



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Spring 2021 Edition

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## President's Message

A warm welcome as we prepare to celebrate our 50th Annual Meeting and Convention. This year is a historic year for our Federation, and when we look back at our past accomplishments and honor all who have given a voice to Democratic women, we can be very proud.

We are grateful to the 27 women who met in DC and created our organization. We honor our first President Rilla Moran Woods, who along with C. Delores Tucker and Caroline Wilkins obtained three seats on the Democratic National Committee, including a seat on the Executive Committee. There were no text messages, emails, or Zoom meetings, but these women were effective between 1972 – 1977 in getting NFDW recognized as the DNC's official grassroots, constituent organization for women.

We celebrate the leadership and participation of our membership in the hard-fought Presidential campaign and other Democratic campaigns throughout the country. Because of the great efforts of our Democratic women, especially our African American sisters, Democrats now have the White House, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

This election was historic as we elected our first woman Vice President and she is also the first African/Asian American, and a daughter of immigrants to our country. We see Deb Haaland confirmed as our first woman and Native American Secretary of the Interior. We see Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the House. President Joe Biden's various appointments are historic because of the diversity that includes an all-female Communications Department, Janet Yellen, confirmed as the first female Secretary of the Treasury, and Avril Haines confirmed as the first female Director of National Intelligence.

We look to the present and acknowledge and appreciate the enormous efforts for this convention by our awesome co-chairs, Monica Readus, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of our Florida Federation and LaTanya Millhouse, President of our Alabama Federation. We are thrilled with the convention theme "Women Build Back Better."

We look to the future and see great leadership from the slate of officers selected by NFDW's Nominating Committee. The dedication to our Federation by our members is another mighty

strength. NFDW can play a significant role in helping President Biden to achieve his agenda, as well as continuing to elect more Democrats up and down the ballot.

We see the results of a movement started over 100 years ago emphasizing women's rights, and we see the possibility of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. We see more and more women finding confidence in their ability to run for office. The horizon is bright and inviting.

I am honored to have served as your President. Thank you for allowing me to work alongside our dedicated members as we seek to make this a better country for all. As I pass the gavel to our next President of NFDW, I am glad it still seems to be the year of women. Sojourner Truth's famous statement, "Ain't I a woman?", and her message in that oration, pertains to all of us.

It's our time to make History and let's go do it!

All the best to you,

Cindy Jenks  
President  
National Federation of Democratic Women



I, Cindy Jenks, President of the National Federation of Democratic Women, hereby issue the OFFICIAL CALL to the National Federation of Democratic Women's 50th Annual Convention, to be held June 11-12, 2021, via virtual format.

Call in information and agenda will be sent to those registered for the convention at a later date.

Executive Board Members, Committee Chairs, State Federation Presidents, and general members are requested to present themselves for the Convention.

The agenda will consist of a business meeting, including the election of NFDW Officers for 2021-2023, proposed bylaws changes, Resolutions, reports from Committee Chairs, Workshops, announcement of 2022 Convention location, plus any other business necessary to be addressed.

This NFDW Convention is not hosted by any State, rather Co-Chaired by ladies from different sections of the Country. Our Co-Chairs are Monica Readus, 1st Vice President, Florida Federation and LaTanya Millhouse, President, Alabama Federation.

Our theme is ***"Women Building Back Better"***.

We are celebrating our 50th anniversary, and hope this year will see the passage of the ERA.

As a fundraiser, we encourage sponsorships and there will be an online auction.

Plan to attend this historic "50th Anniversary" Celebration.

Cindy Jenks  
President  
National Federation of Democratic Women



*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Annual  
Convention “Women Build Back  
Better”*



Virtual Event Workshops & Guest Speakers Business and Regional

Meetings Friday Evening Gala Officer Elections Awards & More

Greetings!

On behalf of the 2021 National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) Convention Committee, we are pleased to announce that registration for the Virtual [2021 NFDW 50th Convention](#) is now open!

The theme for 2021 is ***Women Build Back Better***. In keeping with our theme, the Virtual Convention platform we have chosen will create a virtual “in-person” experience intentionally built for interactive individual engagement and group conversations. Our 50th Anniversary convention will host breakout sessions, workshops, regional meetings, engaging speakers, a virtual auction, Friday evening Gala, awards, and more!

State Federations are encouraged to purchase tables at the ***early bird rate*** - table purchases will include opportunities to showcase your unique state and share your incredible work and accomplishments! We will be hosting a Virtual Auction again this year and states are encouraged to submit an item for the virtual auction. Virtual ads and sponsorships are also encouraged! Speaker and workshop details will be forthcoming as the event unfolds.

## 2021 Virtual Registration Packet and Information

2021 NFDW 50th Annual Convention - Virtual

***WOMEN BUILD BACK BETTER***

JUNE 11-12, 2021

FRIDAY, June 11, 2021 11:00 AM (EST)  
SATURDAY, June 12, 2021 12:00 PM(EST)

**[STATE’S TABLE FOR 6: \\$500](#)**

**[INDIVIDUAL MEMBER’S FEE](#)**

**Inaugural Early Bird until April 18th: \$75**  
Spring Early Bird from April 19 to May 16th: \$100  
Regular Registration from May 17 - May 28th: \$225

**[TO ATTEND ONLY THE GALA: \\$25](#)**

To Pay Online, please go to **NFDW.com** and click on the appropriate hyperlinks.  
A transaction fee is added to the online fee amount.

