



Communicator

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Winter 2012

From President Janice Haynes Davis

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It's 2012.

It is hard to believe that it is 2012 and it has been almost four years since the American populace had the wisdom to elect President Barack Obama as the head of our great nation and yes, the world is a different and much better place thanks to him and the Democratic leadership.

Often when we hear critics and listen to the rhetoric of the Republican challengers we forget where our country was when he assumed the presidency.

The economy has improved – jobs have been created, unemployment is down, and the U.S. auto industry is showing a profit for the first time in years in spite of the enormity of the financial crisis and global economic uncertainty. In spite of Republican opposition, he preserved the payroll tax cut and fought aggressively to lower taxes for the average middle-class American. His financial reforms have sought to curb abuse by financial institutions and made it easier for the consumer to both understand and redress our system of credit. Often, we forget that economies, especially the one that this administration inherited take a while to turn around.

In foreign affairs President Obama succeeded in accomplishing something that his predecessors failed to do when he killed Osama bin Laden and made enormous gains in destroying al Qaeda's leadership. He has kept his promise and the U.S. troops are out of Iraq. We have also seen the fall of dictatorships throughout the Middle East and a world stage which welcomes the American presence.

Most of us know of the accomplishments of this administration in the area dearest to our NFDW hearts- women and families, but it is helpful for us to review some of them. President Obama signed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Affordable Care Act and the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. His administration made it possible for more people to attend institutions of higher learning by strengthening the Pell Grant program and investing in community colleges and Historically Black colleges and assisted many young people and their families, by capping student loan re-payments at 10 per cent of discretionary income. He has sought to curb and stop domestic violence and sexual assault and reauthorized the Child Abuse Prevention Act. In appointing two women to the Supreme Court he has added needed diversity and balance that will leave a lasting legacy for America.

(continued next page)



President's Letter *(continued)*

As we reflect on these victories, let's not forget our wonderful first lady, Michelle Obama who not only serves as a role model of intelligence, grace and womanhood, but also champions the causes of health, fitness and veteran affairs. Let's also praise his choice of our new DNC Chairperson, The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz who has shown, in her short tenure, brilliance, leadership and a remarkable talent for getting to the real issues and highlighting the stark differences between our Party and the opposition Party.

Throughout this year, you can keep up to date with issues, our calendar of events and the happenings in our local and state chapter through our website. Many of you are doing remarkable things in your communities and I am encouraged by the news that I receive from the regions and states about our phenomenal NFDW women.

Yes, ladies it is 2012 and we have work to do in order to sustain America's growth and the many accomplishments of the last four years. Our strong women of the NFDW, our "Women in Blue" are natural ambassadors to get the word out about the true Democratic record, to register voters, to get the vote out, and to run for office or encourage, train and support women who are running for office. Faced with voter suppression, Republican opposition and propaganda we must do all we can to win a Democratic victory in 2012.

Democratically Yours,
Janice Haynes Davis
NFDW President

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Highlighting NFDW Members Seeking Elective Office

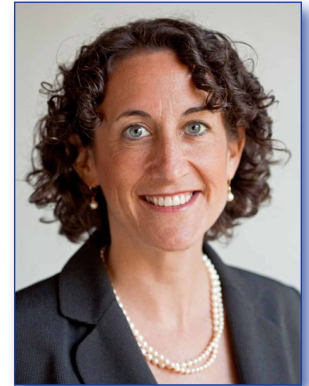
Kate Boockvar – Pennsylvania Congress, 8th District

Kathryn Boockvar is an experienced attorney, whose career has been dedicated to helping Pennsylvanians protect their jobs, Social Security, and families, in both the private and the nonprofit sectors.

Ms. Boockvar began her career as a legal services attorney, helping low-income, disabled and elderly clients. She owned and managed a small business in Bucks county for more than a decade, representing Pennsylvanians in a wide range of cases including employment, disability, Social Security, pensions and benefits, and wills and estates. She also worked for a national nonpartisan 501c3 organization, working across the state to ensure that Pennsylvania's election laws were carried out fairly, effectively, and accurately.

Ms. Boockvar has more than 18 years of experience in Pennsylvania state, county, and federal courts, and was named a Super Lawyer - Rising Star of the Pennsylvania Bar three years in a row. She has worked in rural Pennsylvania, urban Pennsylvania, and throughout, and is a member of the Bucks County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Ms. Boockvar lives in Doylestown, Bucks County, with her husband Jordan, 13-year-old daughter Colette, and their dog Zoie. She serves on the Board of Directors of A Woman's Place, a domestic violence organization in Bucks County, which provides free support, education, outreach and advocacy for victims of domestic abuse and violence, their children, and the community.



Yvette McGee Brown – Ohio Supreme Court

Earlier this week, I kicked off my campaign to retain my seat on the Supreme Court of Ohio. In just 10 months, you will go to the polls to elect officials to represent you and your families. I want you to know how very important the Supreme Court is to the citizens of this state. In our courts, a basic, important American ideal comes to life—that all men and women are created equal and have equal standing before the law. After all, the law is about people. The cases we decide and the precedents we set have real-life consequences for thousands of Ohioans and their families, be it criminal cases, workers' compensation, enforcement of contracts, health care, child welfare or domestic issues. I bring a life experience and a perspective to the High Court that might not otherwise be represented.

The courts are the place where individuals, no matter who they are, should expect to have their cases heard on equal footing. And as long as I'm on the bench, I'll fight to make sure they do. That's why I am running to remain your Justice on the Ohio Supreme Court. I look forward to making my case to the voters of Ohio in the coming year. I appreciate your support and friendship with all of my heart. Please visit my website to learn more about my campaign and to lend your support.



