

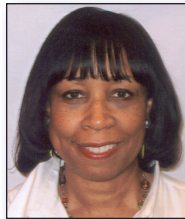


Communicator

www.nfdw.com

Summer 2011

From President Janice Haynes Davis



It is indeed an honor to serve the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) as our national president. Being sworn in at our 40th anniversary celebration in my home city of the District of Columbia in front of 300+ Democratic ladies and gentlemen was one of the greatest highlights of my life. Ironically, 40 years ago a group of dedicated and committed women gathered in Washington, D.C. to start the NFDW to organize Democratic women to focus on the education and empowerment of Democratic women. This year we lost our founder, Rilla Moran Woods but as I looked out upon the audience and listened to our members recount our grand history, I knew that her vision and the dream of our founders was very much alive. It was present in our magnificent speakers, our workshop leaders and most importantly in our enthusiastic delegates who came from many states to speak with their fellow delegates and learn ways that they could influence decisions, run for elected office and achieve those Democratic ideals that they were firmly committed to.

I have been intimately involved in Democratic politics since the age of 8 when I became active in the Civil Rights Movement and later in women's issues and local and national campaigns. Interestingly enough, I find that we are still striving for civil and human rights; women's issues, including political and economic parity; and to get the right people in office, i.e. Democrats, especially Democratic Women. During the last two years we have achieved great things under the magnificent leadership of our President Barack Obama and our first woman speaker, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi. After eight years of near legislative drought we saw the passage of Health Care Reform, the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Act, the selection of two female Supreme Court Justices and many other achievements. Following this year's election the political landscape has drastically changed with the election of the Tea Party candidates and the Republican control of the House. Many of the recent gains have been threatened through threats of budget cuts, attacks on family planning and the emergence of a new era of partisanship and non-cooperation which many of us have never seen in our lifetime. Our challenges as women and as Democratic women remain.

At our convention in Washington we held a NFDW "Women in Blue" event where we focused on national legislative issues, learned advocacy techniques and later practiced our skills by visiting the representatives of our

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respective states. It was a wonderful sight to see our delegates in blue united on the issues of healthcare, the environment, education, workforce and workplace development and most importantly the economy. Several states have instituted "Women in Blue" events and NFDW has chosen to make this event one of our annual signature activities in all of our federated states. This will be one of many vehicles which our membership can employ to make our voices heard about local and national issues that impact our lives in this global society. Through print, e-mail, Facebook and twitter, NFDW will strive to keep you informed of the issues, legislation, judicial decisions, elections and activities that are critically important to us and our Party and ask you to make your voices heard.

In August our nation will dedicate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of my idols and I was privileged to be on the Mall that day when he gave his "I have a Dream" speech. Unfortunately, the inequalities and injustices that Dr. King fought for and gave his life for still exist. NFDW is dedicated to the principles that Dr. King stood for. The landscape has changed over the 40 years that our organization was founded and we have become a more global, diversified, and technologically proficient society but our goals remain the same. As NFDW looks toward its future, we must become better prepared; more involved and engage, support and encourage women of all ages so that our dreams and the dreams of our founders can be realized.

Democratically Yours,

Janice Haynes Davis, President

National Federation of Democratic Women

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Rilla Moran Woods,
North Carolina

Tribute to Rilla Moran Woods: Formation and Growth of NFDW

Background: what was happening in 1971 as Rilla Moran Woods founded the National Federation of Democratic Women:

- Cigarette ads banned from TV
- First Governor of the Virgin Islands inaugurated
- Aswan Dam opened in Egypt
- Richard Nixon installed secret tape system in White House
- Vice President Spiro Agnew hits two tee shots into crowd injuring two
- Amtrak began operation May 1st
- Ed Sullivan show ends on CBS (started 1948)
- Tricia Nixon weds Ed Cox at White House
- Ohio ratifies 18-year-old vote becoming 38th state and making it 26th Amendment to Constitution
- White House plumbers unit formed
- Daniel Ellsberg's office broken into by plumbers looking for damaging evidence
- Operation PUSH formed by Jessie Jackson