The amount for state tables when you pay by check is **\$500**.

**If paying by check, checks should be made out to NFDW Convention 2021  
and mailed to:**

Debi Thompson, NFDW Treasurer  
PO Box 44, Carney, OK 74832

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**

**50th ANNUAL CONVENTION**



**June 11 – June 12, 2021**

**INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM for VIRTUAL CONVENTION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
  \_ (Street) (City) (State)  
  (zip)

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE FEDERATION: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL BE ATTENDING AS:

\_\_\_\_\_ STATE PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ NFDW EXECUTIVE BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ STATE

DELEGATE \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTEE CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_ STATE MEMBER

**PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR THE FOLLOWING: (Deadline for registration: May 28, 2021)**

**Registrations made/received after May 28, 2021, add \$50.00**

(complete one Registration Form for each person)

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBER'S FEE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Inaugural Early Bird until April 18th: \$75**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Spring Early Bird from April 19 to May 16th: \$100**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Regular Registration from May 17 - May 28th: \$225**

\_\_\_\_\_ **FRIDAY NIGHT GALA - \$25 per individual**

To Pay Online, please go to NFDW.COM and click on NFDW Convention. A transaction fee is added to the fee amount for online registration.

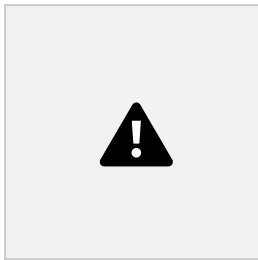
**To pay by check, make out check to NFDW and mail to:**

Debi Thompson, NFDW Treasurer

PO Box 44, Carney, OK 74832

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**

**50th ANNUAL CONVENTION**



**June 11 – June 12, 2021**

**TABLE REGISTRATION FORM for VIRTUAL CONVENTION**

State tables of six (6) may be reserved for \$500 per table

**PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR THE FOLLOWING: (Deadline for registration: May 28, 2021)**

**Registrations made/received after May 28, 2021, add \$50.00**

To Pay Online, please go to NFDW.COM and click on NFDW Convention. A transaction fee is added to the fee amount for online registration.

**To pay by check, make out check to NFDW and mail with this form to: Debi**

Thompson, NFDW Treasurer  
PO Box 44, Carney, OK 74832

STATE FEDERATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names of all delegates for reserved table:

#1 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

—

(Street) (City) (State) (zip)

EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL BE ATTENDING AS:

\_\_\_ STATE PRESIDENT \_\_\_ NFDW EXECUTIVE BOARD \_\_\_ STATE MEMBER \_\_\_ STATE DELEGATE

\_\_\_ COMMITTEE CHAIR



#2 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

—

(Street) (City) (State) (zip)

EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL BE ATTENDING AS:

\_\_\_ STATE PRESIDENT \_\_\_ NFDW EXECUTIVE BOARD \_\_\_ STATE MEMBER \_\_\_ STATE DELEGATE

\_\_\_ COMMITTEE CHAIR

#3 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

—

(Street) (City) (State) (zip)

EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL BE ATTENDING AS:

\_\_\_ STATE PRESIDENT \_\_\_ NFDW EXECUTIVE BOARD \_\_\_ STATE MEMBER

\_\_\_ STATE DELEGATE \_\_\_ COMMITTEE CHAIR



#4 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

—

(Street) (City) (State) (zip)

EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL BE ATTENDING AS:

\_\_\_ STATE PRESIDENT \_\_\_ NFDW EXECUTIVE BOARD \_\_\_ STATE MEMBER \_\_\_ STATE DELEGATE

\_\_\_ COMMITTEE CHAIR



#5 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

—

(Street) (City) (State) (zip)

EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL BE ATTENDING AS:

\_\_\_ STATE PRESIDENT \_\_\_ NFDW EXECUTIVE BOARD \_\_\_ STATE MEMBER

\_\_\_ STATE DELEGATE \_\_\_ COMMITTEE CHAIR



#6 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

— (Street) (City) (State) (zip)

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL BE ATTENDING AS:

\_\_\_ STATE PRESIDENT \_\_\_ NFDW EXECUTIVE BOARD \_\_\_ STATE MEMBER \_\_\_ STATE DELEGATE

\_\_\_ COMMITTEE CHAIR

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National Federation of Democratic Women

Online Auction

June 6 - June 14, 2021

Each state is asked to donate one item of approximately \$75.00 value or two items that together value \$75.00.

Choose items that are easily mailed.

Email a photo and description of your donations by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Send to Gail Buckner [gailbuckner@bellsouth.net](mailto:gailbuckner@bellsouth.net)

Each state will mail their item directly to the winning bidder. The auction will close at 9 pm on June 14 and each winner will be notified. Each donor will be emailed the winner's mailing address.

NFDW uses Stripe and all credit cards will be accepted.