(candidates continued next page)

Monica Honis – Councilwoman in Teaneck, Bergen County, NJ

Monica is a graduate of Paramus Catholic and Lincoln University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Spanish. She did her graduate work at New Jersey City University in the area of multicultural relations and education. She is currently a middle school English as a second language teacher specializing in science. In addition, she created the curriculum for the elementary foreign language program at East Orange Community School and has written curriculum for several boards of education.

Ms. Honis made history in 2004 by becoming the first woman of color ever elected to the Teaneck Township Municipal Council and was rewarded with a second term in May 2008.

She has worked on numerous quality of life issues including rent control, traffic safety and environmental concerns. Recently, she worked with a partnership to obtain and preserve an ancient burial ground that is the resting place of Native Americans, African Americans and the first Dutch settlers.

Monica serves as liaison to the Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse, the Forum, the Hackensack River Greenway and the Historic Burial Ground. She is a member of the Holy Name Hospital Community Relations Board and the St. Anastasia's R.C. Church Parish Council, is actively involved in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Bergen County Black Caucus, the Latino American Democratic Association, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Women's Rights Information Center, serves as a Trustee for Vincent K. Tibbs School, is Recording Secretary for the NJ Federation of Democratic Women, a past Trustee for Court Appointed Special Advocates, and serves her community on many committees. Her awards include recognition from Mujeres en Accion, BALLOT-Political Trailblazers Award, Urban League Community Service and "Celebration of Women Award" from the Gorgeous Girls & Gifted Guys Book Club, the NAACP's Edward P. Dixon award, and the NANBPW Community Service Award.



2012 RE-ELECT OBAMA MERCHANDISE

Max Hobbs Political Memorabilia is the official vendor of the National Federation of Democratic Women.

When federated states place an order with us, the NFDW receives a 10% commission. This includes all clubs & individuals that are state or national members. Max Hobbs Political Memorabilia will buy back unsold merchandise, when a return by date is arranged for when placing the order, less return postage. This allows you to make a real profit and not be stuck with unsold merchandise.

Visit **maxhobbs.com** now to order the re-elect Obama merchandise for buttons, bumper stickers and lapel pins.

Fund raising must start now to fund the 2012 elections.

You can e-mail, pattyhobbs@aol.com, or call Max Hobbs for a free catalog (661-424-9077 or toll free 800-952-0099).



Michigan Young Women's Leadership Training

Michigan Democratic Women Caucus (Michigan Federation) had their Annual Young Women's Leadership Training which was a great success. We had over 150 young women participating with great speakers and a lively crowd. The event was chaired by Virgie M Rollins, Chair Emeritus of the Michigan Women, Past President of the NFDW and Chair of DNC Black Caucus.

To kick off the training Virgie gave a rousing welcome and history talk. She spoke about how young women are the future and must step up and get involved. Michigan Chair Trina Ellis (NFDW 3rd Vice President) welcomed everyone and gave the agenda for the upcoming events. Trina was followed by a panel of great speakers who told their stories on how they worked their way into leadership, and guidance on how women can make the largest impact in their communities through, policy, politics, organizing and running for elected office.

Kelly Green our past NFDW Intern told her story about how her involvement with the NFDW lead her to become the intern for the DNC; and how she ended up serving as chief of staff for the Secretary of State of New Jersey, a field operative for Clinton and Obama and running some of the most important elements of their campaigns. Kelly encouraged young women to work hard, get involved and not to give up.

The Vice President of International Union of the UAW Cindy Estrada told her story of a young Hispanic woman and her rise to become the only female and first Latina to serve as Vice President of the United Auto Workers Union. She grew up in Detroit, Michigan helping her family with their pub that was located next to a very large UAW local, and how the lives of the working people set her on a path to help others, which lead her to California to work for Dolores Huerta who co-founded the United Farm Workers Union with Cesar Chavez. She came back to Michigan and worked hard to make a difference as an organizer for the UAW, and how she took the chance and ran to become the Vice President of the UAW. Following her boss, Georgi-Ann Bargamian who heads the UAW women's department, guided us through the logistics of how to lead in a man's world, and how to lift up all women. Rep. Lesia Liss one of the youngest women in the Michigan House of Representatives, told everyone how important it was for women to run for office. She had been a nurse and had not been politically involved before her run, but how her voice had made a difference in the legislature. She said it was important for us to encourage and ask women to get out and run for office. Dr. Laura Moseley, JD was the moderator and gave an overview of women in the work force, in campaigns and how important it is to reelect President Obama. She also summed up the state of the economy and the dangers of the obstructionist Republicans.

Tami Arreguin past NFDW Regional Director and staff for Detroit City Council Speaker Pro-Tem Gary Brown was the organizer of the event and concluded with how important it is for young women to volunteer their time for a political office or campaigns and how it can lead to a long and successful career in politics. She then fielded questions for the panel and thanked everyone for attending.

Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women

On December 3rd, members of the CFDW had a private tour of Governor Malloy's Residence in Hartford CT. This was a special event because 2011 was the first year we have had a Democratic Governor since 1991. The residence had just been renovated and the Holiday decorations were beautiful. The CFDW members brought a toy to donate for the Toys for Tots program.

CFDW is in full swing for the 2012 elections! Local clubs are reaching out to Democratic women in our Women 2 Women Recruitment Campaign. We are making phone calls to newly registered Democratic women, telling them about the Federation and inviting them to local club political events. This project is increasing our club memberships and future volunteer base for campaigning. This is the year for women to be involved. We have to fight the Republican War on Women!

