

Maryland Federation of Republican Women

Spring Board Meeting 2025

Maryland Federation of Republican Women Spring Board of Directors Meeting May 17, 2025 AGENDA

CALL to ORDER - PRAYER -- PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT – Melissa Brown – Fall Convention minutes

TREASURER'S REPORT - Anne White

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Bylaws Liliana Norkaitis, Chair
 - #1 Use of Legacy Funds
 - #2 MFRW Vice Presidents Duties
 - #3 Corresponding Secretary Duties
 - #4 NFRW Biennial Convention delegation
- Legislative Ella Ennis, Chair
- Membership Linda Stine Flint, Chair / Maria Sofia, Assistant Secretary

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Americanism Jean Hruz, Chair
- Awards Barb Pivec, Chair
- Literacy Liz Mumford
- Trumpeter Anne White

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Municipal elections Maria Sofia
- Wreaths Across America

NEW BUSINESS

- Candidate trainings Jana Hobbs
- June 14th -- Flag Day / President Trump's birthday
- Fall Convention
- Nominating Committee

Central Region: Melissa Brown
Eastern Region: Tracey Longo

Northern Region: Liliana Norkaitis

Montgomery Federation: Patsy Dillingham

Southern Region: Kim Rosado Western Region: Lisa Herman

MFRW Spring Board 2025 MEETING RULES

CELL PHONES – LOUD TALKING

All cell phones must be turned off or placed on vibrate. There shall be no loud conversations during the meeting. Those wishing to have a private conversation should move outside the meeting room.

DISCUSSION / DEBATE

A member must give her name and club affiliation when recognized by the chair.

No member shall speak for more than 2 minutes without the general consent of the voting members present. If there is an objection to the general consent, a formal vote must be taken, with a 2/3 vote required to extend the time for not more than 2 additional minutes.

No member may speak a second time until all others who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so. No member may speak more than twice on the same issue and only if time allows.

Debate on each substantive issue shall be limited to 15 minutes except for issues that were preapproved for a longer period of time.

MOTIONS

A motion not on the agenda will be considered under New Business.

It must be:

- 1. Introduced by a member of the voting body,
- 2. Seconded by a member of the voting body, and
- 3. Submitted in writing to the Recording Secretary to ensure accuracy in stating the motion and recording it in the minutes.

TIMEKEEPERS

A timekeeper shall be appointed by the president to serve at the meeting.

The timekeeper shall indicate to each speaker a 30-second warning before the expiration of the time allowed.

VOTING

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 1(A) of the MFRW Bylaws, the voting body of the MFRW Board of Directors shall be the elected officers, the regional chairmen, the regional vice chairmen, the president (or proxy) of each club, all standing committee chairmen, and all former MFRW presidents who are regular members in good standing of a MFRW club.

MFRW Fall Convention November 16, 2024 Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport, Linthicum

President Sharon Carrick welcomed participants followed by the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order, followed by Roll Call, the Credentials Report (quorum met), and approval of the minutes of the Spring Board of Directors meeting 2024.

The voting members of the Board of Directors approved site selection for Spring Board 2025 in Cecil County on May 17th.

Treasurer's report and Budget 2025 were approved as presented.

Legacy Fund Checking		\$ 243.10
Legacy Fund		\$189,571.41
MORGAN STANLEY	\$ 189,814.51	
Closed clubs		\$ 3,572.14
Savings		\$ 11,308.53
Checking		\$ 18,110.36
WELLS FARGO	\$ 32,991.03	
	\$ 222,805.54	
	31-Oct-24	

Nominations were accepted from the floor to fill the Assistant Treasurer vacancy. Nominees Maria Sofia and Jolie McShane were given 2 minutes each to address attendees. A written ballot elected Maria Sofia (16:13).

Board of Directors meeting was adjourned.

GENERAL SESSION

President Sharon Carrick called the General Session to order. Meeting rules were approved as presented. Treasurer's report was approved by the full assembly.

At October 31, 2024, there were 27 MFRW clubs with membership totaling 1,149 statewide.

President Sharon Carrick read a message of thanks and appreciation from Senator Mary Beth Carozza for all the hard work MFRW members have done during this election year.

MFRW Fall Convention November 16, 2024 Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport, Linthicum

Legislative Chair Ella Ennis presented the MFRW Legislative Priorities for 2025. She cautioned to be on the lookout for the return of the death with dignity legislation, tax and fee increases to cover Blueprint etc., and increases in funding to cover lawsuits against the incoming Trump Administration.