For more information: [gailbuckner@bellsouth.net](mailto:gailbuckner@bellsouth.net)

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# Nominating Committee Report -April Communicator

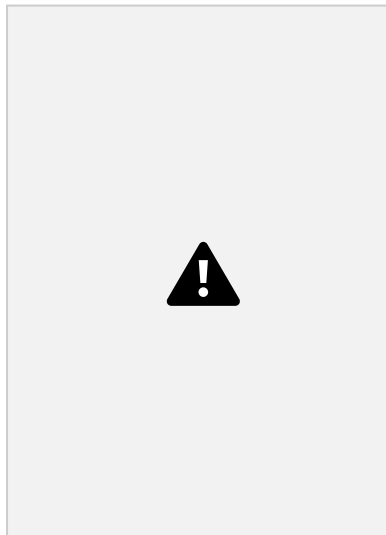
I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their willingness to participate in this process and for their thoughtful deliberation of each candidate's qualifications. The members of the Nominating Committee are Eastern Region: Gwen Collins, Selerya Moore, Alternate Pat Sirois; Midwestern Region: Dorothy Adams, Kellie Green, Alternate Susan Althouse; Southern Region: Kathy Adams, Lovie West, Alternate Kathy Harrington; Western Region: Claudette Dubois, Cathy Hozian, and Alternate Pat Hobbs. All members and alternates were provided with the candidates resumes and supporting documents.

According to the NFDW Bylaws, there can be no more than two members from each region on the NFDW Executive Board. All terms are 2 year terms and positions are limited to one term only. There was only one name submitted for the position of Recording Secretary and for Treasurer, two of the most important positions.

Below is the slate of candidates approved by the 2021 NFDW Nominating Committee for the 2021-2023 term of office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Sullivan  
Nominating Committee Chair

## President - Gail Buckner



Gail Buckner has served as the Chair of the National Federation of Democratic Women's Legislative Committee for the past five years and she led the creation of position papers for our members to use during "Women in Blue". To help members prioritize the use of various papers and integrate these papers into resolutions as necessary, she created a document called, "How to use NFDW's Position Papers and Resolutions. She has worked very closely with Resolutions Chair, Judy Villa to streamline this process. The Action Alerts and Message Statements on behalf of President Cindy Jenks have been her priority as well.

Gail has been responsible for creating the past two online auctions and is busy working on this year's online auction for the 2021 virtual convention. She has also been instrumental in helping

individual states create an online auction for their state. Gail is currently serving as the 3rd Vice President of NFDW and has attended most of all the Southern Regional meetings, as well as other regional meetings. She has been an active, visible presence on the Executive Board and is currently a member of the planning committee for the 50th Anniversary National Convention to be held this June, virtually.

Gail is a past President of the Georgia Federation of Democratic Women and has been a member in good standing since 1989. During her term as President of GFDW, she added a number of Leadership awards, including the True Blue Award, the Bouquet Award and the Burlene Morris Leadership Award. As president of GFDW, she also brought back the Maxine Goldstein Leadership Award, which is presented to a woman notably serving in the Georgia General Assembly.

Gail has also held elective office as a Georgia State Senator, 2008-2010; Georgia's House of Representatives, 1991-2006 and was the Democratic Party of Georgia's Nominee for Secretary of State in 2006. She brings a wealth of experience, leadership, determination, and knowledge to this position.

### ***Gail Buckner's Vision for NFDW***

*The National Federation of Democratic Women has a long history of strong and dedicated presidents and officers, DNC representatives, committee chairs and supportive members. Our state federations are achieving great things as they work to elect Democrats up and down the ballot, and as we advocate for good legislation and rally to defeat bad bills.*

*Our country is now so complex that we have to be even more vigilant and continue moving forward more intently. NFDW must continue to grow our state federations and membership. We have to be creative, as well as persuasive to establish new federations in those states without NFDW. Those states that are federated must also be cultivated, encouraged and supported even more. Will Rogers once said, "Even if you're on the right track, you can get run over if you just sit there."*

*NFDW must bring more women into our organization. A first step can be to form a new committee of advisors comprised of those young women to whom we have presented scholarships in recent years. These young women can be included in our programs, such as the Strategic Planning Meeting that the Legislative Committee conducted on February 13. Our state federations could also appoint a young woman as a representative on this committee of advisors. We can encourage the regional meetings to include these young women advisors in their meetings.*

*NFDW and our state federations can benefit from organized leadership training that is conducted by a professional leadership organization or the DNC. This leadership training should begin soon after our national convention. We are always busy, but there will be more free time sooner rather than later as we're gearing up for the mid-term elections.*

*As a former member of the National Order of Women Legislators and the National Foundation for Women Legislators, I had access to leadership training that was conducted by the Gallop Institute. NFDW can benefit from this type of comprehensive, professional training.*

*More organizational strategic planning can benefit NFDW and our state federations. More input in decision-making can be very constructive.*

*Engaging even more with state elected officials and members of Congress will be a priority.*

*We should take note and evaluate how many of the new organizations are raising money. I'm aware of at least two new organizations that are doing great things and that is partly because they are flush with money to spend on their priorities. NFDW can benefit from awarding more scholarships and making more donations to women running for Congress.*

*My experiences as President of the Georgia Federation of Democratic, President of the National Foundation for Women Legislators, five years as Chair of the Legislative Committee and my service as Third Vice President has helped prepare me to lead the National Federation of Democratic Women.*