Elizabeth Esty, member of the Cheshire Federation of Democratic Women's Club, is running for the 5th Congressional District seat. She is



a community leader, attorney, and mother who has earned a reputation as a tireless, progressive advocate for the middle class. There are now three Democrats vying for the seat that Chris Murphy holds (he is running for the open CT Senate seat). A fourth candidate, Mike Williams, dropped out in December with the following endorsement for Elizabeth. "Elizabeth Esty has a record of experience as a lawyer, mother, local leader and state representative that will make her a formidable member of Congress. Elizabeth has proven that she is committed to working with other elected representatives to pull our economy out of its downward spiral by creating middle class jobs, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of critical programs such as Social Security and Medicare. Elizabeth Esty will be the kind of common sense, independent leader we desperately need in Washington." Emily's List recognized the strong campaign that Elizabeth is running and endorsed her in December. CT has only one woman in Congress. Many of the local Federation of Democratic women are working hard to elect Elizabeth Esty as our 2nd Congresswoman. For more information: www.elizabethesty.com

2012 is here and now is the time to get our Democrats elected. As we learned in the NFDW convention last May: When Women Vote, Democrats Win.

CT looks forward to working with all of you around the country for a Democratic win in November~

Elizabeth Duarte

President CT Federation of Democratic Women

www.cfdw.org



DC Federation of Democratic Women

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.

The D.C Federation of Democratic Women (DCFDW), comprised of two clubs, the Metropolitan Women’s Democratic Club (MWDC) and the DC Democratic Women’s Club (DC DEMS), is an energetic group who is organized, united and motivated to uphold the mission of our organization, increase our visibility, get more women elected to Office and get President Barack Obama re-elected as the President of the United States of America. We have set our goals and have begun to work feverishly to reach them.

We have met on several occasions and continue to increase our membership rendering substantial support for women’s issues. The Federation has been active regarding political hot topics of jobs and Statehood and was represented along with other members of the Democratic State Committee (DCDSC) at the march held in October.

We are partnering with several organizations to educate the public on the importance of voting and making certain our voices are heard as we speak out on issues of importance to women as well as electing Democrats to seats in all areas of our government. On December 12th the Federation participated in a round table discussion on “The Importance of the African American Vote in the Upcoming Presidential Election in September 2012”. The round table was chaired by **The Obama African American Committee**. From this meeting several members were sworn in to serve as Surrogates for President Obama. We were also extended an invitation to tour the White House where we saw the beautiful Christmas decorations.

We are also partnering with the **NAACP**. In December we participated in a” GET-OUT- THE-VOTE” Civic Engagement workshop designed to strengthen the efforts of the Presidential election. The workshop included voter outreach planning, targets and timelines and voter site registration models. We also participated in the **Brady Campaign Too Many Victims Remembered Candlelight** vigil to remember those in our community lost to gun violence.

Two of our members, Estell Mathis-Lloyd, DCFDW President, and Jeannette Mobley were elevated to higher positions. Ms.Mathis-Lloyd was selected by the Democratic State Committee to serve as the District of Columbia’s National Committee Woman, now giving our Federation another voting member on the DNC. Ms. Mobley was appointed by the Mayor, the Honorable Vincent Gray, to serve as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC). This is the Board that oversees the licensing of all ABC establishments in the District of Columbia.

We are appreciative of the hard work of our members and look forward to building our organization as we reach out and involve women from all areas of our community.

Estell Mathis-Lloyd
President

From the Eastern Region

The Eastern Region Meeting was held in Binghamton, NY, where six of the seven federated states in the Eastern Region were represented at the Fall 2011 meeting. The New York Federation of Democratic Women hosted the meeting and bridged it with their state convention. The theme of the convention and Eastern Region meeting was “Women in Blue Cracking Through”.

Lena Bishop, President of the NYFDW, presided over the opening of the meeting, which begins with registration and a welcome reception on Friday afternoon. On Saturday morning the meeting was convened with the opening of the Eastern Region meeting by Linda Jefferson, Eastern Regional Director. The roll was called with Pennsylvania, New Jersey, District of Columbia, New York, Conn., and Maryland present.

Everyone at the Eastern Region meeting agreed that the organization needs more visibility and this should come from the region divisions of “growth and development”. All would like to see the organization recognized for the powerful grassroots organization that NFDW has been proving to be over its forty-one years of growth and to help get more Democratic Women elected. It was agreed that the Eastern Region would plan an activity with the election coming in November 2012. We decided that we have to do more: (1) Keep the White House 2012, (2) Win back Congress (3) Elect more women for political office.

The Women of the Eastern Region have agreed to have activities in each state that are federated in the Eastern Region on April 21, 2012. All states are busy planning their activity that will take place in unison to bring more notoriety to the grassroots organization with our strength and numbers. The Eastern Region has extended this invitation to all regions to hold an activity on Saturday, April 21, 2012 for growth and development of NFDW’s grassroots organization.

“While every woman’s life story is unique, there are longings of the heart that seem to be universal: the desire to find true love, the desire that someone will affirm our inherent value regardless of our situation, the hope that we can change.” The NFDW continues to help make the change. Please do mark your calendars for Saturday, April 21, 2012 in your state.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at LHJefferson@aol.com.

Respectfully,

Linda Jefferson, Eastern Regional Director

Upward Trend of Female Candidates for Congress

This is excerpted from an article by Susan Davis in USA Today newspaper January 30, 2012 page 4A. I thought there was some important information to share along with a final comment.

This year, a notable number of candidates are running in potentially competitive races in both the House of Representatives and Senate that could send a wave of female lawmakers to Washington in November. If so, it would reverse the 2010 election trend that saw the first dip in female representation in the House since 1978 and only sent one woman, New Hampshire Republican Kelly Ayotte, to the Senate.

In the 2012 Senate lineup, there are 10 female candidates, - 4 Republicans and 6 Democrats – seeking office. Of the six states with female Democratic candidates – Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota and Wisconsin – none has ever elected a woman to the Senate. Republican women are also running in Connecticut, Hawaii, Missouri and New Mexico.

The Democratic congressional campaign operation is fielding candidates in 76 House races they hope to make competitive, and about half of those districts have female candidates. Republicans agree, but have recruited only 7 candidates for competitive races.