MDGOP 2nd Vice Chair Dwight Patel spoke on gearing up for 2026, for State Senate and House races, the Governor's race, and other state and local races.

Members were reminded that the NFRW's Biennial Convention is scheduled for September 26-28 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, FL. The MFRW will reimburse attendees ½ of the Early Bird registration fee.

Members suggested that the MFRW work closely with other groups to celebrate the 250th Birthday of the United States (in 2026) through planned events and activities at the club and MFRW levels.

Maria Sofia presented statistics on Maryland's Republican women (registration numbers, turnout, breakdown by age) and the results of the MFRW's ballot chase texting effort. The MFRW texted 17,085 registered Republican women statewide who had requested but not yet returned mailed ballots. At least 41% of those voters subsequently returned their mailed ballot.

Municipal races were discussed. There are 108 municipalities (a total of 332 seats) with elections in 2025. Turnout is historically low and even a small effort can win a race.

Members were encouraged to explore the many new items that have been added to the MFRW website.

Information was included in the Fall Convention handout explaining the process for the election of the next slate of MFRW officers (2026-2027 term), which will take place at our Fall Convention 2025.

The Resolution Calling for Republicans to Unite Behind the Keep Nine Amendment, offered by Louise Baker, President of the Republican Women of Baltimore County, passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned.

2025 FINANCIALS

\$143,476.79 \$743.18 \$144,219.97	Legacy Fund Legacy checking MORGAN STANLEY	
\$15,499.88 \$2,181.88 \$18,309.09	Checking Closed clubs / Zelle Savings	
\$35,990.85	WELLS FARGO	
\$180,210.82	BANK ACCOUNTS — 30 April 2025	
\$2,310.00	Bay Club	
\$470.00	MFRW items (shirts, scarves, pins, etc)	
\$1,470.00	Event revenue	
\$700.00	Fundraising raffles	
\$0.55	Interest earned	
\$100.00	Legacy Fund donations	
\$0.00	Legacy Fund dividends	
\$0.00	Legacy Fund Unrealized Gain	
\$0.00	Miscellaneous income	
\$5,405.00	Member dues - MFRW portion	
\$10,455.55		
	1 Jan through 30 Apr 2025	
\$4,463.73	Leadership Conference **	
\$7,865.41	Red Scarf Day **	
ψ.,σσσ	** Paid with Legacy Fund earnings	
\$600.00	Other MFRW events expense	
\$0.00	Accounting services	
\$0.00	Bank charges	
\$882.32	Communications	
	(MailChimp, website, Trumpeter,etc.)	
\$303.34	Committee expenses	
\$0.00	Fundraising expenses (merchandise)	
\$49.54	Income taxes (on Legacy earnings)	
\$205.00	Insurance	
\$0.00	Memorials (D Waterman scholarship)	
\$175.00	Miscellaneous expenses	
\$1,250.00	NFRW (Regents, Board meetings)	
\$148.66	Office supplies & QuickBooks	
\$125.50	Payment costs (Stripe & PayPal fees)	
\$0.00	Postage	
\$1,650.81	President's expenses (mileage, etc.)	
\$495.00	QuickBooks Online	
\$18,214.31	EXPENSES	
	1 Jan through 30 Apr 2025	

2024 FINANCIALS

\$ 194,207.3	2 Legacy Fund		
\$ 43.1	Legacy checking		
\$ 194,250.4	MORGAN STANLEY		
\$ 16,112.9	5 Checking		
\$ 3,572.2	0 Closed clubs		
\$ 11,308.7	<u>2</u> Savings		
\$ 30,993.8	7 WELLS FARGO		
\$ 225,244.2	<u>9</u> BANK ACCOUNTS — 31 Dec 2024		
\$6,820.00			
\$642.00			
\$10,665.00			
\$1,050.00	•		
\$3.47			
\$300.00	5 ,		
\$476.38	• •		
\$23,020.84			
\$19.31			
\$6,625.00	·		
\$ 49,622.00	49,622.00 INCOME		
	1 Jan through 31 Dec 2024		
	-		
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\$8,042.79 \$6.685.64	•		
\$8,042.79 \$6,685.64	Red Scarf Day **		
\$6,685.64	Red Scarf Day ** ** Paid with Legacy Fund earnings		
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\$6,685.64 \$12,515.71 \$3,044.63 \$350.00 \$3,434.87 \$688.85 \$1,622.45 \$1,669.00 \$205.00 \$1,000.00 \$298.04 \$1,300.00 \$339.30 \$347.47	Red Scarf Day **		
\$6,685.64 \$12,515.71 \$3,044.63 \$350.00 \$3,434.87 \$688.85 \$1,622.45 \$1,669.00 \$205.00 \$1,000.00 \$298.04 \$1,300.00 \$339.30 \$347.47 \$314.15	Red Scarf Day **		
\$6,685.64 \$12,515.71 \$3,044.63 \$350.00 \$3,434.87 \$688.85 \$1,622.45 \$1,669.00 \$205.00 \$1,000.00 \$298.04 \$1,300.00 \$339.30 \$347.47 \$314.15 \$2,499.71	Red Scarf Day **		