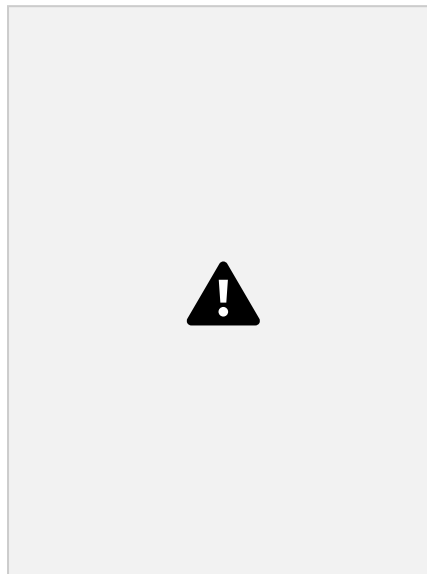
*As your next President, I pledge to serve with dedication and humility. I will treat each member with respect and all opinions will be listened to and evaluated before making a determination that is in the best interest of the organization. I will make sure that NFDW does have that "Big Tent" that Democrats seek. Let's work together!*

*Onward.*



*Gail Buckner*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Susan Rutt**



Susan Rutt has been involved at the NFDW Executive Board level for a number of years. She served as Regional Director for 2 terms, 2013-2017; NFDW Treasurer, 2017-2019, and as Second Vice President, 2019 - present.

Susan is a past President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women and served as President of the Pennsylvania FDW for 8 years. She was the longest serving President in its 93 year history.

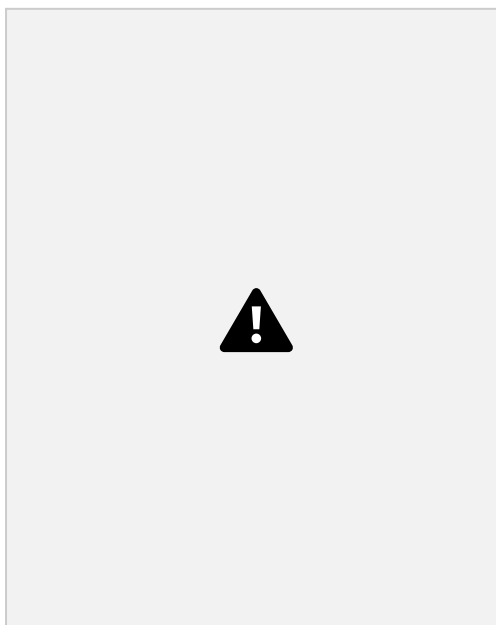
She has also served as the NFDW Convention Chairperson in Pennsylvania, Co-Chair of the NFDW PAC and its Treasurer, and founder of its Century Club.

During nearly eight years as a member of the Board, she has attended all conventions, Eastern Regional meetings, Women in Blue events, and visited other states to participate in their State Federation events.

As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, she has participated in every Board level teleconference call and has chaired the Young Women's Leadership Committee to encourage younger members to join this organization or to run for office. She has attended many of the past NFDW conventions and has a record of participation, established leadership, and knowledge of the organization and the Democratic Party. Susan has a proven track record for her support of the Democratic Party in Pennsylvania and the NFDW for her ability to elevate Democratic Women and encourage young women to get involved and run for office.

Susan has devoted many years to the Democratic Party at the local, state, and national level. She is a dedicated board member and looks forward to your support as she seeks the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Barbara Faison**



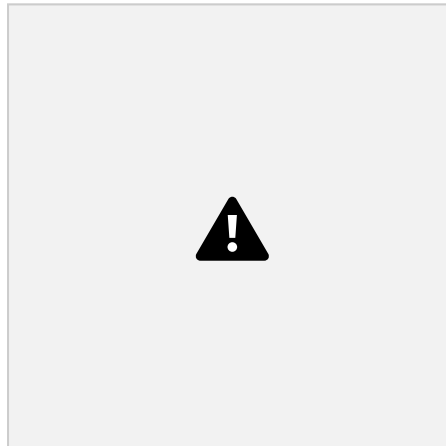
Barbara Faison has been an active member of NFDW since 2000, a member of several committees, and currently serves as the Southern Regional Director, 2017 - 2021. She served as the President of the North Carolina Federation of Democratic Women, 2006-2008, and also held the positions of Historian, Fund Development Chair, Nominating Chair, and Legislative Chair of the North Carolina Federation of Democratic Women and was named as NCDW "The Woman of the Year" in 2019.

On the NFDW level, she has served on a number of committees; Bylaws, Growth &

Development, Nominations, and as the chair of the Awards Committee. She has attended every national convention since 2000 and is an active Democratic leader in her state and community as well.

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

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - Gini Ballou**



*“Gini’s positive attitude is reflected in the way she has represented the Idaho Democratic Women’s Caucus and the effectiveness shown in the work she performs.”*

- Michelle Vincent, Chair, Elmore County, ID Democrats

Gini is active in the Idaho Democratic Women’s Caucus. She has served in the leadership roles of: Region 5 Director, Vice Chair and Chair of the Idaho Democratic Women’s Caucus. Additionally, she serves on the Rules & Bylaws Committee of the Idaho Democratic Party. She also was a Sanders State and National Delegate in both 2016 and 2020. Plus, she was Chair, Blaine County for Obama 2007-2012.

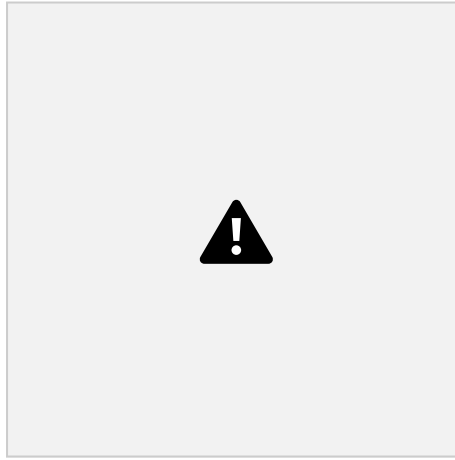
While Chair of the Blaine County she established a statewide *Lessons Learned* recap held right after the General Election. While serving as Vice Chair of the Idaho Democratic Women’s Caucus, she created an annual fundraiser, *The Bloomin’ Blue Luncheon*; hosted fashion shows highlighting local non-profits; and held Progressive Dinner for a Purpose.