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South Carolina News

I'm still excited about the Fall Forum gifts, program and trainings. We had a wonderful turnout. I want to publicly thank several people: first, I want to thank the elected officers of the Democratic Women's Council, the Vice Presidents — 1st Congressional District—Magy Patten, 2nd Congressional District—Kay Hightower, 3rd Congressional District—Teresa Harper, 4th Congressional District—Angela Summers (who could not attend the Fall Forum), 5th Congressional District—Amie Billings, 6th Congressional District—Toni James, Parliamentarian—Kathy Hensley, and Secretary—Susan Smith, Treasurer—Pat Calkins and Nancy Kolman, the Past President. I also want to thank the Fall Forum Committee Joyce Dickerson, Sally Howard and members of the board.

It was so amazing to have Katherine Archuleta, President Obama's national political director, as the special guest at the Fall Forum. She encouraged us to get as involved as we can to make a difference. Her speech is available on You Tube thanks to Nu Day Productions at www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjOA9JmsJkw&feature=share.

The mission of the Democratic Women's Council is twofold: to identify, encourage and support qualified Democratic female candidates to serve the citizens of our state as candidates for public office; to help achieve a level of equality at all levels of government, local state and national, and to encourage their participation in political activities.

In the spirit of our mission, the Executive Board decided that we should share the accomplishments of South Carolina Democratic women in a tangible way. As a result, we initiated an effort of recognition in 2005 to honor South Carolina Democratic women with the South Carolina Democratic Women's Hall of Fame. I appointed a woman who has worked tirelessly in the interest of women, Magy Patten, who chairs the Awards & Honorariums Committee. Please take some time to read the article on this year's recipient, the Honorable Liz Patterson of Spartanburg. Her continued involvement in Democratic entities is much appreciated.

Our past presidents' involvement in the Women's Council has meant a lot to me in my new leadership role. They have helped me in so many ways and to assist us all in meeting our responsibilities and serve as outstanding role models for all of us.

We are working with the state party and encouraging people who are interested and have a cell phone to take the time to text SCDP to #96362. People will then be signed up for updates, rapid response messages and will know about important information before anyone else. This effort will help empower us as Democrats.

Cherie Abee Mabrey, President

Female Candidates for Congress *(continued)*

"Many of us view gender parity as a goal for Congress," said Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., who has helped recruit candidates this year.

Democratic candidates include Val Demings, an African American woman who was Orlando's first female police chief; Iraq War veteran Tammy Duckworth in Illinois; and Iowan Christie Vilsack, the wife of former governor and current Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Rep. Allyson Schwartz, D-PA, who chairs Democrats' recruitment, said women can be very effective messengers when so many Americans are worried about kitchen table issues affecting family finances and when voters increasingly say they want lawmakers to comprise and get things done. "They (women) come as problem solvers," Schwartz said. I totally agree!

Pat Hobbs, Immediate Past President

Democratic Women of Florida, Inc., works to make 2012 the “Year of the Democratic Woman” in Florida

The Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc., has hit the ground running in preparation for the critical 2012 redistricting election. In preparation for the early opening day of the Florida legislative session — convening two months earlier than usual due to redistricting, the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc., released its 2012 legislative agenda immediately after the New Year’s holiday. With the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc., announced legislative agenda, the organization declared the group’s main priority for the year — fairness for all Floridians.

“In 2011, Floridians were under attack on all fronts — our state’s citizens were fair game for the Florida Legislature,” said DWCF, Inc. President Janet Goen. Goen said, “In 2012, the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc. calls on the elected officials of Florida to keep fairness paramount in their actions while in Tallahassee.”

DWCF, Inc. Legislative Director Dr. Maureen McKenna stated, “Republican legislators and Florida’s job-killing governor “Pink Slip Rick” have attacked citizens’ rights on every level. Last year, Florida citizens stood against an assault on voting rights, reproductive rights, and workers’ rights.” McKenna further asserted, “The war on women is slated to continue in 2012. Legislators seek to limit women’s access to healthcare, curtail our access to the polls, and further inhibit our ability to be productive workers who contribute to Florida’s economic growth.”

The Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc. calls for legislators, during the 2012 Legislative Session, to honor the will of Florida’s voters as expressed in the “Fair Districts” Amendments (Amendments 5 and 6) of 2010; to stop the war on women and to cease the continued attacks on women’s access to life-saving reproductive health care; and to support women workers as an important part of revitalizing Florida’s stalled economic engine — including passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Members of the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc. will bring their legislative agenda to Tallahassee in person on February 6 and 7, 2012. Women from throughout the state will bring their call for fairness to the Capitol as part of the DWCF, Inc.’s “Tally Days” — an annual event devoted to awareness, education, and advocacy.

One much anticipated workshop for the annual Tally Days will focus on key legislative issues in Florida during the critical 2012 election year. Longtime Democratic activist and Florida NOW member Barbara DeVane will moderate a panel that will feature Representative Lori Berman speaking about the Equal Rights Amendment bill she sponsored for the 2012 session and include representatives from Planned Parenthood, the Florida Education Association, and the League of Women Voters of Florida. Additional panel representatives will represent and discuss the following issues and concerns to Democratic women in Florida: Equality Florida, and the Coalition for Fair and Comprehensive Tax Reform.

For more information about the February “Tally Days” event in Tallahassee, Florida, please visit the organization’s website at www.democratic-women.org or on Facebook at Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc.

In Florida, potential Democratic women candidates continue to eye the field and consider races at all levels. The redistricting year will create opportunities for women that may not been seen for another decade. According to the Center for American Women in Politics at Rutgers University, women did not gain ground in the 2011 state legislative elections. However, 2012 is a critical year for women in politics across the nation. Like 1992, also a redistricting year, and which was declared a national “Year of the Woman”, this year holds similar promise for women to see great political gains throughout the country.

