



Communicator

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Summer 2017

Letter from the President

inside...

President's Letter1

Officers.2

2017 Convention photos
3-6

NFDW Award Winners.7

Executive Board8-14

Florida 15

New Jersey 16-17

New Mexico. 18

Women in Blue
 Committee 19

Town Hall Teleconference
 19

Southern Regional Director
 11

Tennessee 20

History Committee. . . 21-24

Legislative Committee. . 25

2018 Convention 25



What a great time we had in Atlanta, Georgia for the 46th annual convention of the National Federation of Democratic Women! We owe a debt of gratitude to Convention Chair, Kathy Adams, and the Georgia Federation of Democratic Women for their hard work in planning and hosting the convention which brought us inspiring speakers, educational workshops, and historical and humbling tours of the

locations centered around the Civil Rights Movement. We left Atlanta more energized and focused on the tasks at hand.

I am honored to have been elected as your next President and to stand with you as we stand for the issues that are important to Americans and elect Democrats up and down the ballot. I am in awe of the group of passionate and diverse women who have been elected as your national leadership and am humbled to work alongside them. As you will see, 16 difference states are represented on your executive board. Please help me welcome them:

- Susanna French (KY) President
- Cindy Jenks (MO) 1st Vice President
- Dr. Pamela Pugh (MI) 2nd Vice President
- Darcy Long-Curtiss (OR) 3rd Vice President
- Sylvia Vason (NJ) 4th Vice President
- Carol Comito (AZ) 5th Vice President
- Susan Rutt (PA) Treasurer
- Susan Shelton (TX) Recording Secretary
- Elizabeth Duarte (CT) Corresponding Secretary
- Christie Breedlove (OK) Parliamentarian
- Winifred Carson-Smith (DC) Eastern Regional Director
- Barbara Faison (NC) Southern Regional Director
- Dorothy Adams (MO) Midwestern Regional Director
- Kathleen Lawrence (WA) Western Regional Director
- Virgie Rollins (MI) DNC Representative
- Dr. Maureen McKenna (FL) DNC Representative

(continued on page 2)

President's Letter *continued*

JoAnne Sullivan (CT) Immediate Past President

Carye Blaney (WV) Past President

As we have never seen before, rights and freedoms for women & children, minority groups, those less fortunate, and the LGBTQ community are under attack. We cannot afford to sit idly by and watch our country taken back 30 years. I urge you to **SHOW UP, STAND UP, & SPEAK UP**. Show up to volunteer, show up to organize, show up to resist, and show up at the ballot box. Stand up for women's rights, stand up for affordable healthcare for all, and stand up for civil rights of ALL Americans, because you shouldn't have to look like me to have the same liberties and opportunities.

I am excited about the future of the NFDW and the Democratic Party. Stay active, stay engaged in social media, and reach the voters where they are!

In solidarity,

Susanna L. French, President

National Federation of Democratic Women

NFDW Officers

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COMMUNICATOR EDITOR

Dr. Maureen McKenna



Installation of new officers



New president Susanna French with past presidents



Outgoing President Joanne Sullivan with incoming President Susanna French



Susanna French with banquet keynote speaker, Lisa Borders, President of the WNB



Congressman John Lewis





(continued on page 5)



Joanne Sullivan with American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten



State Presidents



Joanne Sullivan, Congressman John Lewis, GFDW President Kathy Adams



(continued on page 6)



Florida women wearing their summer pussy hats.



Connecticut President, Debra Dickey, sworn in by Dorothy Mrowka



2017 NFDW Awards Winners

There were numerous candidates for the various awards and we had a difficult time choosing just one winner per category—they were all awesome! Be sure and submit your nominees for next year by May 1, 2018.

The 2017 NFDW Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to former First Lady from Georgia Rosalynn Smith Carter for her lifelong work to mental health, caregivers, and Habitat for Humanity. Her friend, cousin and staffer Millie Duke proudly accepted the award for Mrs. Carter from Committee member Dot Adams.

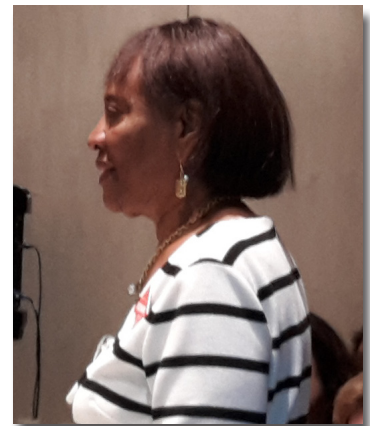
The NFDW Elected Woman of the Year was Washington, DC Councilwoman Anita Bonds. Anita is an active member of the DC Metropolitan Women's Democratic Club, has been a presenter at our conventions and is the chair of the Washington DC Democratic Committee. We were glad Anita could join us and see the appreciation of all her friends. Kathy Lawrence of Washington presented the award.