Further, Gini has served as Chair, Blaine County Chapter, Mothers of the Military (2002-2004) and Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission, City of Hailey (1994-1998). She is an ambassador/Lobbyist for the Alzheimer’s Association.

Her first NFDW Convention was in Tempe, Arizona in 2018 and she has been actively participating at the national level since that time. Her proven leadership ability, dedication, and positive attitude are all qualities that she will bring to her service on the Board and she looks forward to your support for the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.

*“Gini shows up, is prepared and is committed to success.”* – Deborah Silver (Twin Falls, ID)

## **4<sup>th</sup> Vice President - Debi Thompson**



*Debi Thompson's dedication to the Federation of Democratic Women and the Democratic Party has taken many forms and she has devoted her life to activism. Her leadership in Oklahoma and on the Regional and National levels demonstrates her readiness to assume the position of Vice President of the National Federation of Democratic Women.*

*Her National Federation of Democratic Women service includes Treasurer (2018 – 2021); Midwest Regional Director (2013 – 2017); Audit Committee Chair (2018 – 2019); and member of various other committees in the last 10 years. Her Oklahoma Club service includes President (2007 – 2010); and Treasurer (2017 – 2019). Her service with the Oklahoma Democratic Party service has been to serve as Chair CD3 (2015 – 2019) and Vice Chair CD3 (2011 – 2015).*

*In the area of public service, Ms. Thompson has served as alternate member of the Oklahoma state election board (2017 – 2021); Member of Professional Responsibility Commission (2016 – 2012); Vice Chair of Professional Responsibility Commission (2007); President, Chandler Chamber of Commerce (2009); Board of Directors, Chandler Chamber (2004 – 2008); Member of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce (1999 – Present); Carney Public Schools, Board of Education (1985 – 2010).*

*Ms. Thompson's career has been in insurance where she served as an accountant and agent for 37 years. She opened her insurance agency in 1983 and has over 2000 policy holders. She has sponsored and hosted Motor Vehicle Accident Prevention Courses two times per year. She has served as Past President of the Oklahoma Farmers Union Insurance Agent's Association and Secretary of American Farmers & Ranchers Agent's Association.*

*Personally, Ms. Thompson is a member of the Order of Eastern Star and the Carney Christian Church; National Farmers Union Policy Committee and Credentials Committees; Chair of Oklahoma Farmers Union Rules, Policy, Women's, Bylaws, and Credentials (4 years); National Farmers Union Washington Fly-In; and National Farmers Union Women's Conference.*

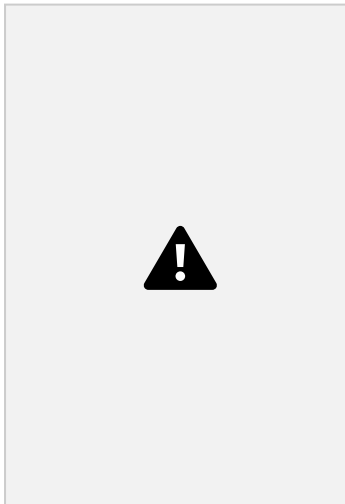
*Ms. Thompson appreciates your support and requests your consideration to vote for her to serve as Vice President of the National Federation of Democratic Women.*

**?????**

## **5<sup>th</sup> Vice President – VACANT**

The candidate (from the Western Region) that was recommended by the Nominating Committee accepted the nomination and has officially removed her name from consideration for Nomination. The position of 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President is now open. Any candidate from the Western Region can run who meets the requirements. Resumes and additional supporting documents should be submitted to the President by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see the Voting Process for the Virtual Meeting in this issue of the Communicator as recommended by the Parliamentarian.

## **Recording Secretary - Peggy Stepp**



*Peggy Stepp has been active in Women's Democratic Clubs for over 30 years. She has served in Leadership positions in local County Clubs for many years and has been actively involved with the Democratic Party at all levels. She served as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, and as Secretary of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Women's Clubs and has served as President several times.*

*She was President of the Missouri Federated Democratic Women. She has been a Committeewoman for Missouri Democratic Party intermittently and served on the Executive*

*Board. She has been involved in NFDW for past 15 years and has attended every National Convention during this time.*

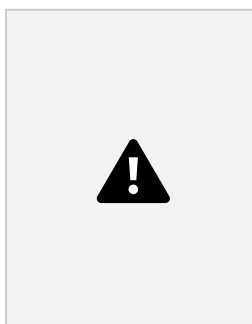
*She also served as the Secretary for the Midwest Region of NFDW and as President of the MFWDC and continues on the President's Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee of the MFWDC.*

*During her time with the NFDW, she has served on the History Committee of NFDW and has chaired the Awards Committee since 2013. She was also quite instrumental helping the Missouri Federation with the NFDW convention in Kansas City as the Registration Chair.*

*She is extremely qualified to serve as Recording Secretary because of her long history taking minutes and her attention to detail. Her attendance at several national conventions has given her a great understanding of the organization, past and present.*