In Florida, as Democratic women begin to seize the opportunity and declare for races throughout the state, the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc., is working to make 2012 a winning year for Democratic women at all levels and will highlight their candidacies over the course of the election cycle. Dues paying

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members of Democratic Women's Clubs in Florida running for office will be featured in the quarterly state newsletter during 2012.

The first quarterly newsletter of the DWCF, Inc., featured three members running for office in different areas of Florida.



DWC Member Valerie Guenther is a candidate for Charlotte County Commissioner.

Valerie was interviewed by Ruth's List intern Paige Brice. Valerie shared information about her background and the experience she brings to the race: "I come from a long and successful entrepreneurial background. I started in the early days of Silicon Valley and the passion has continued as I worked in the telecommunications industry, real estate development, and the U.S. House of Representatives. Today, I am a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty, Inc. based in their Englewood office."

Valerie has extensive experience in the public service sector and a strong knowledge of government operations from her work as District Director for two members of Congress, Tim Mahoney and Suzanne Kosmas.

Paige asked Valerie why she decided to run for office. Valerie replied, "The Republican social economic strategy that is being pushed in full force here in Florida needs women to stand up for everyday values. I decided that it's my time to run and take a stand for the common sense priorities and values that are needed in my community."

DWCF, Inc. has the special distinction of fielding two women candidates for sheriff in 2012. In Florida, as in much of the nation, law enforcement is still largely a male-dominated field.

Capital City Democratic Women's Club First Vice President Lisa Sprague is running for sheriff of Leon County.

Lisa A. Sprague is the President and CEO of Sprague Consultants and Investigations, a professional security consulting service, and serves as a sworn reserve officer with the Department of Environmental Protection in the Training and Standards Division. Prior to opening her consulting firm, Lisa served as the Deputy Chief of Police for Florida State University and the immediate past president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administration. Lisa has over 30 years of law enforcement experience and has taught in many Sheriff and Police Academies across the United States.



Lisa received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Miami and her Master's Degree from Columbia College. A resident of Tallahassee, Lisa is a well-respected member of the community and was recently named one of the "25 Women You Need To Know." She has received numerous awards and accolades for her involvement and commitment to the community. Most recently, Lisa was recognized as a Glass Ceiling Award winner by the Business and Professional Women of Florida.

Highlands County Democratic Women Club Member and current sheriff of Highlands County Susan Benton is running for re-election.

Sheriff Susan Benton, a 5th generation Floridian, was born and raised in Miami-Dade County. Following in the footsteps of her great grandfather who served as Chief of Police in St. Augustine, Florida during the early 1920's, Sheriff Benton has served, with distinction in law enforcement for more than 30 years. She has served "in the trenches" shoulder-to-shoulder with her fellow deputies and has risen through the ranks by gaining the respect and trust of her colleagues, superiors, agency members, and community. Sheriff Benton has two grown children and three grand children.



Sheriff Benton was elected in 2004 and re-elected in 2008. She was awarded the Glass Ceiling Award by the Florida Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. for the 2004-2005 year for her trailblazing career in law enforcement.

Dr. Rachel Sutz Pienta DWCF, Inc. Communications Chair

Georgia FDW Holds Lobby Day

The Georgia Federation of Democratic Women has just finished a very successful Lobby Day and Press Conference at the Georgia State Capitol. Our attendees heard a very informative presentation from the Executive Director of the Georgia AARP, including an update on the Georgia Republicans' efforts to put sales tax on food purchases. So much for their "No tax pledge!"

While at the State Capitol, many of our attendees had the opportunity for visit with their legislators. GFDW then took the lead in a Capitol press conference to promote Georgia's voluntary state income tax check-off to support cancer research in Georgia. As a member of the House of Representatives, our very own president, Gail Buckner, was author of the original legislative that started the fund in the year 2000. To date, over \$3 million has been donated to cancer research. GFDW was pleased to spotlight this extraordinary effort. We believe that a cure for cancer will be found in our lifetime.

GFDW's newest project is to partner with the Georgia Department of Tourism to help establish a historical marker that recognizes First Lady Michelle Obama's Great-great-great grandmother, Melvinia Shields, lived in our Rex community. Melvinia Shields, who was enslaved, was brought to Georgia as a six-year-old in 1852. She gave birth to her first child at approximately age 15. This male child was named Dolphus Shields, and he is recognized as the First Lady's Great-great grandfather. In addition to the historical marker, GFDW is establishing a scholarship that will be awarded to at least one student that lives in the vicinity of the Georgia farm where Melvinia Shields lived. The scholarship will be named to honor both Melvinia Shields and First Lady Michelle Obama. With two high schools just a few short miles from the site of the farm, there should be numerous applicants for the scholarship. We are excited about assisting a student as we honor of these historic women. Information about how to send donations will soon be posted on our website: www.georgiademocraticwomen.com.

The Georgia 2012 Project is one aspect of GFDW's campaign strategy. We are actively encouraging women to seek office, and we will be engaged in helping to provide training and other assistance to our women candidates. More women are needed in elected office, and GFDW is doing our part to make this happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Buckner

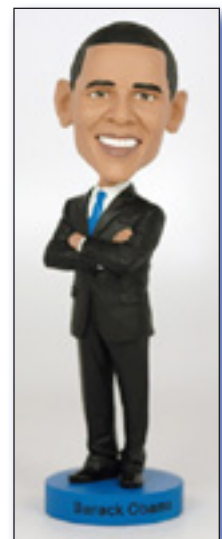
Georgia Federation of Democratic Women



GFDW dedicated volunteers were recognized with a "Bouquet Award" at our Spring Meeting. Among those that were honored are (pictured Left to Right): President Gail Buckner, Mildred Schmelz, Elaine Davis-Nickens, Ann Mackay, Elverta Williams.