Bylaws Proposal #1 – MFRW Spring Board 2025

Name: Use of Legacy Funds

Submitted by: MFRW Bylaws Committee

Liliana Norkaitis, Chair

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

Ensure appropriate use of Legacy funds

BYLAWS ARTICLE AND SECTION BEING ADDRESSED

Duties of the MFRW Treasurer -- Article IV Section 8(B)

PROPOSED CHANGE

Add a sub-bullet to Section 8(B) to specifically reference the use of Legacy funds

EXACT WORDING OF BYLAW AS PROPOSED

Bolded text has been added.

Article IV – MFRW Officers and their Duties

Section 8 – Duties of the MFRW Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- A. Have custody of the corporate funds; keep or cause to be kept full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation; deposit all MFRW funds upon receipt from Assistant Treasurer, and other chairman who receive income for events (e.g. Bay Club, Legacy Fund) and deposit them in the name of Maryland Federation of Republican Women in a bank(s) account(s) as may be designated by the Executive Committee.
- B. Disburse funds of the Corporation according to the budget approved by the MFRW Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements.
 - 1. Ensure that disbursements from the Legacy Fund are in compliance with the "Implementation" provisions of the Legacy governance document dated January 23, 2025.

Bylaws Proposal #1 – MFRW Spring Board 2025

Text below is provided for informational purposes – extracted from the Legacy Fund Governance document:

IMPLEMENTATION

Fund assets in excess of \$100,000 may be distributed for:

- 1) Leadership Conference (or equivalent) agenda planning, budget preparation, parliamentary procedure, outreach skills to increase membership, communication skills, etc.
- 2) Red Scarf Day (or equivalent) annual legislative day in Annapolis, learning the legislative process, lobbying skills, and issue advocacy
- 3) Subsidizing attendance at NFRW Biennial Conventions
- 4) Campaign schools available to candidates, campaign managers, campaign treasurers, volunteers, or individuals contemplating a run for elective office.
- 5) Approved trainings that will benefit the Federation

Recipient must be:

- A registered Republican woman
- A member in good standing of a federated club
- Willing to use the skills and knowledge obtained for the good of the MFRW (written report, meeting presentation, Trumpeter submission. etc.)
- Willing to be interviewed as part of the application process and submit a written statement of need (when applicable)
- 6) Financially underwrite the efforts of the Executive Committee when training clubs and members.

Requests for funding shall be submitted to the MFRW Treasurer no later than 60 days prior to the Spring Board meeting and the Fall Convention for forwarding to members of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall meet to review requests prior to each of the statewide meetings and present recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Approved by the Legacy Fund Advisory Committee this 23rd day of January, 2025

Bylaws Proposal #2 – MFRW Spring Board 2025

Name: MFRW Vice Presidents - Duties

Author's original submission was modified by the MFRW Bylaws Committee

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

Add advisory duties to the offices of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Vice President.

BYLAWS ARTICLE AND SECTION BEING ADDRESSED

Article IV - MFRW Officers and Their Duties Section 5 - Duties of the MFRW Vice Presidents

The Vice Presidents, in their order, shall perform the duties of the President in her absence or inability to perform her duties; and they shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the MFRW President. The First Vice President shall be a member of the Finance Committee.

PROPOSED CHANGES

- 1. Replace semicolon after "duties" with period.
- 2. Reword remainder of original sentence to include duties specific to each vice president existing + new advisory role for 1st Vice President, new advisory role for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Vice Presidents.

EXACT WORDING OF BYLAW AS PROPOSED

The Vice Presidents, in their order, shall perform the duties of the President in her absence or inability to perform her duties. They shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the MFRW President in addition to the responsibilities below:

- 1. First Vice President member of the Finance Committee, advisor to the Fundraising Committee
- 2. Second Vice President advisor to the Membership Committee
- 3. Third Vice President advisor to the Program Committee
- 4. Fourth Vice President advisor to the Bylaws Committee.