*Peggy is always willing to lend a hand and volunteer her assistance whenever there is a need. She will be a welcome addition to the Board.*

## **Treasurer - Dorinda White**



*Dorinda White was elected as the President of the DC Federation of Democratic Women in 2019 and has been a member since 2015. She has been an active member of the Federation since 2015 when she served as a volunteer with DCFDW Past President Hazel Thomas as she hosted a Legislative Summit. She has participated in the past three national conventions.*

*As a member of one of the DCFDW Clubs, she was asked to serve as Vice President of the DC Federation. In 2019, she was unanimously elected to serve as President of the DC Federation of Democratic Women and has been instrumental in many of the DC Federation's initiatives.*

*Dorinda is a creative, people person with the skills necessary to be a leader. During the 2019 elections of the DC Democratic Women's Club and due to the lack of a candidate for Treasurer, Dorinda stepped up to take on the role of Treasurer while at the same time, running for DCFDW President. She set up the electronic payments methods and received the membership payments as the members prepared for their annual September Membership Reception. At the time, she was also serving as the DC Federation President and felt that it was a conflict of interest to serve in this dual role. She graciously resigned from the position of DC Democratic Women's Club Treasurer when a new Treasurer was named. She continued to be a mentor to the new Treasurer as she gained the confidence and knowledge needed for her position. As DCFDW President, she encouraged the electronic payment method for dues for her members and increased membership.*

*As a public servant in the State Medicaid Agency of the Government of the District of Columbia, she was responsible for the budget of up to \$1 million dollars and had oversight over three government vendors. She was responsible for budget allocations for each vendor and when necessary, defunding their allocations due to non-performance. She had to track all spending amounts and give approval for any*



*budget allocations. As President of a 1400-member organization, Women in Film and Video of Washington, DC, Dorinda worked closely with a 26-member Board of Directors and Executive Director to track and administer an annual \$500K budget. As President of the DCFDW, Dorinda applied for and received a \$2000 grant for DCFDW GOTV efforts which she allocated to the two DCFDW Clubs. She has a good understanding of the responsibilities of being a treasurer.*

*Dorinda has attended three (3) National Conventions, Eastern Regional meetings and invited Federation members nationwide to participate in DCFDW's Zoom events on GOTV, Voter Suppression, What's on the Ballot, National and International Women's Day, The 411 on the Plum Book and Presidential Appointments and many more. She created the DCFDW Commission on Presidential Appointments to create a pipeline for Democratic women to aspire to politically appointed positions. She also participates regularly in the State President meetings/calls with NFDW President Cindy Jenks. She has been an active Federation member at all levels. The combination of her leadership roles and budget oversight as well as her active participation as a member of the NFDW is a great foundation as she seeks the position of Treasurer of NFDW.*

## BYLAWS

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT TO CONVENTION BODY, June 2021 Corinne Anderson(MS) Chair; Carlotta Harrell (GA); Norma Lester( TN); Maureen McKenna (FL) Pamela Weston (TN); Velva Price ( TX): Camille Foster (TX); Dorothy Adams(MO) ; Trina Ellis (MI); Susan Althouse(IN); Dolores Williams ( NJ); Joanne Sullivan (CT); Andrea Murray ( DC)

<p><b>ARTICLE IV OFFICERS</b>            Section 1 ( c ) After notice and opportunity for a public hearing and upon grounds found by the NFDW Executive Committee, in consultation with the leadership of the Executive Committee member's region to constitute good and sufficient cause, the Executive Committee and Regional officers may remove a member by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.</p>	<p>Section 1 (b), (c), (d), change all references to "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE" to "EXECUTIVE BOARD"            - submitted by Carol Comito (NM), &amp; Liz Duarte (CT)</p>	<p><b><u>ACTION: ADOPTION</u></b>  <b><u>RECOMMENDED</u></b> Sections (b)(c)(d)  <b>CONSENSUS</b>  <i>Rationale:</i> The Executive Board comprises all the elected Officers . An Executive Committee can be a subset of the full Executive Board.            For consistency, <b>all references</b> to an "Executive Committee" will be deleted and replaced with "Executive Board" in the NFDW Bylaws.</p>

	<p><b>Section 6.</b>          If necessary, the Executive Board may meet by conference call, via telephone or virtual. Votes taken by telephone, email or virtual shall be as valid as votes taken in person except in cases where a signed ballot is a requirement.</p> <p>- submitted by Bernadette Vaduro (NM); Clara Padillo Andrews (NM). Clara Padillo, Western Regional Director; Carol Comito(NM) Liz Duarte (CT)</p> <p><b>Signed ballots may be completed on a secure electronic ballot system.</b></p>	<p>Section 6 – virtual  <b>ACTION: ADOPTION</b>  <b>RECOMMENDED</b> <i>Rationale:</i>          Virtual options , email are valid options for conducting meetings of the Executive Board.</p> <p>.....          ..... Section 6 – signed ballots  <b>ACTION: ADOPTION</b>  <b>RECOMMENDED</b> <i>Rationale:</i> The words “except” and “may” allow for those rare cases where a signed ballot is a requirement.</p>
<p><b>ARTICLE VII MEETINGS</b>  <b>Section 1.</b> The Annual Meeting of the NFDW shall be held between April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>. States are asked to bid for the annual meeting and work collaboratively with the Executive Board to plan and conduct the aforestated meeting. In bidding and/or hosting the Annual Meeting of the NFDW, the host state shall follow the guidelines as outlined in the NFDW Guidelines...</p>	<p><b>ADD:</b> There shall be at least one regional meeting per year in person or virtual outside of the Annual meeting</p> <p>Submitted by Carol Comito (NM) &amp; Liz Duarte (CT)</p>	<p><b>ACTION: ADOPTION</b>  <b>RECOMMENDED</b> <i>Rationale:</i> This addition ensures that each region will plan one other meeting besides the one held at the Annual Meeting.</p>