*Rilla Moran Woods
1924–2011*

Oct. 6, 1971, Rilla Moran Woods called a breakfast meeting during the Women's Leadership Conference at the Washington Hilton Hotel to discuss the possibility of forming a National Federation. There were 27 women from 8 states present who voted to federate and selected Rilla as Temporary Chair. They set the first annual meeting for May 26–27, 1972, in Nashville, Tennessee. Gwen McFarland of Nashville was in charge of arrangements for the Convention held at the Airport Hilton Inn. Rilla was elected President; Paula Sawyer of Maine, VP; Florine James of Ohio, Treasurer (later replaced by Frankie Breashears of Colorado), and Betty Gill of West Virginia, Secretary. Melba Till Allen of Alabama was appointed Finance/Budget Chair.

At the 2nd annual meeting May 25–26, 1973, at the Shorham Hotel in Washington, DC, By-Laws were adopted. The objective of the Federation was "to unite women of the Democratic Party to promote the cause of the Democratic Party and to encourage full participation of women in every level of the Democratic structure."

NFDW was officially recognized by the DNC at the Spring meeting March 1973 and Rilla was officially seated on the DNC and appointed to the Charter Commission. Early emphasis of NFDW was to prepare women to run for delegate to the Mid-Term Conference where the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States would be adopted and to pursue delegate seats to National Conventions.

Rilla Moran Woods had the foresight and organizational skills to see the need to pull together Democratic women from across the nation and to set about doing that. In the early years, there were four officers elected by the Convention body and four Regional Directors elected in Regional meetings and ratified by the Convention body. Conventions were held annually and moved around the country to balance travel time and expense.

To Rilla, communication was the key to a viable organization, so she created the NFDW newsletter which she named *The Communicator*. She continued as editor after leaving the presidency in 1977 when the Rilla Moran Woods Internship for young women between the ages of 18–25 at the DNC was established.

In Tennessee, Rilla had the support of a strong State Federation and a number of talented women including Dr. Agnes Thornton Bird and Dr. Gwen McFarland. Rilla knew parliamentary procedure, but she had back-up from Agnes and Gwen who were not only DNC members, but attorneys, and professional parliamentarians as well.

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Rilla Moran Woods tribute *(continued)*

Early in the life of NFDW, the Charter Commission was formed by the DNC to codify a set of operating rules for the National Committee. Rilla understood that this was the place to gain formal recognition for the Federation as the women's organization of the Party and gained membership on the Commission. C. DeLores Tucker was named to the Commission as a member of the Pennsylvania State Committee and Sec. of State of Pennsylvania. As State Chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon, I was named as a member for the newly formed State Chairs Association. Our goal was to have NFDW named as the official women's organization in the Party Charter. The Young Democrats wanted similar recognition in the Charter. We joined forces working on several drafting sub-committees and kept watch for the two organizations.

In December 1974, the Charter was adopted at the Mid-Term Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The YDs and NFDW each were accorded three seats on the DNC and the Presidents of the organizations granted seats on the Executive Committee of the DNC. Other representative organizations have been recognized since 1974, but Rilla was there early commanding the forces for NFDW.

Past President Angie Elkins from North Carolina recognizes Rilla as a friend and mentor. "She was a special friend to me — always pushing me to rise in NFDW and urging me to serve as President. The day I was elected, she said to me, "Aren't you glad you did what I told you to do?"

When she left the DNC, Rilla challenged successive NFDW leaders to protect the recognition gained and to be vigilant of interlopers. There have been challenges to NFDW, but under the leadership of Ruth Rudy and Annette Jones, the challenges were met. An early project of NFDW was to encourage members to pursue delegate seats at Conventions and run for elected office. This led to election of Democratic women and built the experience for qualified Democratic women to serve in elected office.

I was elected President at Convention at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D. C., in 1985. Democratic National Committee Chair Paul Kirk welcomed us. Sen. Paul Simon spoke at the banquet and "The Capitol Steps" entertained. Being from Oregon, my campaign slogan was, "I'm fir Wilkins" and we presented delegates with an Oregon fir seedling.