Bylaws Proposal #3 – MFRW Spring Board 2025

Name: Corresponding Secretary -- Duties

Author's original submission was modified by the MFRW Bylaws Committee

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

Update Corresponding Secretary role to account for change from manual processes to online

BYLAWS ARTICLE AND SECTION BEING ADDRESSED

Article IV - MFRW Officers and Their Duties Section 7 – Duties of the MFRW Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary shall:

- 1. Send notices for all meetings.
- 2. Conduct correspondence as may be requested by the President or Board of Directors.
- 3. Compile a Directory annually for distribution to all members of the Board of Directors.
- 4. Notify new clubs of their admission to membership.
- 5. Work with Recording Secretary to certify all voting members and proxies at Board of Director and convention meetings.
- 6. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the MFRW President.

PROPOSED CHANGE

- 1. Add new item #1 Serve as advisor to the Communications Committee
- 2. Strike existing #1 (President emails w/ Zoom link or date/place notice, as appropriate)
- 3. Strike existing #3 (electronic at NFRW website via President or Assistant Treasurer)
- 4. Renumber remaining items

EXACT WORDING OF BYLAW AS PROPOSED

The Corresponding Secretary shall:

- 1. Serve as advisor to the Communications Committee.
- 2. Conduct correspondence as may be requested by the President or Board of Directors.
- 3. Notify new clubs of their admission to membership.
- 4. Work with Recording Secretary to certify all voting members and proxies at Board of Director and convention meetings.
- 5. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the MFRW President.

Bylaws Proposal #4 – MFRW Spring Board 2025

Name: NFRW Biennial Convention delegation

Author's original submission was modified by the MFRW Bylaws Committee

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

Create process for designating at-large delegates and at-large alternates to the NFRW Biennial Convention

BYLAWS ARTICLE AND SECTION BEING ADDRESSED

MFRW Bylaws are silent on the composition of the MFRW delegation to the NFRW Biennial Convention.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Add new Section 5 to Article XII -- Conventions

Note: Pursuant to Article IX, Section 3(A)(2) of the NFRW Bylaws, the MFRW qualifies for 7 at-large delegates (voting) and 7 at-large alternates (voice, no vote). Designation of at-large delegates and alternates has been at the discretion of the MFRW President.

EXACT WORDING OF BYLAW AS PROPOSED

Section 5

At-large delegate credentials and at-large alternate credentials to the NFRW Biennial Convention shall be allocated in the following order:

- A. MFRW elected officers, in the order listed in Article IV, Section 1 of these Bylaws.
 - 1. Elected officers who are club presidents must credential as the club delegate or club alternate.
- B. Remaining members of the Executive Committee as defined in Article VII, Section 1.
 - 1. Executive Committee members who are club presidents must credential as the club delegate or club alternate.
- C. Members whose club has more members attending than available positions (club delegate and club alternate).

How are the actions of the Maryland General Assembly going to affect you, your family and community?

Ella Ennis, Chair - MFRW Legislative Committee

This Legislative Update focuses on a sampling of General Assembly legislation that diminishes parental rights and citizens' and local governments' authority, decision making, and freedom. Next year, all statewide offices and legislative offices will be up for election. Make sure you know how your elected officials voted on these issues. Watch for our MFRW Vote Tally Sheet.

HEALTH and LIFE

2025 – HB 161 – Comprehensive Health Education Framework - Established -- Revised as "County Boards of Education – Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study – Discrepancies". Establishes financial penalties if a local school system fails to completely follow state curriculum guides and courses of study.

2023 – HB 705 / SB 798 -- Constitutional Amendment on Reproductive Freedom.

2025 – HB 1315 -- Pharmacy Vaccinations – Does not require parental approval for vaccinations. Increases the vaccinations that a pharmacist may administer to include those recommended as of 12/31/2024 by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2023 – HB 283 / SB 460 -- Gender Affirming Care – Does not exclude transgender drugs or surgery for minors under 18, or require parental approval for minors.

2021 – SB 41 -- Mental Health Counseling – reduced age for informed consent from 16 to 12.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY, and ENVIRONMENT

2025 – HB 286 / SB 266 – Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth Resource Protection and Planning Policy – must (1) optimize land productivity within population centers; (2) prioritize transportation networks that create energy efficient, affordable, and reliable access to jobs, housing, and services; (3) enable a mix of quality housing types and affordability options to accommodate all who want to live in the state, etc.