**ARTICLE VIII NOMINATION  
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
AND ELECTION OF REGIONAL  
DIRECTOR**

**Section 6:** To be eligible for election to the office of President, First, Second, Third, Fourth or Fifth Vice President, Recording Secretary or Treasurer and members of the Democratic National Committee, a nominee must have been a Federation member in the state she resides, for no less than two (2) years and have participated in at least one (1) NFDW meeting in the addition to the one where the election of officers is held.

**Section 6:** To be eligible for election to the office of President, First, Second, Third, Fourth or Fifth Vice President, Recording Secretary or Treasurer and members of the Democratic National Committee, a nominee must have been a Federation member in the state she resides, for no less than two (2) years and have participated in at least one (1) NFDW meeting in the addition to the one where the election of officers is held three previous conventions . - submitted by Patricia Sirois (CT)

**Section 6: eligibility**

**ACTION: ADOPTION RECOMMENDED**

The consensus is that knowledge and experience at the national level is critical for those running for or elected to national leadership positions.

<p><b>ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES</b></p>	<p>Section 1.(e) <b>Resolutions .</b>  <del>Resolutions must be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee one (1) month prior to the Annual Meeting.</del> “ In emergent situations at discretion of the Resolutions Committee, Resolutions may be added after the 1-month deadline . The Resolutions Committee shall present all resolutions to the Annual Meeting together with their recommendations. Resolutions signed by at least ten (10) delegates representing at least five (5) states may be received from the floor. – submitted by Carol Comito( NM( &amp; Liz Duarte(CT) and the current NFDW Convention Chair (s) - submitted by Carol Comito ( NM) &amp; Liz Duarte(CT)</p> <p><b>ADD: section 3</b>  <b>Decorum: While engaged in committee business, each person shall maintain a respectful decorum.</b> Submitted by Gail Buckner ( GA )</p>	<p>Section 1. ( e ) Resolutions  <b><u>ACTION: ADOPTION RECOMMENDED</u></b> <i>Rationale:</i>  The amendment uses “at the discretion of the Resolutions Committee “ which is acceptable .</p> <p><b>ADD: Article IX (section 3)</b></p> <p><b><u>ADOPTION RECOMMENDED with caveat</u></b>  <i>Rationale:</i> It is recommended that this addition is approved with the caveat/stipulation that “the sense of decorum be maintained throughout all NFDW interactions between members at all times.</p>
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**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT , 2021**

PROPOSED PROCESS TO BE SENT WITH THE "CALL TO CONVENTION"

***VOTING at NFDW ANNUAL CONVENTION:*** *reference Article VIII. Section 8 " Full member states shall be entitled to twenty (20) votes. Provisional Member States shall be entitled to five (5)votes. Clubs shall have one (1) vote. Individual members attending the convention shall meet and select from among themselves one who shall have one (1) vote."*

**RECOMMENDATION TO FACILITATE AN EFFICACIOUS PROCESS for Virtual Voting:**

- 1. Bylaws are sent to states, clubs, and individuals** via the *COMMUNICATOR* on *April 7, 2021*, which is sixty (60) days before Annual Meeting/Convention. Proposed Process is included.
- 2. Regional Directors** are asked to contact or call a meeting of the State Presidents in their regions to ask them to contact their Club Presidents

3. **State Presidents** contact or meet with their **Club Presidents** and **caucus no later than JUNE 5th** to reach a consensus vote on each proposed amendment and tally votes per amendment.

4. **IMPORTANT: State Presidents send the summation of the state federation's votes to the Bylaws Chair and copy (CC) the Regional Director prior to the Convention by JUNE 5, 2021**

**5. During the caucus process (in the states):**

(a) States can submit questions for clarification to the Bylaws Committee Chair [ [hccaand@aol.com](mailto:hccaand@aol.com) or 601-982-0750] with a copy (CC) to the Regional Director **by June 5<sup>th</sup>**

(b) Each state should designate a representative to  
1. ask for further clarity, if needed , on a particular amendment at Convention 2. affirm the Committee's report on the votes reported per each proposed amendment for the delegates that were determined and tallied during the state caucus voting process by June 5th

**5. During the NFDW Convention/Meeting:**

( a) The Bylaws Committee will give the report with the Committee's recommendations ( b) The tally of votes by states will be reported per each proposed amendment ( c) In cases where the total votes are indecisive, the floor will be open for discussion ( see 4b 1,2). Keep in mind that in those cases, votes may need to be recast for resolution at Convention.

(d) The collective vote of the States represented/reported per amendment will be recorded as final.

State \_\_\_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: EACH state =20 votes; Clubs= 5 votes Individuals= caucus and cast 1 vote**

**Committee Recommended State Action Taken ( #of votes)**

ARTICLE IV Officers Agree Disagree

Section 1(b,c,d) Recommended (Board) \_\_\_\_\_

Section 6 Recommended (virtual) \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended (signed ballots) \_\_\_\_\_ ARTICLE VII

MEETING

ADD (add'l mtg) Recommended \_\_\_\_\_

ARTICLE VIII NOMINATION AND ELECTION...