At Annual Convention in Arkansas in 1986, outstanding women recognized by NFDW were:

1. Rilla Moran Woods for leadership and guidance of NFDW — Tennessee
2. Betty Bumpers Founder of Peace Links — Arkansas
3. Dorothy V. Bush, longstanding Secretary of the DNC — Mississippi/DC
4. Pamela Harriman, Founder of Democrats for the '80s — organization & fundraising for the Party — DC

All four were present to receive the recognition Awards and participated in workshops and panel discussions. The Board voted to formalize recognition awards and Past President Angie Elkins, her daughter, Debbie, and I met to write the criteria and selection guidelines which are used today to select Outstanding NFDW member; Outstanding Democratic Woman Elected Official at statewide level or higher; and Humanitarian who may be male or female. These awards, the Rilla Moran Woods Internship and the Agnes Thornton Bird Internship which was established by Frank Bird in memory of his wife to be given at the state level are the recognitions given by NFDW today.

It can be said for Rilla Moran Woods and the legacy she left, ***"There is no limit to the good one may do if one does not care who receives credit."***

Caroline Wilkins
NFDW President 1985–87

Gateway to Democratic Politics: Always Celebrating Women's Achievements

The Missouri Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs convened in St. Louis June 10–12 for the 80th Annual Convention. Women of the First, Second, and Third Congressional Districts were the hostesses. Judy Huskey, Brenda Lewey, and Marianne Solari, from St. Louis, served as Convention Co-Chairs.

Charli Seitz, President of the MFWDC, presided over the convention which began with registration on Friday afternoon. The weekend was packed with executive board meetings, the annual auction, brunch and business meeting on Saturday morning, officer training Saturday afternoon and the banquet on Saturday evening. Officers for 2011–2013 were elected at the business meeting.

One of the highlights of the convention is the auction on Friday evening. It is always fun to see the bidding war. Everyone goes away happy with their purchases and if not they will return them next year for someone else to bid on. While the ladies and gentlemen are bidding at the auction the President's hospitality room is always open with delicious food and cool libations. All money from the auction goes to support Democratic candidates.

Saturday morning the members enjoyed a delicious breakfast. The speaker was Molly Bunton, Special Assistant for Educational Policies to the St. Louis County Executive. Delegates organized into congressional districts for the business meeting. New officers were elected. Peggy Stepp, Seventh District, was elected President. Other officers elected are: Karen Meador, First Vice President; Margaret Gladbach, Second Vice President; DeeDee Squires, Third Vice President; Cindy Jenks, Fourth Vice President; Dorothy Adams, Fifth Vice President; Maggie Elder, Secretary; Sue Cowen, Treasurer; and Judith Parker, Auditor.

Saturday afternoon new officers met for an officer training session with Peggy Stepp, Third Vice President. She provided the officers with a training manual and CD.

Officers were installed at the banquet Saturday evening by Sandy Querry, National Committeewoman. Susan Montee, Chair of the Missouri Democratic Party, was the keynote speaker. Susan gave a dynamic speech that inspired us all to work for Democrats.

As most of you know, Joplin, MO, was hit with an EF5 tornado on May 22. We are fortunate that all of our members are well. Members of the convention made donations of over \$1000 to go to the Lafayette House, a women's shelter in Joplin. Joplin will host the 2013 MFWDC convention.

The Missouri Federation is proud of its new NFDW officers. Charli Seitz was elected Midwest Regional Director and Cindy Jenks was appointed Corresponding Secretary.

MFWDC Convention will be held in "America's Hometown," Hannibal in June 2012.

Margaret Gladbach
Second Vice President

Highlighting NFDW Members Seeking Elective Office

Gail Cook – *New Jersey State Senate*

Dr. Gail Cook is an educator, social activist, and national award recipient in volunteerism. She holds a BA in Elementary Education, an MA in Special Education and a Doctorate in Psychological Studies in Education from Temple University.

