right.

"We cannot stay silent. We cannot be passive. There is too much at stake".

Idaho

The Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus (IDWC) had several members attend the NFDW 50th Annual Convention. Our members have been raising funds through auctions & get togethers. Idaho also has had great BBQs, picnics & rallies around the state.

IDWC President, Gini Ballou, will be chairing the Idaho Democratic Party's Caucus Subcommittee, tasked with evaluating & giving recommendations to strengthen the state's various caucuses. The IDWC is one of the IDP's longest running & most active caucuses.

Submitted by, Gini Ballou President, Idaho Women's Caucus

Nevada

The Women's March held in Las Vegas at the Lloyd George Courthouse on October 2nd was well-attended with over 400 people. The Nevada Federation of Democratic Women (NVFDW) Executive Board led by President Audrey Dempsey participated with a table in support of the event and to promote the Federation's efforts on behalf of women in the state. Speakers at the event included our own 1st Vice President Ellen Spiegel and supporters State Senator Pat Spearman and Congresswoman Dina Titus. It was a perfect day!





MIDWEST REGION

The NFDW Midwest Region is having a virtual holiday "Meet and Greet" on November 16th. Looking to have an in-person meeting in the Spring before the NFDW Convention. We also now have aFacebook page to be able to share our news and events.

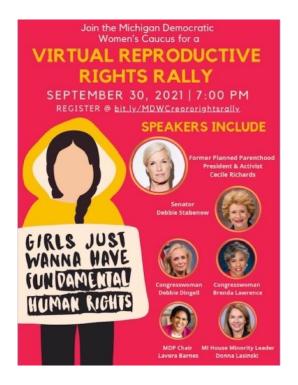
Indiana

The Indiana Federation was busy with their first in-person, statewide meeting in two years on October 9th. New officers were elected for the 2022-2024 term, beginning January 1, 2022.

Two awards were given to outstanding members. The "Julia Carson" award was given to Cherrish Pryor, IN State Senator, as the Outstanding Democratic Elected Woman and the "Cordelia Lewis Burks" Award to Mary Jo Nuland for being an outstanding Activist and Volunteer. A successful virtual roundtable webinar with many Women's groups around the state addressing women as candidates as well as two YouTube videos; "Equality Day" honoring the passage of the 19th Amendment and what "equality" means to some, and "Women in Labor" for Labor Day which featured some of Indiana women labor leaders. In August, a Women's Caucus Meeting was held at the IDEA, an annual Democratic gathering in southern Indiana. October 2nd was a busy day with 12 statewide women's marches and by participating in other issues such as redistricting and the Biden "Build Back Better" tours.

Another district meeting will be scheduled soon to train the new officers to hit the road running for the 2022 election cycle. It's been a busier than normal year, even with the pandemic, and finally getting a seat at the table of the Indiana State Democratic Central Committee in February 2021.

Michigan



The Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus held a Virtual Reproductive Rally on September 30, 2021. There were some outstanding speakers, including Cecile Richards, Former President of Planned Parenthood, Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, Congresswoman Debbie Dingle, Senator Debbie Stabenow, DNC's Women's Caucus Chair, Lottie Shackleford and Minority Leader Donna Lasinsk of the Michigan House of Representatives. This was pre-rally before the marches and rallies that were held on Saturday, October 2 in various cities throughout Michigan.

Submitted by, Clarice Squillace Chair MDWC Virgie M Rollins Chair Emeritus MDWC

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BLACK CAUCUS

November 2nd, Election Day is right around the corner and voting has already begun in Virginia! Sunday Voting is happening for this first time in Virginia's history. It's important that we show up and show out with our friends, family, and community. On Sunday, October 17th a "Souls to the Polls" rally was held in Virginia with special guests Stacey Abrams and Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms joining us for signature events in Norfolk, Richmond, and Fairfax.



Norfolk "Souls to the Polls" Rally with Stacey Abrams, Congressman Bobby Scott and Terry
McAuliffe, October 17, 2021.

Richmond "Souls to the Polls" Rally with Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms:



Grassroots Event with Former President Barack Obama and Terry McAuliffe



Join former President Barack Obama and Terry McAuliffe for a grassroots event to get out the vote in Richmond on Saturday, October 23rd.

Tickets required due to limited space. RSVP through Mobilize is required for attendance but does not guarantee a ticket. Details forthcoming.

RSVP Here:

https://www.mobilize.us/terryforvirginia/event/421515/

Think Gift Giving

Those who have bought the bag have said, "stunning,"
"awesome," "really nice." Some have returned to buy more.
Classy and Sassy.

The price has been reduced to \$17 because the remaining bags have very slight printing smudges that won't even show-up in a photo Multiple sales in one order is recommended because that is a cost savings on postage. Send an email to gailbuckner@bellsouth.net

Get This Deal





Let's say THANK YOU to those that have taken care of us during this pandemic.

NFDW will tweak our position papers and resolutions honoring nurses and all healthcare workers, first responders, store associates who kept the shelves stocked, housekeeping who kept the hospitals and businesses sanitized, teachers risking their lives, and so many others.



DEMOCRATIC WOMEN are THANKFUL

HOW VERY MUCH YOU
APPRECIATE THOSE THAT
TOOK CARE OF ALL OF US.

NOVEMBER IS THE PERFECT TIME TO SAY THANK YOU.

POST YOUR ACTIVITIES ON NFDW'S FACEBOOK PAGE AND WE WILL MAKE AN ALBUM OF RECOGNITION.