The NFDW Woman of the Year went to longtime political activist of the Washington DC Women Estell Mathis-Lloyd for her lifetime of work and currently is the Women in Blue Chair for the NFDW. Estell is a dynamic Woman in Blue and we surprised her—that does not happen often. Pat Sirious, advisor, gladly presented the award.



Rachel Gonzalez

The NFDW Rilla Moran Woods Internship was awarded to Rachel Gonzalez of Independence Missouri. She is the current president of the Democratic High School Democratic Clubs of Missouri; she was the historically youngest delegate to the DNC convention in Philadelphia and she will be an incoming freshman at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri this fall. She will serve in Washington DC Democratic National Headquarters next summer as an intern. She was able to join us for the whole convention and wowed everyone like she did us on the committee. Peggy Stepp presented the award.



Estell Mathis-Lloyd

NFDW Executive Board Members 2017–2019

PRESIDENT Susanna French (*Kentucky*)



Susanna French is a long-time activist in democratic politics where she has served in numerous capacities nationally and in her home state of Kentucky. She was the youngest woman ever elected as President to her state federation after she had served 4 years as state Treasurer. She is an elected member of the Kentucky Democratic Party State Central Executive Committee, Chairman of her county party, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Emerge Kentucky Board of Directors. She served 2 consecutive terms as the NFDW Southern Regional Director, 1st Vice President of the National Federation of Democratic Women and was convention chair for the national convention in Louisville, Kentucky. She was awarded the NFDW Outstanding Member of the Year in 2015. Susanna has chaired or sat on numerous state and national committees. Susanna lives in

Benton, Kentucky with her husband, Jamie and is the proud mother of 3 children, Krista, Danielle and Matt. Professionally, she is the General Manager of Alexander Development, Inc – Premier Disaster Restoration and the co-owner of a retail business with her husband.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT Mary “Cindy” Jenks (*Missouri*)



Cindy Jenks has served the National Federation of Democratic Women as Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and 2nd Vice President. She has served the Missouri Democratic Party and the Missouri Federation of Women’s Democratic Clubs for many years in different offices and is slated to be the MFWDC State President this year. In 2011, and again in 2013, she received the Missouri Democratic Party Outstanding Local Party Member Award. In 2011 she received the MFWDC Woman of the Year Award and in 2016 she received the NFDW Outstanding Member of the Year Award. She is an advocate for the disabled and was President of the Board of the Independent Living Center in her

area. She promotes the State and National Federation wherever she goes, is a member of the Century Club and is proud to be a Democrat.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT Dr. Pamela Pugh (*Michigan*)



Pamela Pugh, DrPH, MS is the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Women’s Caucus. As a strong supporter of the community she hails from, Pamela served as an elected member of the City of Saginaw Charter Revision Commission, 2004–2007. She also served as the former Executive Director of the Saginaw County Young Democrats. Pamela has worked with several political campaigns on the local, state, and national level and was selected as a Democratic National Convention Delegate for the Democratic Convention in 2004, Boston, and 2016, Philadelphia. Pamela was instrumental in bringing Teresa Heinz Kerry to Saginaw in support of lead hazard reduction in addition to 2004 Presidential Campaigning efforts. In November of 2014, Dr. Pugh was elected, as the highest vote-getter

in a statewide election, to the Michigan State Board of Education. Her term expires in January of 2023.

As the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Women’s Caucus, she has assisted in organizing events aimed at mobilizing women and getting them involved in the political process. She organized an issues conference for the Midwest Region NFDW conference and co-chaired the first climate, energy, and environment roundtable

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NFDW Officers *continued*

at the 2016 DNC. Since October 2016, Dr. Pamela Pugh has served as the Chief Public Health Advisor for the City of Flint, Michigan where she is responsible for providing increased capacity for the City of Flint to enhance the health, wellness and resilience of its residents by providing crucial advice and support to the Mayor and City Council on all matters affecting the health of the residents. She is the owner of Regeneration LLC, a business which serves as a catalyst for economically sustainable and healthy urban communities by assisting public agencies, organizations, and businesses in building capacity through effective operations and winning partnerships. Prior to starting this business, she was employed by the Saginaw County Department of Public Health for 14 years. Dr. Pugh received a Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Florida A&M University. She has been appointed to numerous boards and policy development workgroups aimed at improving the quality of life for children and families. Dr. Pugh is a two-time national recipient of the NAACP Dr. Montague Cobb Award for special achievement in social justice, health justice, health education and promotion, fund-raising and research. Her motto is, “Be the Change You Wish to See in the World” – *Mahatma Gandhi*.