GFDW members rally for the Affordable Health Care Act



Our Southern Crescent Democratic Women are selling bobble-head dolls of President Barack Obama, Hillary and Bill Clinton and other leaders as a fundraiser for Reach-Out-and Read.

New York News

The following counties are in NYS Democratic Women –

ORANGE COUNTY — Orange County Democratic Women is planning a monthly series of programs whose goal is to show women that politics is not a dirty work, but rather another word for empowerment. Their message is “Get involved and shape the way the world should be, or others will shape it for you.”

On Feb 5, OCDW is hosting its annual Soup R Bowl buffet. We will be screening for Sundance Film Festival documentary, Miss Representation. This movie exposes how women are negatively impacted in the world of marketing and advertising. It is a riveting look at the way our society condones the objectification of women. After the movie, we have a speaker who will talk about how to get involved in order to achieve a better society.

OCDW has planned its monthly series of events to engage a new generation of young women activists. We will build these events over the next 4 months and in June we will celebrate our 10th year anniversary. The Inspiration Gala will be the party of a decade. It will be an opportunity to look back on the impact OCDW has had in Orange County politics over the past 10 years.

Orange County is also having the New York State Democratic Fall Convention in Orange County on Oct 19 and 20. They have already started to work on it.

ULSTER — Ulster County Democratic Women honored long time Democrat activist, union member and UCDW member Rosalind Stark.

They had a holiday Gift basket making party to raffle off at their Holiday Party.

They are having a Hudson Valley for Obama Meeting Jan 23.

They are working with the Young Dems to get them involved.

DUTCHESS — Dutchess Democratic women had a reception to honor all Democratic women Candidates who ran in the last election. They had 38 Democratic women run and 18 were elected. It was super.

They had a meeting for Obama and had a great turnout. They are also working on getting young people involved.

On April 21 – all three of the counties, Orange, Ulster, Dutchess are walking over the Hudson River Bridge – 1000 Dem women for 2012.

BROOME COUNTY—Broome County Dem Women had the fall Regional Democratic women Convention at the Riverwalk, in Binghamton. Sept 30 and Oct 1 and 2 and had 52 participants representing PA, NJ, NY, CT, DC, MD, VA. It was a super meeting. We all learned new things from each other. We had many great speakers. Our National President, Janice Davis, attended and our regional director, Linda Jefferson. Our elected officials came and welcomed everyone. Senator Gillibrand sent a Video since she couldn't attend. We had also had a lunch and dinner on Sat.

We tied it in to our first NYS Fall Meeting which was on Oct 2 at the Riverwalk attended by 25 Dem women. We were excited since NYS was federated in DC in May, 2011. We now have so far 3 more counties that are looking to join, NYS Dem Women.

In Nov, 2011, Lena Bishop presented a resolution to the NYS Democratic State Committee to have the NYS Dem Women President or her designee to have a seat on the NYS Executive committee. It will be voted on at the spring, May 24 meeting in Albany. It should pass.

Broome is also having a luncheon in March (women's month) to honor past and present elected Democratic women and women who have contributed to the Democratic Party.

Broome will be holding their seventh annual chili fest at the Vestal Legion. It is to raise funds for

(continued next page)

Oregon FDW Holds Annual Meeting

The Oregon Federation Of Democratic Women held their annual meeting in Salem, Oregon on October 22, 2011.

A guest speaker from EMERGE OREGON was Laura Coyle, Executive Director of the organization.

Two proposals to be submitted to NFDW to the By-Laws Committee and the Resolutions Committee were presented. The group voted to submit these proposals.

Laura Comini from The Dalles was re-elected as President and Kathy Figley from Woodburn was elected Treasurer for the 2012–2013 term.

The Mid Columbia Democratic Women reported that they had sponsored a forum to encourage women to run for office. They had women in office from the City Council and County Commissioners, and a woman who had run for a position speak, telling of the experiences and giving pointers to campaigning. Also, the County Clerk came to give particulars about qualifications and getting reports in.

The Woodburn Club reported that 65% of their members are men. They are a very active club with a monthly breakfast meeting. They tried to organize a Hispanic club, but it was not successful.

Announcement that we are taking contributions to fund the sponsorship of a Young Democratic Woman to attend the NFDW convention in Louisville in 2012. This will be Darcy Long-Curtiss from The Dalles.

Laura Comini
President OFDW



Kathy Figley & Laura Comini

New York *(continued)*

our Scholarship to a graduating senior in Broome and it also goes for our education fund. We give two, five hundred dollar scholarships. We usually have 13 to 15 applicants.

We are having our Kickoff for Obama, Jan 24 at Dem Headquarters.

We also have almost every office up this year. Looking for candidates for all our Counties. We lost our great Congressman Maurice Hinchey to retirement.

Broome County with our neighboring counties is having the 1000 women Democratic march on April 21, 2012. We are marching over Washington St Bridge to the War Memorial back to Confluence Park where we will have refreshments. One of our new Young Dems is chairing the event.

Tioga County is also looking for candidates to run. They are a small group and join Broome until they have a Dem Women group.

That is the report from New York State Federation of Dem Women of all our Counties.

Lena Bishop, President
New York State Federation of Democratic Women

New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women

The New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women (NJFDW) is actively recruiting new members to join us as we approach the upcoming 2012 election cycle. Each county chapter is working diligently to achieve the goal of 1,000 women across New Jersey. In future reports we hope to highlight each chapter and the work they are doing and we have chosen one of our central counties, Middlesex, for this issue of the Communicator.