2025 – HB 1466 / SB 891 -- Requires all counties to adopt local law to allow accessory dwelling units in single-family detached housing communities. Excludes an accessory dwelling unit from the calculation of density and the application of any measures limiting residential growth that pertain to the lot, parcel, or tract proposed for development of an accessory dwelling unit.

How are the actions of the Maryland General Assembly going to affect you, your family and community?

Ella Ennis, Chair - MFRW Legislative Committee

2025 – HB 1036 / SB931 -- PSC factors to consider for solar energy generation stations. Removes authority of County Councils or County Commissioners to restrict or deny solar-energy farms and generators on preserved agricultural and open space land. Allows a generator to be built within 150 feet of a residential building.

2025 – HB 49 – Building Energy Performance Standards Compliance and Report. Imposes a fee for covered buildings for energy use that fails to meet "Greenhouse Gas Emissions" and "energy use intensity targets." Can include commercial or multi-family residential buildings 35,000 square feet or more, excluding parking garage.

2025 – HB 128 / SB149 -- Establish Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Payment Program from businesses that extract fossil fuels or refine petroleum products to provide a source of revenue for State efforts to mitigate effects of climate change and address health impacts.

Stay tuned.

Below are just some of the increases:

New taxes

- 3% tax on information technology services
- \$5 per tire tax
- 6% sales tax on vending machine purchases
- Rental car excise tax

Changes to existing taxes / fees

- Cannabis tax increased from 9% to 12%
- Tax on sports betting increased from 15% to 20%
- Vessel registration fee increases speeded up implementation
- Vessel excise tax increased from 6% to 6.5%
- 2 new tax brackets for high-income residents (@ \$500K and @ \$1M)
- Eliminated itemized deductions on State income tax returns

Maryland Federation of Republican Women CLUB MEMBERSHIP

25	27	26	26	26	# clubs	
EOY 2021	E0Y 2022	EOY 2023	EOY 2024	May 12		
1,404 2021	1,395 2022	1,208 2023	1,143 2024	1,160 2025		SINCE
2021	12	12	2024 11	11	MD RW Empowered	2020
2.1	12	12	11	141 mbrs	Western Region	2020
38	21	15	13	25	Allegany	2004
30	29	20	12	15	Frederick	1920
65	84	81	92	90	Garrett	1954
12	11	11	12	11	Taneytown	1960
				126 mbrs	Central Region	
42	43	25	24	16	Anne Arundel	1937
28	44	30	26	16	Howard	1981
14	14	12	14	13	Patuxent	2017
110	112	98	87	81	Severna Park	1965
226 mbrs Northern Region						
178	189	144	127	100	Baltimore	1959
30	31	16	10	10	Carroll	1948
41	36	28	20	22	Cecil	2018
113	81	76	46	82	Harford	1947
11	10	13	12	12	Hopkins	1923
				108 mbrs	Southern Region	
40	17	18	13	11	Calvert	1995
35	40	17	43	47	Calvert /Leaders	2003
26	13	25	15	10	Charles	2005
33	42	37	37	40	St Mary's	1956
				204 mbrs	Eastern Region	
21	28	21	18	15	Caroline	1990
79	76	62	54	28	Chesapeake	2005
19	17	19	22	24	Wicomico Conserv	2018
135	146	145	153	137	Worcester	1984
				344 mbrs	Montgomery Federation	
119	112	111	111	114	Chevy Chase	1959
134	131	110	91	117	Potomac	1958
27	33	42	37	52	Rural	1962
24	35	32	54	61	Upper Montgomery	2006

U.S. Department of Education – Origins

Jean Hruz, Chair, Americanism Committee

1867 -- President Andrew Johnson created the Department of Education to collect data and disseminate best practices for schools in America. It lasted just 2 years because of concerns about government overreach in local schools.

1953 -- President Eisenhower created a new cabinet-level Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the first new cabinet-level agency since 1913 (Department of Labor).

1979 -- President Jimmy Carter created a separate Department of Education with a \$14B budget. The 2024 budget allocation was \$268B.

President Reagan wanted to eliminate the Department of Education but was unable due to focusing his attention on defeating Communism, the Russian empire and ending the Cold War in our favor.

Each President since the creation of the Department of Education has made their mark on education by enacting their own initiatives:

- President George H. W. Bush was aware of the 1983 report A Nation at Risk that found that student results were often mediocre. His "America 2000 Strategy" addressed quality of instruction, increased accountability for student performance, and increased parental choice.
- President Clinton enacted "Goals 2000" to establish high standards for all schools and students. It provided for increased funding through Title I for schools with high poverty rates. Funds were also allocated to expand school choice and support charter schools.
- President George W. Bush created "No Child Left Behind" in 2002, increasing spending by 29% to \$144.5B, requiring states to test students in reading and math and to demonstrate yearly progress.
- President Obama created "Race to the Top" in 2009 at a cost of \$4.35B.
- President Biden spent \$122B to help the nation's schools recover from the pandemic but no policy agenda addressing student achievement.