3RD VICE PRESIDENT Darcy Long-Curtiss (Oregon)



Darcy currently serves as the NFDW Recording Secretary. She has been very reliable in recording minutes for all executive board meetings as well as the national annual conventions. Darcy is a hardworking Democrat. Some highlights of her leadership roles include: Chair of the Wasco County Democrats, Chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon’s Rural Caucus, State Central Committee Member for the Democratic Party of Oregon and Chair of the Oregon Federation of Democratic Women. In November 2016, Darcy was elected to The Dalles City Council. Darcy is an independent Financial Advisor with her own company, Empower Financial, and has been married to her husband, Daniel, for 24 years and has two teenage sons.

4TH VICE PRESIDENT Sylvia Vason (New Jersey)



Sylvia recently served as NFDW’s treasurer. She was elected as President of the New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women January 2017. Sylvia’s background includes Municipal Clerk Borough of Lawnside, Municipal Clerk Borough of Chesilhurst, Deputy Clerk Township of Pennsauken, Senior Clerk Typist Township of Pennsauken, and Clerk Typist Township of Pennsauken. Also, Sylvia is an ongoing instructor of vital statistics at Rutgers Center for Government services.

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5TH VICE PRESIDENT **Carol Comito** (*Arizona*)



Carol is a very active member of the Arizona Democratic Party. She has been a state Committee person for 10 out of the past 12 years. She also serves as a precinct committee person. Carol was District Chair and board member for 4 years and a co-chair for the LGBT caucus. Carol moved into the vacated position of President of the AZFDW in February 2016 and January 2017 Carol was elected President for the Arizona Federation of Democratic Women. The AZ FDW will be hosting the NFDW annual convention in 2018. Carol has worked in many capacities with women's organizations for the past 25 years. Most notably she has worked with the Business and Professional Women and now is currently serving as the President of the Virtual Chapter of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of

the USA, an affiliate of the International BPW. Carol is passionate about women taking on the roles of leadership in government, business and nonprofits.

TREASURER **Susan Rutt** (*Pennsylvania*)



Susan Rutt is Past President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women, 2007-2011. She previously served as President from 1989-1993 and is the longest serving President in the organization's 88 year history. She is a member of PA Democratic State Committee and a member of the Executive Board of the Lehigh County Democratic Committee. She is a member of the Women's Caucus of the Democratic State Committee. She is Past President and a current board member of the Women's Democratic Club of Lehigh County and a member of the Northampton County Council of Democratic Women. She served as President of the Young Democratic Clubs of Pennsylvania and as Executive Vice President of the Young Democrats of America. In 1981 she chaired the National Convention of

Young Democrats and was selected as the Outstanding Young Democrat of America. Prior to her election as President of the PA Federation of Democratic Women in 1989, she served as Regional Director, Young Democrats Representative to the Board, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Survey Editor, and Vice President. She helped establish the Political Action Committee and statewide trainings for women candidates. She chaired the 1987 Convention of the National Federation of Democratic Women in Philadelphia and is Treasurer of the NFDW PAC. She established and chairs the Century Club of the NFDW PAC. In 2013, she was elected NFDW Eastern Regional Director.

RECORDING SECRETARY **Susan Shelton** (*Texas*)



Susan has been very active in the Texas Democratic Party. Among her many political accomplishments are: Precinct Chair Travis County, State Democratic Executive Committee, State Democratic Executive Committee Texas Democratic Women, At large Board Member Capital Area Democratic Women, Vice President TX Democratic Women, and President TX Democratic Women. She has served as Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Texas and also as Political Director to Lee Leffingwell for Mayor of Austin. Susan was appointed to Austin Community College, Northridge campus Advisory Committee in 2009. She was elected to Bond Advisory Committee for ACC Bond Package 2014 and elected Chair of Northridge Campus Advisory Committee 2015. As a technical writer and editor

by trade, Susan enjoys writing as a method of motivating people to vote. Getting women to participate in the

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NFDW Officers *continued*

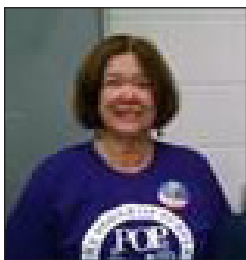
political process as voters, volunteers, and candidates is a personal mission. Susan started a twitter handle for the NFDW Southern region and compiled a spreadsheet of all social media for NFDW state chapters. Southern region and compiled a spreadsheet of all social media for NFDW state chapters.