Great Work!: The NJFDW Middlesex County chapter has carried out their mission and promoted the appointment and election of Democratic women to responsible positions within all branches of government, has encouraged the advancement of women in both public and private sectors, and has advocated for the principals of our great Democratic party. Some of their accomplishments during 2012 included winning the coveted NJFDW Peg Roberts Award for their former County Democratic Vice Chair, Helen Gottlieb; nominated and won the 2011 Middlesex County Commission on the State of Women Award for their State Senator, Barbara Buono; increased their membership to over 90 women, celebrated the First Annual “Meet the Candidates Night Fundraiser” raising over \$2,800; established their own Facebook social media page that now has over 695 friends; and elected 16 of the 21 women on their ballot. In addition to all of the above, they also collect non-perishable foods on a monthly basis to distribute to food banks in their county. Kudos to Middlesex County!

Election Update: The Honorable Monica Honis, a Councilwoman in Teaneck (Bergen County) is running for reelection in May. Monica is also the Recording Secretary for the NJFDW.

Sad News: It is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of one of our most loyal members, Vi Etlar, from our Bergen County chapter. Although Vi never held elected office, her political resume was lengthy and she was twice honored by the Bergen County Democratic Organization as Volunteer of the Century. Vi’s smile and helpful ways will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Marty and family.

Nancee May, President NJFDW

WOMEN IN BLUE T-SHIRT CONTEST — WHICH STATE WILL WIN

Women in Blue is a proud tradition of our Federation. Blue and white are the colors we wear when we speak out on issues of particular relevance to women and families before our state legislatures. We proudly wear these colors as a symbol of solidarity.

As our voices grow louder, as the issues become more profound, as the need to advocate becomes stronger, the message we convey through the wearing of our t-shirts is of extreme importance.

Help the Federation succinctly convey our message. Here’s how:

At our 2012 Convention in Kentucky, each state is asked to bring a t-shirt designed by your membership which you believe clearly conveys our message of advocacy, solidarity and women rights. Be creative. The sky is the limit. There are no ‘rights and no wrongs’.

The shirts will be entered into a contest. At the end of the convention, each shirt will be judged by a group of non-federated members. The winning shirt will be the one the members will wear on our advocacy days. Will your state be the winner? Are you in?

Please email me (emlloyd@comcast.net) your response “Yes, I am in.” You can also direct your questions and comments to the same address.

Looking forward to a great convention and some GREAT t-shirts.

Estell Mathis Lloyd, Chair, **Women in Blue**

Southern Region Holds Fall Meeting

The Southern Region of the National Federation of Democratic Women convened for our fall meeting on October 21, 2011 at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. The meeting was hosted by the Arkansas Federation of Democratic Women.

Nine (9) of the thirteen (13) southern states were represented including Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

The event kicked off with a vocal presentation by the Central High School Chorus and the Osceola High School ROTC. Speakers included Gov. Mike Beebe, Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, State Treasurer Martha Shoffner, Arkansas Democratic Party Chair Will Bond and Congressman Mike Ross.

Macy Madison, a volunteer for the Obama for America 2012 also gave a report on the re-election campaign and where local OFA offices could be located. She encouraged the delegation to offer their support whether it be financial or through volunteer efforts.

I conducted the business meeting and updated the attendees about the 2012 national convention to be held in Louisville, Kentucky and the NFDW's branding "Women in Blue". The state federations were encouraged to send in nominations for the 2012 awards and internships. A discussion was had about helping Louisiana reorganize and I asked for volunteers from other southern states to assist in this effort.

After state president reports, the attendees enjoyed a guided tour of the Presidential Library and were treated to an evening reception sponsored by the Arkansas Democratic Party and U.S. Senator Mark Pryor.

The 2012 fall meeting of the Southern Region will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and SC President, Cheri Mabrey extended an invitation for the meeting.

Susanna French
Southern Region Director



*Regional Director, Susanna French and
Cheri Mabrey, South Carolina's President*

START MAKING PLANS FOR THE 2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 30 – June 3, 2012

At the historic BROWN HOTEL, Louisville, Kentucky

Group room rates: \$125 per night Use code #053012NFDW
Call now to reserve your room at this special group rate (888) 888-5252

Optional Tours will take place on
Wednesday – May 30, 2012 (Bourbon Capital Tour & Tasting)
& Thursday – May 31, 2012 (Horse Country & Racing Tour)

For more information contact
Susanna French • susannafrench@hotmail.com • (270) 205-1316

News from the Western Region

The Western Regional Meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on November 12, 2011. New Mexico State Party Chair Javier Gonzales welcomed all to New Mexico. The convention was honored to have Christine Pelosi as the key note speaker at the luncheon. The Regional meeting combined with the New Mexico Federation hosted by Western Regional Director, Terri Holland and outgoing New Mexico State President Kathy Duffy. Federation members from Oregon and Arizona found their way to the Land of Enchantment. The “Boot Camp” theme prevailed and many in attendance wore camouflage outfits. It was a great day full of enthusiasm, learning and a lot of fun.

Elected officials at the meeting included New Mexico Congressman Martin Heinrich, New Mexico Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, NM State Auditor Hector Balderas, former NM Secretary of State Mary Herrera, former Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez, former State Representative Kandy Cordova, and Bernalillo County Commissioner Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Christine conducted her “Campaign Boot Camp” training for the 100+ attendees during the afternoon session. It was an amazing experience as many of those participating were given an opportunity to add to the training with their own comments and opinions. Everyone learned so much and we are most appreciative of Christine’s time and talents. A bonus was enjoying Christine’s adorable daughter Bella, the youngest Democratic “woman” present!

The New Mexico Federation held their election for new officers welcoming Kooch Jacobus as the new President. The newly organized Democratic Women of Valencia County and the Democratic Women of the Sacramento Mountains came to participate in their first State Convention.

Terri Holland
Western Region Director



The newly elected NM officers and the judge who swore them into office.

Left to right:~ Valerie Moore, Stephanie Hanosh, Marry Herrera, Edie Nunez, Clara Padilla Andrews, Kathy Duffy, Kooch Jacobus, Judge Christine Argyres.