Gail is a friend, a supporter, and a woman who fights for Democratic ideals. As the President of the Burlington County Chapter of the New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women for many years, she has worked tirelessly to help elect Democratic candidates at every level of government in New Jersey.

From 2001 to 2008, Gail served as a Councilwoman in Beverly City. In 2008, her constituents elected her Mayor of the City of Beverly, a position in which she is presently serving.

Gail is now running for the State Senate to represent the 7th Legislative District. The New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women wish her luck and pledge to support her candidacy with the same energy and commitment that she has always given to us.



Kathy Rohlfig – *Madison, IN City Council*

My name is Kathy Rohlfig, and I am a first-time candidate, running for City Council in Madison, Indiana. When a friend asked me to consider running on the Democratic ticket for the City Council seat in my District, it felt like a natural progression of commitment to my hometown. Sixteen years ago I moved back to Madison with my husband and children after being gone for 30 years. We decided that Madison was where we wanted to raise our children. We feel that we couldn't have made a better choice.

Now, I want to do my part to keep Madison the kind of place that people want to move to, and I want to help make Madison a place where our kids can stay, find good jobs, buy nice homes and raise their own children. I have been involved in the community in many ways since moving to Madison. I agreed to run because I feel my skills and experience will enable me to be an effective city council member, and because I care deeply about Madison's future.



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Shirley McKellar – US Senator from Texas

Shirley McKellar, PhD., grew up around the family-owned and operated Mitchell Erwin Roses of East Texas, which, at that time, provided a large portion of the roses for the annual Rose Festival of Tyler. This combination of environment and success established a great regard for hard work with Shirley and prepared her for a life of accomplishment and service. Firmly believing in preparing herself educationally, she has obtained numerous degrees (with honors). She is currently pursuing another degree in Political Science.

A professional who has been inspired by many passions, Dr. McKellar has pioneered more than one grassroots initiative. She established a non-profit organization to aid abused women and children, provided mediation services and managed the African American Breast Cancer Outreach Program (ABCO). She initiated a children's evening care program that was open until midnight. As she states, "We live in a 24/7 society and our children must be cared for at all times." She is a national and international motivational speaker on breast cancer and other women's issues; having stood and addressed the 4th European Congress on, "Healthcare Disparities" in Berlin.

Dr. McKellar is also Major McKellar (RET), United States Army Nurses Core. In December 2002, she was called to active duty, serving 18 months overseas in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and "Enduring Freedom". During that time in service to her country, she received two war ribbons & two medals, the Meritorious Service Medal (highest non-battle award) and Army Accommodation Medal. Among other accomplishments during her entire 11 active years in the military, received five other medals, served as Officer-In-Charge in many areas; a favorite was Combat Life Saving School and established the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Center in the European Theater and served as Chief Nurse.

Shirley McKellar, when only 18, began volunteering behind the scenes in the campaigns of other candidates for office. And now, as an accomplished and highly educated business woman, nurse clinician, motivational speaker, wife of a retired educator, mother of two successful grown children, war veteran and human rights activist, she is the "One" Texas and our country needs NOW. Shirley McKellar, a dedicated and proven leader with experience and integrity, is Ready To Serve.



Lisa Sprague – Sheriff of Leon County, Florida.

Lisa Sprague spent her life serving the public in law enforcement, most recently as the Deputy Chief of Police at Florida State University. After leaving the force she started a small business providing security consulting services. Lisa is a Democratic candidate for Sheriff of Leon County, Florida.

A resident of Tallahassee, Florida, Lisa has become a recognized and well-respected member of the community as she continues to reach out to individuals and organizations not only locally, but state-wide, nationally, and internationally, as well, making her one of The Tallahassee Democrat's 25 women you need to know. Additionally, Lisa was recently awarded the prestigious Glass Ceiling award by the Florida Federation of Business and Professional Women and the Trailblazer Award from Oasis.