PARLIAMENTARIAN **Christie Breedlove** (*Oklahoma*)



Christie Breedlove was born and raised in Tulsa, a product of Tulsa Public Schools. She started in politics at the age of four when her single mother used to take her and her younger sister to work at the union hall, or along on political campaigns, and to voter registration drives. She remained active in politics as an adult, working in campaigns as a phone banker and precinct walker and became a fundraiser for candidates for U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate and President. During her years as a student at the University of Tulsa she started managing campaigns for State House, City Council and School Board. With a degree in Communications from the University of Tulsa and a Masters in Human Relations (MHR) from the University of Oklahoma, she worked in Human Resources for almost 20 years. In 2008 she ran for Oklahoma State House, coming up 46 votes short in a runoff while being outspent more than 2-1. While working on her MHR at OU, her research on gender issues in the workplace revealed a lot about the decisions women make in their careers. Due in large part to these findings, four years ago she made a career move into Operations with the company where she has worked for the last 10 years. She is now one of only a handful of women in the Operations side of the business. She is also a member of the United Steelworkers of America. She is a homeowner in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She is divorced with no children, except her 10-year-old rescue dog, a red heeler mix named Gracie. She has previously served on the Board of Directors for Resonance Center for Woman-an organization that works with women who have been challenged by the criminal justice system, she is a Past State President of the Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women, a former member of the Oklahoma Democratic Party Central Committee and a founder and former Vice President of Sally's List-an organization that recruits and trains women to run for office in Oklahoma.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY **Elizabeth Duarte** (*Connecticut*)



Liz has been involved in the Democratic Party since 1993 when she helped on her first Democrat campaign, a local Mayoral election. She has been involved in her local Democratic women's organization since then and has served as President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. She served as President of the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women from 2011 to 2015 and is currently the Treasurer. Liz was Chair of Groton City Democratic Town Committee for 10 years and then was elected as a Representative to the Connecticut State Democratic Party, serving for the past 5 years. Liz is the recipient of the CT Federation of Democratic Women's Susan B Anthony Award and the CT Democratic Party Ella Grasso Women Leadership award. She is also involved in local organizations, Power of Purple (prevention of domestic violence), Community Speaks Out (assist those affected by opioid addiction) and Friends of Fort Griswold Battlefield (preservation of a local Revolutionary War Battlefield). Liz and her husband Paul are both equally passionate about politics and the Democratic Party. Being newly retired from the State of Connecticut as a Protective Services Social Worker Supervisor, she is devoting her time to do what she loves: getting Democrats, especially Democratic women, elected to office!

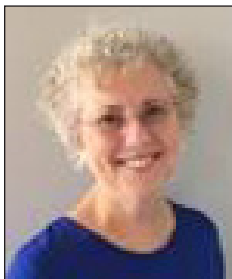
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DNC REPRESENTATIVE **Virgie Rollins** (*Michigan*)



Virgie M. Rollins is currently the Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Black Caucus. During her tenure as Chair of the Black Caucus, Ms. Rollins organized African American Leadership Summits, which convened to discuss Urban Issues with African American leaders across the county. She has encouraged African Americans to participate at every level of the Democratic Party and to seek party offices and public office. Currently, Virgie is PAC Chair for the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW). From 2003 to 2005, she served as President of the NFDW, to date she has raised more money for NFDW than any other President. She was also the First African American Woman to Chair the Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus. Under her leadership, the Jefferson-Jackson luncheon was established and the Eleanor Roosevelt Award founded as well as a young women's internship program with the Democratic Governor's office. Virgie has received numerous accolades for her work in politics and campaigns. In 2013, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Walk for Freedom March in Detroit, Virgie proudly accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in politics and social justice from the Michigan Democratic Black Caucus and the Women's Delegation for Peace and Change. She was awarded Best & Brightest of Business and Profession Women by Money Magazine. She is a recipient of the Spirit of Detroit Award and the recipient of a State of Michigan Resolution for her work with women. In addition, she's been listed in Who's Who Worldwide, and a recipient of the National Leadership Council Award and the National Capital Medallion Award. She was also honored by the Department of the Army during Women's History Month. Virgie Rollins served in the late Detroit Mayor Coleman Young's administration for 15 years. She also served as an Assistant Wayne County Executive, Assistant Director for the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation and Commissioner with the Liquor Control Commission. In 1993, Virgie founded the Rollins Group, LLC, an intergovernmental relations firm. She serves on various boards including the Michigan Council of Government, the Rainbow Push Coalition and AARP. Virgie lives in Detroit, Michigan with her husband Michael E. Rollins, they have two sons Michael Jr. and Martin. She is also the proud grandmother of two, Miles and Frenice. Virgie has been a member of Greater Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Bishop Earl J. Wright for over 40 years. Virgie M. Rollins is a graduate of Lake Michigan College and Michigan State University; she also attended University of Michigan. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

DNC REPRESENTATIVE **Dr. Maureen McKenna** (*Florida*)