Women in Blue...WE BELIEVE

The West Virginia Federation of Democratic Women, Inc. celebrated their 47th anniversary at the annual meeting hosted by Cabell County. The theme for this year's conference theme, Women in Blue WE BELIEVE! was chosen to remind us that if you work hard you won't lose your home if you are sick, we believe Veterans will be give the care they deserve and that seniors will have money for food and housing, we believe your children will get the education they need and when you retire we believe you should not have to choose between food and medication, we believe your family will have safe drinking water and worker safety, we believe you can count on a dignified retirement and the safety net of social security and medicare. Past Presidents as well as Club Presidents were honored at the meeting.



New officers were elected and sworn in for the 2012–2013 term.

- President: Susan Hubbard, Cabell County
- Vice-President: Robin Stultz, Lewis County
- Secretary: Shirley Roby, Pleasants
- Treasurer: Betty Totten, Jackson
- Historian: Linda Collins, Braxton
- Development Sec. Sheila Hunley, Wood
- 1st CD Director West: Anna Gillespie, Brooke
- 1st CD Director East: Susan Miley, Harrison
- 2nd CD Director West: Lisa Amoroso, Kanawha
- 2nd CD Director East: Dauna Hawkins, Lewis
- 3rd CD Director West: Janet Artrip, Cabell
- 3rd CD Director East: Doris Morefield, Mercer
- Public Relations: Caroline Altizer Vance, Cabell
- Ways and Means: Joyce Creel, Jackson
- Programs/Book: Candy Good, Jackson

Several elected officials attended the conference including videos from Senator Jay Rockefeller and Senator Joe Manchin, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, Secretary of State Natalie Tennant, State Treasurer John Perdue, who served as the auctioneer, House Speaker Rick Thompson, State Senate President Jeff Kessler, Congressman Nick Rahall and his wife Melinda and special keynote speakers, Senator Lena Taylor from the Wisconsin 14 and Barbara Easterling, President of Alliance for Retired Americans.

Several members attended for the first time. The WVFDW has over 3,000 members and 40 local clubs participating.

Belinda Biafore



Patricia Sirois, Chair
NFDW Awards Committee
45 Jefferson Lane
East Hartford, Ct. 06118
860-568-0065

January 5, 2012

Dear State Presidents and Regional Directors,

The NFDW Convention of 2012 is fast approaching. I would like to introduce myself and my Committee members. The Awards Committee members are Karen Ray, Ella Creech Peete, Betty Smith, Barbara Mansfield as our Advisor and myself Patricia Sirois.

We are contacting you for nominees for consideration for: **Outstanding NFDW Member of the Year, Outstanding Elected Democratic Woman Holding Public Office, and the NFDW Humanitarian Award.**

These awards are presented annually during our Convention. These awards started with our NFDW founder, Rilla Moran Woods and others informally in 1986. In 1987, the awards were drafted, formalized with criteria and sent to NFDW members. States were encouraged to recognize Outstanding Democrats in these categories and forward the choices as a nominee for consideration to NFDW. The Awards Committee then presents the winners during the Awards Luncheon at the Convention.

It is the Committee's hope this year as it has been in the past, that you will encourage your members to participate in this process. Below are the guidelines for selection.

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR NOMINATIONS AND SELECTION

In submitting the supporting information for a nominee, follow the criteria which is the basis for evaluating nominees for the Awards.

Present supportive material as numbered exhibits with the letter of nomination.

Nominations are to be submitted by State Federations, or where the entire state is not federated by a member club. The nominee need not be a resident of the state submitting the nomination.

The nominee must be present at the National Convention to receive the award, unless some unforeseen event occurs to prevent attendance.

Organizations are requested to limit nominations to one per category.

OUTSTANDING NFDW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Current active member of the NFDW who personifies NFDW objectives (i.e., Article II, Bylaws: The objective of the NFDW shall be 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 Party structure)

Contribution by the nominee to the growth, development and promotion of NFDW.

National scope and stature of the nominee.

Personal political involvement by the nominee.

OUTSTANDING ELECTED DEMOCRATIC WOMAN HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE

Current elected Democratic office holder of statewide, regional or national scope.

Demonstrated support of NFDW by nominee.

Significant contribution to the Democratic Party and its principles by the nominee.

Demonstrated commitment by the nominee to the success of other Democratic women in the Party organization and for elective office.

NFDW HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Significant contribution to the cause of human and/or civil rights.

Demonstrated support of the NFDW.

Nominee possesses leadership qualities.

Nominee's success in achieving human and /or civil rights. (The nominee may be male or female but must meet the criteria.)

DEADLINE MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2012 TO BE CONSIDERED.

Send nominations to: Patricia Sirois, Awards Chair, 45 Jefferson Lane, East Hartford, CT. 06118 Email: pasirois@comcast.net

Looking forward to seeing you at the NFDW Convention.

Sincerely,
Patricia Sirois



NFDW Internship Application

Please fill out the following:

Political Campaigns in Which You Have Participated (Include Dates)

Activities, Duties or Positions You Have Been Engaged in or Performed for the Democratic Party at Any Level.

Extracurricular:

You may attach additional sheets should any space provided be inadequate for your response. You may also attach letters of recommendation from Democratic Office Holders or Party Leaders.

Please attach an essay of not less than 200 words describing your political and career aspirations and why the Founder's Internship would help you achieve your goals.

Forward your application to your Federation state president or chair (all of these are listed on our web site www.nfdw.com) with a copy to the NFDW president president@nfdw.com. Your Federation president/chair will provide an endorsement letter and forward with your application to:

Patricia Sirois
45 Jefferson Lane
East Hartford, CT. 06118
Home phone:860-568-0065 and cell:860-416-8345
Email:pasirois@comcast.net

Thank you!!