Lisa is running for sheriff to create a more efficient, effective department. You can follow Lisa's campaign online at LisaForSheriff.com

Washington, DC Convention, May 20–22



Christine Pelosi, keynote speaker



DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Helen Knetzer, Virgie Rollins, Ardena Matlack & Ruth Rudy



Jana Musleh, MI, Agnes Bird Internship Recipient



Honorable Kathleen Sebelius



Kathy Greenlee, US Ass't Secty. of Aging conducts workshop



Caitlin Doornbos, KS, Founders Internship Recipient



Jan Paschal, AR, NFDW Member of the Year



NFDW's new President Janice Haynes Davis addresses members



Pat Hobbs inducted into the NFDW Past Presidents Club hat ceremony



New NFDW Officers installed

more pictures on next page



Artist Minerva Diaz with a few of her Obama prints donated to our auction

Washington, DC Convention, May 20–22



Banquet entertainment Johnny Steele



Pat Hobbs' grandchildren helping with the auction



Annette Jones NFDW President 1997-1999 gives members some NFDW history



Caroline Wilkins NFDW President 1985-1987 also gives NFDW history

MFWDC Woman of the Year

The Missouri Federation of Democratic Women named Cindy Jenks, of the Ripley County Democratic Women, Democratic Woman of the Year for 2011. The 8th District MFWDC Democratic Women nominated her, after winning the 8th District Woman of the Year. The award was presented at the State Convention on June 11th.

Cindy is a past President of the Ripley County Democrat Women, Vice Chair of the Ripley County Democratic Central Committee, President of the 8th Congressional District Democratic Women, and the Secretary of the Missouri Federation of Democratic Women. She also serves on the SEMO Democratic Rural Caucus, SEMO Rally Committee and Main Street Missouri PAC.

Women are awarded for not only their service to the Democratic Party but also their involvement in their communities; Cindy is the Past President of the Board of the SEMO Independent Living Center, member Friends of the Library, member Ripley County Writers Guild, and the Red Hat Society.

Cindy also received the first Local Outstanding Party Member award at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis, June 17th. Other awards given were the Young Democrat of the Year Award and the Lifetime Service Award. This is the first year these awards were given.



Cindy Jenks receiving MFWDC Woman of the Year award.



Receiving the first Outstanding Local Party Member award.

Connecticut FDW Holds Convention

Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women held its Biennial Convention on June 4, 2011 in Niantic, CT. Our theme came as an inspiration from this year's NFDW convention: "When Women Vote, Democrats Win." Our guest speaker was Secretary of the State Denise Merrill who led a spirited discussion about the pros and cons of changing the voting process in Connecticut because our CT State Constitution only allows absentee ballots for four reasons. The discussion was around changing the Constitution to allow State Statute to govern the voting process, allowing us to then look at other voting options. Please let us know how your state votes and what works or not with your process as CFDW plans to work with our Secretary of the State researching and promoting (if any change) the best voting process for CT. We want to increase the number of people (hopefully Democrats) who vote!

During our convention, we awarded our Fannie Dixon Welch Scholarship to Leah Chrisitani from Easton, CT. The award is in honor of Mrs. Fannie Dixon Welch, who founded the CFDW in 1922. This \$500 cash award is granted annually to a junior or senior female student who, while enrolled at the University of Connecticut and majoring in Political Science and/or International Relations, excels in her studies. This award is made on the basis of character, citizenship and promise of leadership in the field of government. The recipient must be a registered Democrat whose permanent home, at the time the scholarship is presented, is in the State of Connecticut. This year's recipient, Ms. Chrisitani, studied and traveled in Spain and Africa; she was on the Dean's List for four consecutive years, and she was the class outstanding woman scholar, a Babbidge Scholar; a NE Scholar and Outstanding UCONN Honors Student. She obtained a major in Political Science and Minor in International Studies and Spanish. Ms. Chrisitani is now teaching in New Orleans, LA.