Dr. Maureen McKenna, Ph.D., NFDW Democratic National Committee Representative and President of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida hails from Western Pennsylvania and Maryland. While living in Maryland, she earned her Ph.D. in Education from the University of Maryland. She has used her education in rehabilitation counseling to serve many populations during her career. She was awarded the Rehabilitation Counselor of the Year award in the state of Maryland and held leadership roles within the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association. She has dedicated her career to advocating for those with disabilities. At time of her retirement, she was aiding veterans with service-connected disabilities, as an employee of the Department of Veterans of Affairs, Veteran's Benefits Administration. Since moving to Florida in 2004, Dr. McKenna has served in many roles within the Democratic Women's Club of Florida at the local and state level, including leading DWCF's first statewide Tally Days(lobby days), as the then DWCF Legislative Chair. Dr. McKenna has been President of the DWCF since September 2013 with her second term ending in September of 2017. She serves on the Clubs and Caucuses and Executive Committee of the Florida

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NFDW Officers *continued*

Democratic Party as well as holding a seat on the Central Committee of the Florida Democratic Party. As a new President of the DWCF, Dr. McKenna and her team hosted a NFDW Southern Region Conference in 2013. Dr. McKenna also has served on the National Federation of Democratic Women's Legislative Committee. Dr. McKenna is also Editor for the NFDW Communicator. She was a proud Hillary Delegate at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, representing her congressional district.

EASTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR **Windy Carson-Smith** (*Washington, DC*)



Windy Carson-Smith, is an attorney and an administrator for Meiger Health. One of a select few, Windy has worked for the State Senate (Maryland), the United States Senate (Appropriations Committee); and the Council of the District of Columbia during her career. Over the years, she has lobbied, testified and/or developed legislation or regulation on contemporary health policy issues. She has worked on major policy/national and state initiatives to include organization and codification of the DC health occupations licensing statutes, DC no-fault insurance reform, national health care reform, and legislative and regulatory barriers to APN practice. Melding policy with advocacy, Windy designed the national grassroots campaign which led to DEA recognition and regulation of nurse prescribers; and Windy designed the American Nurses Association amicus brief and association litigation policy and strategy; as well as authored the first United States Supreme Court brief submitted to the courts by the American Nurses Association. She was one of two non-nurses recognized by Nurse Practitioner Magazine on the 25th anniversary of advanced practice. Ms. Carson-Smith, an author and editor, publishes the NursingLaw Report, an e-newsletter, podcast Let's Talk: Conversations with Advanced Practice Nurses. And, she provides news, current issues and blogs on her CarsonCompany FB Page, which is dedicated to advanced practice nursing issues. She is also considered an expert on insurance and regulatory/administrative law issues and serves on the editorial advisory boards of the American Journal of Nurse Practitioners and Health Law Week. Windy received her undergraduate degree with dual major in History and Political Science from Duke University; and her law degree from the National Law Center, George Washington University. She is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, the Supreme Court of the United States and federal district and appellate courts. Windy is also involved in community affairs. She currently serves as President of the Metropolitan Women's Democratic Club and on the Resolutions Committee of the National Federation of Democratic Women. Previously she served as Chair, Women in Blue, DC Federation of Democratic Women and Vice President of MWDC. She also served on the NFDW Women in Blue Committee. She served as 2nd Vice President, DC Federation of Democratic Women. Windy has also served as an at-large member, DC Democratic State Committee; Executive Committee, Ward 1 Democrats. Windy also served with distinction as the Chair of the Board of the DC Children's Youth Investment Trust Corporation and Vice Chair of United Medical Center Board of Directors. She also served on the Kellogg Foundation Advisory Committee on Health Disparities in Child Welfare Programs; the Board of Directors of the Duke University Alumni Club of Washington and the Board of Directors of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Foundation. She is a past President of the LeDroit Park Civic Association Windy is the wife of Frank Smith, Jr. PhD, a civil rights scholar, former DC Councilmember, founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Founding Director of the African American Civil War Museum, the only national organization dedicated to the recognition of the achievements of black soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

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NFDW Officers *continued*

SOUTHERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR **Barbara Faison** (*North Carolina*)



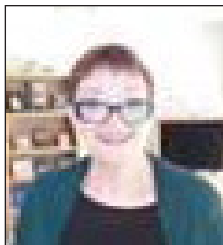
Barbara Faison is the Past President of North Carolina Democratic Women. She has held the offices of First Vice President of NCDW, NCDW Historian and NCDW Regional Director. She was the Past President of Local (Sampson) County Chapter for 12 years. She has served in the positions of Sampson County Precinct Chief Democratic Judge (15 years), Clinton City Election Worker (4 years), Clinton City Board of Adjustment Council (10 years), and Sampson Community College Trustee (8 years). Barbara has also served as the NFDW Nominating Committee Chair and NFDW Awards and Scholarship Chair. Barbara has attended NFDW Conventions since 2000.

MIDWESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR **Dorothy Adams** (*Missouri*)



Dorothy Adams has worked for the State of Missouri Social Services for 50 years. She worked with the most vulnerable of our society including the children, the elderly and the disabled. She has always been political and feels voting is not only a privilege but a responsibility as well. When Dorothy retired she became very involved working in campaigns and fundraisers for Federal, State and Local candidates. She is a State Committeewoman representing the 25th Senatorial District and serves on the State Executive Committee as well. She is in her 3rd term as President of District 8 Democratic Women. She is 2nd VP on MFWDC Executive Board and President of Dunkln County Democratic Women's Club.

WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR **Kathleen Lawrence** (*Washington*)



Kathy Lawrence was the 2016 recipient of the Democracy Award, in recognition of outstanding commitment to volunteer service to the Clark County Democratic Central Committee in Vancouver, Washington. She taught middle school and high school English and Social Studies for 39 years including a Fulbright Teaching Exchange to Bristol, England and a State of Hawaii Exchange to Honolulu. She is a union activist and served on the executive board of her union, serving as PAC Chair and lobbied in Olympia. Kathy's election as a Carter delegate in 1980 began her activism in the Democratic Party and Democratic Women. She was local president and Region Director of Democratic Women and chaired three state conventions. She has served as Clark County Party chair and State Committeewoman. Kathy is a long-time member of Bread for the World and serves as an officer in her local philanthropic educational organization which provides scholarships for women.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT **JoAnne Sullivan** (*Connecticut*)

PAST PRESIDENT **Carye Blaney** (*West Virginia*)

Florida

NFDW resolved to celebrate May as Democratic Women's Month in recognition of Eleanor Roosevelt. Democratic Women's Club of Florida celebrated 2017 with a rally and march in Central Florida on May 20, 2017. Notable speakers, entertainment, and celebration of our Democratic Women's history made it a memorable event.



Democratic Women's Club of Florida representatives to the NFDW 2017 Convention in Atlanta. Left to right: Anna Finley, Okaloosa County; Kathy Harrington, Charlotte County; DWCF President and NFDW DNC Representative Maureen McKenna, Highlands County; Tierra McClendon, Alachua County; Barbara Grimm, Volusia County; Danielle Neetz, Volusia County; Sheryl Eddie, Alachua County; Jewel Dickson, Volusia County.

New Jersey

Our First Awards Program, May 20th, Honoring County Chapter Presidents and Young Dems. Guest Speakers included our very own Susan Rutt, Eastern Regional Director, and Elaine Flynn, Middlesex County Clerk. Our Moderator was Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter and the Keynote Speaker was Senator Linda A. Greenstein. Honorees: Dr. Gail Cook, President Burlington County Chapter; Marge DellaVecchia, President Camden County Chapter; Elissa Grodd Schragger, President Mercer County Chapter; Daria Ludas, President Middlesex County Chapter; Retha Onitiri, President Monmouth County Chapter; Margaret Weinberger, President Somerset County Chapter and Alana Burman, Young Women Leadership.

New Jersey was in the house at the National Convention in Atlanta. The southern hospitality was great and we had a very good time, while taking care of business.

Our next event will be our Yearly Peg Roberts Award Luncheon. This event is targeted for October. Peg Roberts is the late mother of Retired Asm. Majority Leader Joe Roberts. She epitomized our mission, namely to promote women in government. Her efforts in finding qualified women to run for office, fundraising, and organizing GOTV efforts resulted in the election of many women in office.



(continued on page 17)

New Jersey *continued*



New Mexico Federation Democratic Women

NMFDW was present at the Women's March in Washington DC. We boarded a charter bus for DC and it was an adventure. Meanwhile, back at home, NMFDW was present at the Santa Fe, NM March, Albuquerque, NM March, and the Las Cruces, NM March.

NMFDW held their Women in Blue event at the New Mexico Legislature 2017 Session. We were proud to host more than 100 Democrats at this annual event. We met with our legislators, were introduced as the Women in Blue in both the Senate and House, met with our Secretary of State, Maggie Toulouse Oliver, and of course had lunch. Senator Nancy Rodriguez was the recipient of this year's President's Award of Excellence.

NMFDW was proud to be a part of the DNC's National Resistance Summer Program with our Pantsuit Power Workshops held on June 3, 2017. We trained nearly one hundred new organizers to create meaningful change and work to combat the reckless agenda being pushed by the Trump administration and Republicans in the state. At the workshops participants learned how to plan events, advocate for issues at the local, state and national levels, increase voter registration, and effectively engage communities to improve the quality of life for New Mexicans across the state. Ahead of the event, President of the NMFDW Pam Cordova said, "When we work together and empower our people, our policies will match our values. These workshops will provide valuable information and training for grassroots organizers who want to make a real difference in their communities and prepare for upcoming elections."