When President Trump succeeds in eliminating the Department of Education, the responsibility for curriculum and instruction will be returned to the states and these agencies will assume those functions of the Department of Education not related to curriculum and instruction: Health & Human Services, Commerce, Department of Justice, Interior, Small Business Administration, and Labor.

U.S. Department of Education – Origins

Jean Hruz, Chair, Americanism Committee

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics
Retrieved 12 May 2025 at https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=38



SOURCE: Education Recovery Scorecard – a collaboration between the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University and The Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University

Retrieved 12 May 2025 – visit "District Fact Sheets" for county-specific data: https://educationrecoveryscorecard.org/states/maryland/#:~:text=Yet%20despite%20rapid%20progress%20between.grade%20level%20behind%20in%20reading%20(.

Excerpted from PRESS RELEASE -- 11 Feb 2025 Maryland ranked 44th among states in math recovery and 17th in reading between 2019 and 2024

- Despite rapid progress between 2022-2024 (+.31 grade equivalents in math and +.14 grade level equivalents in reading), students in Maryland remained almost 70% of a grade level behind 2019 levels (.69 grade equivalents) in math and almost 40 percent of a grade level behind in reading (.39 grade equivalents) in 2024.
- Math is more of a concern in Maryland than reading. No districts have recovered in math, while 87% of students are in districts that remain below their own 2019 levels in reading. Nationally, 89 percent of students in districts remain below 2019 levels in reading, and only 11 percent have exceeded 2019 levels.
- The loss in math achievement in Maryland is almost 70 percent of the progress students typically make annually between grades 4 through grade 8.

NFRW Campaign Award submissions

Effective July 1, 2023, the NFRW Campaign Committee began collecting campaign hours and phone calls made every 6 months. Awards are presented for the:

- 1) Top political and campaign volunteer hours logged
 - Volunteer activities (visit NFRW website for list of examples)
 - Participating in activities benefiting the MFRW, your club, the MDGOP and/or Republican candidates (travel to/from, planning, set-up and breakdown, etc)
- 2) Top number of phone calls logged.
 - Calls for any political activities via traditional phone or phone apps

Clubs are responsible for collecting information from their members and completing the online form via the NFRW website no later than the due date to be considered for the period award. Volunteer hours and phone calls can be entered up to 6 months following the online entry deadline but cannot be considered for the period award. Total hours should be rounded to the nearest whole number. Detail by date/event is not needed.

	TIME PERIOD	ONLINE ENTRY BY
1st report	1 Jul 2023 to 31 Dec 2023	15 Jan 2024
2 nd report	1 Jan 2024 to 30 Jun 2024	15 Jul 2024
3 rd report	1 Jul 2024 to 31 Dec 2024	15 Jan 2025
4th report	1 Jan 2025 to 30 Jun 2025	15 Jul 2025

The fourth report includes a section for the 2-year totals for hours and calls.

The final cumulative awards, which will span the total two-year period, will be presented at the NFRW 43rd Biennial Convention, to be held in Orlando September 25-28, 2025.

Upon completion of the online form, both the individual inputting the data and the MFRW President will receive a receipt with a copy of the information. The committee will also provide a spreadsheet of the information collected to the MFRW President.

Detailed instructions, FAQs, and the online reporting form can be found at:

nfrw.org → General Resources and Forms → Awards Forms (scroll down to *Political & Capaign Awards*)

Club online report form:

https://republicanwomen.wufoo.com/forms/political-campaign-volunteer-awards-20242025/

MISCELLANY

LITERACY Chair Liz Mumford (lmumford2009@gmail.com) would appreciate clubs sharing the title of books they have donated to schools, etc. and other club M.E.L.P. activities and community efforts.

Consider a club event in support of WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2025

You can donate now for placement on Saturday, December 13th
Group ID: MD0672 \$17/wreath



Next **TRUMPETER DEADLINE** – **June 1**st – Send copy to Anne White (whitesk8s@comcast.net) and Carol Randall (<u>cbkrandall@yahoo.com</u>).