At the biennial convention, we honor an outstanding club member with the Susan B. Anthony Award. This award honors a Democratic woman whose life best exemplifies the quality, tradition and spirit of Susan B. Anthony. This year's recipient at our convention was Belinda Jones of the Shoreline League of Democratic Women. She is the co-founder of the club whose membership is well over 100 members. She was President, Treasurer, Public Relations Chair, website developer, fundraiser organizer, and much more! Ms. Jones has been active for many years as a leader in grassroots organizing, helping to get Democratic women, and men who support women's issues, elected into office. She works hard advocating for environmental issues in the CT shoreline area as well. Ms. Jones is a strong, enthusiastic woman who knows how to get things done in the political world and make changes for the better for women in our State.

The CFDW now begins the next two years with new leadership. We elected the following into office:

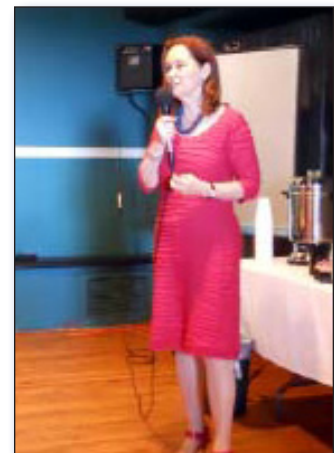
President Elizabeth Duarte, 1st Vice President Jeanne Kehoe, 2nd Vice President Karen Romero, 3rd Vice President Pat Sirois, 4th Vice President Lelia Bouyer, Treasurer Debra Dickey, Recording Secretary Aleta Looker and Corresponding Secretary Eileen Driscoll. The new officers thank our Past Presidents Joanne LeBeau, Ana Gould, and Dorothy Mrowka for their continued guidance and assistance in the governing of the CFDW.

Elizabeth Duarte

President CT Federation of Democratic Women
www.cfdw.org



*President Joanne Lebeau &
Past President Dot Mrowka*



*Secretary of State
Denise Merrill*

News from Kentucky

Kentucky Democratic Women are very excited about sponsoring the 2012 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Hopefully, you will begin your plans to attend.

We are using the theme “Racing Forward with Kentucky Democrats” during this administration. DWC Ky club members across the Commonwealth of Kentucky are busy hosting political events, making calls, manning democrat offices, writing letters, knocking on door and etc. We are pleased to have one of our own members, Alison Lundergon Grimes, on the ballot for Kentucky Secretary of State.

At our quarterly Board Meetings (after our business meetings) we have enjoyed and found it profitable to our treasury to conduct various auctions. At our Winter Board Meeting in Elizabethtown, Kentucky we experienced a successful Tag Sale of items that members donated. During the Spring Board Meeting (near Derby time) members donated Derby Decorated Hats which were modeled and auctioned. We are planning “theme baskets” donated by the various clubs to also be auctioned during the upcoming Summer Board. We are having fun as well as putting monies in our treasury. These funds will be and are used to assist Kentucky Democratic Candidates in their bids for election at all levels of government.

Romanza Johnson
Kentucky Democratic Woman’s Club President

At the NFDW convention in Washington D.C. Susanna French was voted in as the Southern Regional Director of the NFDW. We are proud to have such an up and coming young woman from Kentucky chosen for such an honorable position with the NFDW.

Democratic Women in Kentucky are busy organizing the NFDW 2012 Convention that will be in Louisville next year. We are very excited to welcome Democratic women from across the United States and show them what a beautiful state we live in. Please plan to attend to see our thoroughbred horses, try our Kentucky recipes and a taste of good Kentucky bourbon, some say the best in the world. Be sure to plan on flying in early to take the pre convention tour of some of Kentuckys great attractions

Kentucky women are planning a strong GOTV, “Get Out the Vote” for the 2011 elections. From doing mass voter registrations, reverse door to door, utilizing our Young Dem’s, which have never been stronger, to having fundraisers across our state to help our candidates campaigns and to get our message out.

Diana Darnell

From the Southern Region

Hello Democratic Women! I am so honored to have been chosen as your Southern Regional Director. The Southern Region is filled with such committed, captivating and inspiring democratic women and I am excited for the opportunity to work with them. Plans are underway for the Southern Regional meeting to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the South Carolina federation has already agreed to host the regional meeting for 2012!