Women's March
Santa Fe, NM



Women's March
Washington DC



BB
Pantsuit Power
Workshops



Women in Blue with SOS
Maggie Toulouse Oliver



Pantsuit Power Workshops



Women in Blue

Women In Blue Committee

Thirteen states: Arizona, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Texas held Women in Blue (WIB) Days during the months of January, February, March, April, May and June, 2017. These members, whose numbers varied in size, from 10-350, met with their elected legislative leaders and spoke to them on issues of importance to women, families and children. Issues varied dependent on the state's concerns. At our Federation Annual Convention in Atlanta, these state chapters were showcased through a power point presentation which highlighted their participation.

WIB is a proud tradition of our federated clubs when members annually choose one day to speak with their legislators about issues of importance to women, families and children, local as well as global. These issues are wide ranging but of particular relevance to women and families. Our colors are blue and white and we wear blue on that day as a symbol of our solidarity.

As we continue to advocate on behalf of our constituency, it is important that we, Federation Members, continue to work together to build a strong, vibrant and cohesive movement of women of all ages where our voices are not just heard but are acted upon. WIB is an excellent vehicle for this to happen.

This year let us pledge to increase our WIB days, unite, identify our issues, put on our Blue, demand an audience with our legislators and make certain our voices yield positive results. Remember: There is strength in numbers.

Special thanks is given to all WIB participants and a very, very, special thanks to Elizabeth Duarte who brought it all together.

Thinking Blue,
Estell Mathis Lloyd
Chair

Tennessee



*Tennessee newly elected officials
L to R: Corresponding Secretary Pat L. Salt, Treasurer Kristy Wilkerson, East Tennessee VP Sandy Smith, TFDW President Glenda Carter, Senator Sara Kyle, Middle Tennessee VP Mary Salter, West Tennessee VP Telise Turner, Recording Secretary Shay Sanderson.*



Glenda Carter, newly elected Tennessee Federation Democratic Women President



Glenda Carter moments after being installed as 60th President of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women by Senator Sara Kyle.

2017 History Committee Report

It has been almost two years since the History Committee along with several former presidents and Joanne Sullivan, our current president, delivered twelve boxes of NFDW papers to the Modern History Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. It was an exciting day and we celebrated that accomplishment.

Since then, the National Federation of Democratic Women Records, as it is officially called by the Library of Congress, has been processed, given an ID number, and a 13 page finding aid has been written. There are in the collection, 8,500 items, 23 containers, 8.9 linear feet and 171 digital files. The summary of the collection states: Women's political organization. Organization formed in 1971 to encourage the participation of women in every level of the Democratic Party, correspondence, organizational history, chronological files, convention files, membership files, financial records, newsletters, and other records. The History Committee will add this information on the NFDW website for everyone to see and use.

This accomplishment is what I call, Phase One for the History Committee and the NFDW Collection. Now we have started Phase Two of our work. At the 2015 convention, we amended our bylaws to require our board members to save their papers to be added to the collection at the Library of Congress at the end of each administration. During this year, we have received only a few papers from members, but following this convention, the History Committee will be receiving all of the papers of this administration, organizing them, and submitting them to the Library of Congress to be added to the NFDW Records. Our work is not done though because besides the official papers of the organization there is so much more that should be collected and added, particularly, correspondence of board members with other members, political officials and organizations, regional activity reports and newsletters, and scrapbooks.

Because of our collection, researchers are able to study the long history of our organization and what it has done to further the influence of the Democratic Party at all levels. With this in mind, the History Committee asks for the help of, not only the board, but also all members of the NFDW from all regions of the United States.

(Finding aid for NFDW Records at the Library of Congress can be found at: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016065.3>)

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Marszalek, History Committee Chair

(See next page)

History Committee Meeting with NFDW Board

As Chair of the History Committee I wanted to meet with the Board, because it is from you that the bulk of the NFDW papers will be coming. I have been asked so many times, “Jeanne, what exactly should I be saving.” I have always said everything, concerning the NFDW. Besides the letter which I read with my report, I received an email from another, Michelle Krowl, member on the staff, in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress. Here is what she said, “Correspondence, speeches, organizational records, financial records, membership records, newsletters all help document the work of an organization and help scholars put it in historical context.” Based on this statement, here is a list of papers and materials that you should save and send to me.