FALL CONVENTION 2025 – registration will open July 1st
Ashore Resort & Beach Club, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City
Sunfest Weekend – Business meeting will be on Saturday.
Rooms available Friday, Saturday & Sunday @ \$129/night
(\$35 daily resort fee is waived)







Status of 2025 Municipal Races

In 2025, there were 332 seats in 108 municipalities up for election. Below are the municipal races remaining in 2025:

Anne Arundel

- Highland Beach July 2025
- Annapolis November 2025

Caroline

- Denton November 2025
- Greensboro November 2025
- Marydel November 2025

Cecil

- Chesapeake City June 2025
- Rising Sun October 2025

Dorchester

- Galestown September 2025
- Hurlock November 2025

Frederick

- Burkittsville June 2025
- Emmittsburg September 2025
- Thurmont October 2025
- Frederick City November 2025

Garrett

- Mountain Lake Park July 2025
- Loch Lynn Heights November 2025

Harford

- Aberdeen November 2025
- Bel Air November 2025

Kent

• Chestertown - November 2025

Montgomery

- Kensington June 2025
- Gaithersburg November 2025

Prince George's

- Eagle Harbor August 2025
- Bladensburg October 2025
- College Park November 2025
- Greenbelt November 2025
- Laurel November 2025
- Upper Marlboro November 2025

Queen Anne's

- Barclay June 2025
- Church Hill June 2025
- Centreville October 2025
- Queenstown November 2025

Talbot

Oxford – June 2025

Washington

Clear Spring – November 2025

Wicomico

- Mardela Springs August 2025
- Delmar November 2025
- Pittsville November 2025



Attend one of our sessions to hear from candidates and supporting personnel about the process of running as well as financial aspects. Find out what to expect from stepping up to run for office. Lunch provided. Time for questions included.





American Legion

25911 Canvasback Drive, Easton, MD

Session 2-August 9, 2025 10-2 815 National Hwy, LaVale, MD



Session 3-Zoom session 6 pm August 23, 2025



Sessions are sponsored by the Maryland Federation of Republican Women Interested? Email MFRW 3rd Vice President Jana Hobbs at jana@wicomicogopwomen.org

Offices up for Election in 2026

PRIMARY ELECTION

- Early Voting June 18, 2026 through June 25, 2026 (7AM 8PM)
- Election Day June 30, 2026 7AM 8PM

GENERAL ELECTION

Early Voting - October 22, 2026 through October 29, 2026 (7AM - 8PM)
 Election Day - November 3, 2026 - 7AM - 8PM

State Offices

Governor and Lt. Governor Comptroller Attorney General State Senator House of Delegate Judge of the Circuit Court

For retention in office. Only on General Election Ballot

- Justice, Supreme Court of Maryland
- Judge, Appellate Court of Maryland

Federal Offices -- Representatives in Congress

Local Offices

County Executive / County Council / County Commissioner

County Treasurers
State's Attorney
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Register of Will
Judges of the Orphan's Court
Sheriff

Board of Education: Allegany, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester County

Party Offices

Democratic Central Committee Members Republican Central Committee Members

Municipal Offices

Allegany County - City of Cumberland - Mayor and City Council



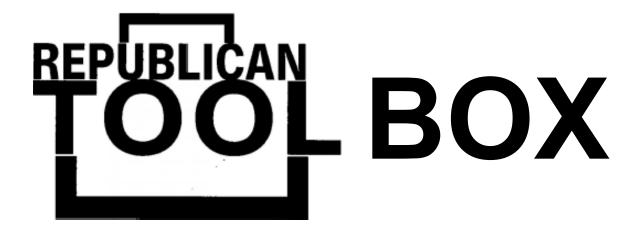
National Federation of Republican Women

Endorsement Policy

The NFRW has established a policy for endorsements during election cycles. It is recognized that members of our organization are politically active and should be engaged in the support of Republican candidates. It is further recognized that building quality relationships with our elected officials is critical to our mission. The NFRW has adopted a policy to specifically address endorsements of candidates. State federations and clubs may, in their bylaws, adopt stricter limitations

- The president and campaign committee chair of NFRW or of any state federation shall not publicly endorse any candidate for public office in any primary, runoff, special or non-partisan race where two or more known Republicans are in the race.
- The president and campaign committee chair of NFRW or of any state federation who is a candidate or whose spouse or family member is a candidate shall be exempt from this rule; however, they may not do so in the name of the organization.
- No endorsement or evidence of support by any member shall be issued using the NFRW
 affiliation, logo, or stationery without the approval of NFRW.
- No one may endorse in the name of NFRW, the state federation or the local club, or in their official capacity thereof.
- In the case of contested Republican races, information may be distributed on all the candidates such as events or fundraisers if they are fairly and evenly distributed.*
- NFRW Bylaws provide for removal of membership for any member, state federation, or local club that advocates a split party ticket or supports a candidate who is running on an opposition ticket.
 - * NOTE: The use of a disclaimer (i.e., "This is being emailed for informational purposes only and does not represent an endorsement by this club.") can help prevent anyone from interpreting such communications as endorsements.