My goal as Southern Regional Director is to increase the number of members in the southern federations as well as energize the current members. As a region – and federation – we must strengthen our party by activating young democratic women and encouraging their participation. Let's commit to:

- S SUPPORT** democratic candidates from the top of the ticket to the bottom. Support them financially, support them with our voice, and support them at the polls.
- O ORGANIZE**, organize, organize. We can coordinate our efforts in local campaigns by discussing ideas and plans that have been successful in other states and regions. Successful local and state campaigns will help pave the way for successful national campaigns.
- U UNITE** as a federation and party for the common good: to elect Democrats. In my home state of Kentucky, our state flag bears as simple but profound motto: "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". Even though we may disagree in private, we must present a united front to prevent any sign of weakness. Our candidates need and deserve our united support.
- T TRAIN** democratic women to run for office. We can encourage more democratic women to run for office by sponsoring training sessions or financially assisting them in learning the necessary tools to successfully run for office.
- H HONOR** our founding members, our President and elected Democrats by carrying out the principles of the National Federation of Democratic Women with respect, charisma, and character.

How great is it to be from the S-O-U-T-H?? Looking forward to showing our southern hospitality at the 2012 Convention in Louisville!!

Susanna French — KY
Southern Regional Director

Susanna French



From Pennsylvania

Serving as president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women for four years (1989–1993) was an experience that exceeded all expectations. It was such an honor to know and work with members, elected officials and candidates from all across the state and to participate in events of the National Federation of Democratic Women. To be invited back for another two-year term from 2007–2009, was very gratifying, and something I never expected to happen. And now, after being re-elected in 2009 for another two year term, I can only say thank you to those who supported me. In June, as my service as Pennsylvania's president came to an end, the PFDW elected the following new officers: President Patsy Hebor (phebor@ptd.net); First Vice President Joann Nardelli; Second Vice President Gwen Collins; Third Vice President Susan Patte; Fourth Vice President Ruth Luse; Fifth Vice President Harriet Ellenberger; Sixth Vice President Diane Mshar; Treasurer Mary Lou Baldys; Recording Secretary Roxanne Embick; and Corresponding Secretary Sue Stoltzfus. NFDW Second Vice President Nancee May us during this busy weekend.

Thanks are extended to our 2011 convention chairs Charlene Doyle and Susan Patte and the many members of the committee. We met in Clarks Summit in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We were pleased to welcome our speakers including United States Senator Robert Casey, State Treasurer Rob McCord, and Pennsylvania's Statewide judicial candidates. The convention provided an opportunity for learning through the workshops, networking, meeting new PFDW members, and spending time with friends. The Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll Scholarship Luncheon not only provided scholarships for six deserving young women, but also was a time to remember accomplishments of the woman for whom it was named. We were pleased to again welcome her daughter, Mina Baker Knoll, for being our luncheon speaker. One of the convention events was a political tour of Lackawanna County – the home of our current U.S. Senator Casey, his father and our past Governor, the late Robert P. Casey, Sr., and the boyhood home of Vice President Joe Biden – we even met with one of his childhood friends. We also saw the church where Hillary Clinton was baptized. This tour concluded with a lovely reception at the home of Senator Casey's sister, Margi McGrath and her family. Plans were also made to meet in 2012 in the Western part of Pennsylvania for our State Convention.

In November, we will have elections for many local positions, as well as two Statewide Judicial offices. Many of our members across the state are running in these very important elections. Our Political Action Committee is hard at work to identify these candidates and make recommendations for funding, which we will vote on at our September board meeting in Gettysburg.

Now it is time to turn our attention to the fall, and our annual Elected Outstanding Democratic Women event scheduled for the Harrisburg area on Sunday, November 20. As we did last year, we will again select outstanding Democratic women elected to public office, one in each of the PFDW's 18 regions, and also present the 2011 Senator Jeanette Reibman Memorial Award.

Susan Rutt,
Past President