- I. President—personal information, nominating letters, resume, correspondence, certificates, awards, speeches, NFDW related news clippings and publicity, pictures, information about special trips, involvement in other organizations (DNC for example), any other NFDW related materials.
- II. Other Board members—agendas, records, reports, minutes, correspondence between other board members and others about NFDW business, financial reports, convention planning and reports, names and contact information of convention attendees, award applications, letters of nomination, award presentations, introduction of guest speakers, NFDW related pictures and scrapbooks, DNC materials.
- III. Regional directors—regional meetings, planning, reports, agenda, records, names of meeting attendees, newsletters, state conventions and organizations.
- IV. Conventions—any convention materials, preconvention packet, convention schedule, convention rules, committee reports, pac meeting and report, finances, convention program.
- V. Publications—Communicator, handbooks, etc.

If there are any questions, email or call me. Jamdems@yahoo.com

662-323-8068 or 662-617-1260

Jeanne Marszalek, History Committee Chair

(See next page)



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Manuscript Division

Dear NFDW Members,

The life of an organization speaks through the experiences, memories, and testimony of its participants. The shape of its goals, the thrust of its advocacy, and the courage of its convictions can only be accessed by way of its members, yet how can the public, policy makers, and historians touch this history? One of the chief responsibilities of the Library of Congress is the preservation of personal papers of men and women who have helped shape the course of our national experience, the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) stands as a part of this tradition.

To the NFDW's credit and due to the efforts of the NFDW History Committee under the leadership of Jeanne Marszalek, the NFDW's papers are now a part of the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress sharing space with iconic organizations like the National Women's Party, the National American Women Suffrage Association, the League of Women Voters and individuals such as Carrie Chapman Catt, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Rosa Parks, and Mary Church Terrell among others. These collections document the arc of women's suffrage, civil rights, and the persistent activism of women in the nineteenth, twentieth, and now, twenty first century.

While the NFDW's first steps in documenting its history have proven valuable, a great deal of work remains to be done in securing its legacy. Contemporary records – speeches, organizational records, membership docket, newsletters, meeting minutes, and correspondence – help to draw out an organization's importance and enable scholars to place it in its proper historical context. Your contributions, particularly those of past presidents and officers, to the NFDW Papers will enable historians to answer questions pertaining to the organization's overall mission, its decision making processes, its impact, its challenges, struggles, and successes. How has the organization changed since its inception? How have its methods, goals, and internal debates shaped and been shaped by history? What is its relation to other democratic and women's organizations? I would add that archivist Kathleen O'Neill, who processed the collection, noted three particular areas of interest for future additions would be President's files (especially correspondence), documentation of regional and local activities, and scrapbooks.

The NFDW's first installment to the Manuscript Division is a welcomed addition to our collections, but to truly tell the organization's story, much more needs to be done. The passage of time can lead to historical erasure; the best way to ensure that the NFDW casts its influence over history is to help us document its experiences. How will questions like those I have posed to you

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(See next page)



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Manuscript Division

just now be answered in the future if the records don't exist to document this history? When those with first hand institutional experience no longer walk among us, how will this past be conveyed?

I know you are all aware of these historical contingencies, but I hope that by asking yourself, and others, these questions you will prod past and future presidents to consider the records they have assembled and the importance of adding them to the Library's collection. You have given a part of yourselves to the NFDW, the organization's work matters; ensure that others know of the sacrifices and accomplishments that have led the NFDW to where it is today and where it promises to go in the future.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Reft'.

Ryan Reft, PhD
Historian, Modern U.S.
Manuscript Division
Library of Congress

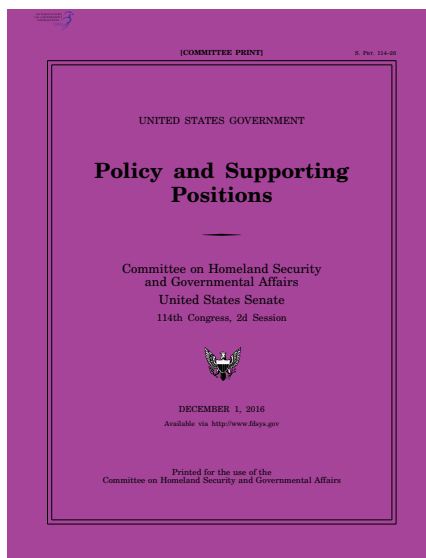
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Legislative Committee

On June 1, NFDW's Legislative Committee had a very informative conference call with Gwendolyn Keys Fleming, former Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency and other appointed and elected positions. The meeting was recorded and you may find this link posted on NFDW's Facebook Page or send an email to: gailbuckner@bellsouth.net.

An important item that Ms. Fleming sent us via email was the link to the political appointments called the PLUM BOOK. Here is a link to an electronic copy:
<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/GPO-PLUMBOOK-2016/context>

She also sent the link to apply through the Office of Presidential Personnel: <https://apply.whitehouse.gov/>



Save the Date!
2018 NFDW
Annual Convention
Tempe, Arizona
June 13-17, 2018