Section 6 Recommended \_\_\_\_\_

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

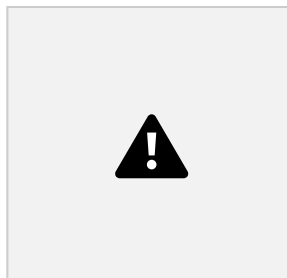
Section 1(e) Recommended \_\_\_\_\_

ADD: Section 3 Recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

FORWARD TO: Corinne W. Anderson, Ed.D. , Chair, NFDW Bylaws Committee  
719 Woodacre Road, Jackson, MS 39206  
email: [hccaand@aol.com](mailto:hccaand@aol.com)



## Voting

The NFDW election of officers system is likely different from others in which you have participated. Everyone attending is registered as a delegate, but that does not entitle every individual a vote. Votes are determined by membership status. A Full Member State is entitled to twenty (20) votes regardless of how many delegates from the state are registered at the convention. Clubs are entitled to one (1) vote. Individual Members will caucus and select from among themselves the delegate who will cast their one vote.

If your state is a paid member state, your state is eligible for 20 votes per officer. If there are two or more candidates running for the office, your delegation will caucus to determine which candidate(s) will receive your state's votes. Votes will be cast by voice, and the State President (or designee) will present the number of votes cast by her delegation.

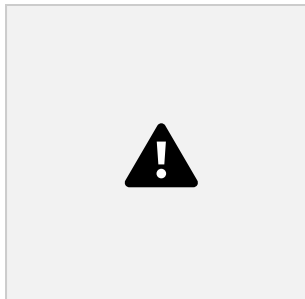
Each state will need to meet in caucus to discuss all issues before Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, prior to the start of the convention. Voting will take place on proposed bylaws, resolutions, and the nomination of officers. The State President or her designee will report the state's vote (or votes) at the convention. Voting takes place by a roll call of registered, paid, full member states.

## Nominations Process for the Virtual Convention

**The Nominating Committee met and has recommended the slate as presented.**

**Nominations from the floor** will follow this process:

- If someone intends to run from the floor, they must submit a letter of intent in writing to the President by the end of the business day on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 (10 days prior to the start of the convention). \*\*\*\*\* Lunchpool Requirements for the Virtual Convention
- Letter should include a brief statement of intent to run for the particular office, with a statement indicating having been a Federation member for at least 2 years and a statement indicating that your state is a full member state.
- Letter will also list names of persons who will place the name in nomination and the second. • President will forward the names of those running from the floor to participating State Presidents (or their convention spokesperson).
- State Presidents will need to share this information with their delegation (paid, registered delegates participating in the convention).
- States will need to caucus sometime between Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>- Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to cast their votes. Votes for bylaws, resolutions, and nominations will be reported to the President by Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at the end of the business day.



**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**

**50TH ANNUAL VIRTUAL MEETING**

**JUNE 11-12, 2021**

**FRIDAY, June 11, 2021**

**AGENDA**

**BUSINESS MEETING - 11:00 AM Eastern time**

**Call to Order**

Pledge of Allegiance  
National Anthem  
Invocation  
Welcome to the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Roll Call of Executive Board  
Roll Call of States  
Credentials  
2021 Annual Meeting Rules  
Minutes of 2020 Annual Treasurer's Report

**Reports:**

President's Report  
Elected Officer Reports  
Regional Directors Reports

DNC Representatives Reports

**Standing Committees:**

Audit  
Legislative  
Finance  
History

**By Laws**

**Resolutions**

**Special Committees:**

Growth and Development  
Political Education  
Women in Blue  
Young Women's Leadership

**2:30 - 3:30 PM (Eastern**

**Time) PAC Meeting**

**3:30 - 4:30 PM (Eastern Time)**



**1:30 - 2:30 PM (Eastern**

**Time) Breakout**

Workshops

Regional Meetings - will need to take place by telephone call or virtually as "Lunchpool" will not be available after 3:30 PM (Eastern Time).

**6:00 – 8:00 PM GALA RECEPTION**

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Awards Presentation**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021**



**AGENDA**

**BUSINESS MEETING - 12:00 PM Eastern Time**

**Call to Order**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call of States
- Roll Call of NFDW Officers
- Credentials Report
- Committee Reports Continued

**New Business:**

- Nominating Committee Report
- Election of NFDW Officers 2021-23
- Invitation to 2022 NFDW Convention
- Installation of Officers
- Passing of the Gavel
- Announcements

**Adjournment**



For 2021 awards, your information and letters must be submitted by email to Awards Chair, Peggy Stepp at [pstepp48@gmail.com](mailto:pstepp48@gmail.com) or by calling her at 417-880-6073.

**Nominations must be received by May 1, 2020** in order to be considered. This is a firm deadline.

Additional information and the awards categories can be found on the website at [nfdw.com](http://nfdw.com).

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**CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS**

TIME is running out!



**RESOLUTIONS DUE BY May 1, 2021 (Firm Deadline)**

If you have questions, please contact Resolutions Chair, Judy Villa at [jvilla1@cox.net](mailto:jvilla1@cox.net) or by phone at 203-272-4672.