UPDATED 2024



Thinking about running for office in Maryland in 2026? Start now in 2025!

Success starts with preparation; and 2025 is the year to lay the groundwork for your 2026 campaign. Whether you're running for local office or a statewide seat, the Republican Toolbox has everything you need to get started:

- Sample palm cards to define your message and connect with voters.
- Direct mail templates to build meaningful outreach.
- How-to guides that walk you through every step of launching your campaign.

Don't wait for 2026 to start planning – use 2025 to position yourself for success. The Republican Toolbox is designed to help you strategize, organize, and energize your campaign from Day 1.

Your leadership journey begins here – check out the Republican Toolbox today!

Sign-up today at RepublicanToolbox.com.

Questions?
Contact Dwight Patel at (301) 385-3144 or dwight@dwightsworld.com

MFRW Executive Committee 2024-2025

MFRW Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1

The Executive Committee is composed of the MFRW elected officers, the MFRW regional chairmen, and any past MFRW presidents willing and able to serve who are regular members in good standing of an MFRW club.

OFFICERS and PAST PRESIDENT

President

Sharon Carrick ***
(301) 464-1954
sha54ron@verizon.net

1st Vice President

Luanne Ruddell ***
(301) 501-0444
luanneruddell@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President

Vikki Birkett (410) 991-9896 vbirkett@msn.com

3rd Vice President

Jana Hobbs (410) 726-5223 jana@wicomicogopwomen.org

4th Vice President

Liliana Norkaitis (443) 752-7630 liliananorkaitis@gmail.com

Treasurer

Anne White *** (410) 212-1025 whitesk8s@comcast.net

Assistant Treasurer

Maria Sofia (301) 335-4762 msofia9412@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Melissa Brown (410) 660-9176 melabrown2486@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Rebecca Tittermary (410) 341-7074 fromtheartroom1@gmail.com

Past President

Carol Randall (410) 206-5628 cbkrandall@yahoo.com

Election of 2026-2027 MFRW officers will take place at our Fall Convention – October 24-26, 2025 in Ocean City Sunfest Weekend!

Names followed by *** are term-limited (not eligible for election to the same office).

Are you interested in serving MFRW as an elected officer?

The election of **MFRW officers for the 2026-2027 term** will take place at our 2025 Fall Convention (Saturday, October 25th @ Ashore Resort in Ocean City).

TERM of OFFICE – 2 years -- January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 3(A) of the MFRW Bylaws, the Nominating Committee will issue a call for letters of interest no later than May 31st. The "call" will be shared with paid members via MailChimp, posted on the MFRW website, and shared via social media. Submissions will be due within 30 days of posting.

If interested, your submission should include your contact information, your club, the position(s) you are interested in, your qualifications and political experience, and any other information you feel would be of interest to the Nominating Committee.

The report of the Nominating Committee will be included in the Call to Convention that will be issued in mid-September.

Attending Fall Convention 2025 is <u>not</u> a requirement to be considered for elective office by the Nominating Committee.

ELECTED OFFICERS -- MFRW Bylaws, Article IV, Section 1

- President
- 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President 3rd Vice President 4th Vice President (only 1 vice president can serve from a region).
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary Responsible for monthly Executive Committee minutes and minutes of our annual meetings (Spring Board and Fall Convention).
- Treasurer -- Organization finances are maintained utilizing QuickBooks Online (QBO) and Stripe. Requires entry of each payment received (via mail and Stripe) and payment and recordation of every expenditure, monthly reconciliations, and working with the accountant to format and provide the information needed for the submission of required reports (2 in non-election years – 8 in election years)
- Assistant Treasurer -- Membership is reported to NFRW via the NFRW website
 using Excel spreadsheets provided by each club. It is critical that the Assistant
 Treasurer have a reliable Internet connection and is comfortable working with
 Excel.

Duties and responsibilities for each elected officer can be found in Article IV of the MFRW Bylaws, available on the MFRW website / About Us / Governance.

NOTE: The current President, 1st Vice President, and Treasurer are term-limited.

Election of 2026-2027 Officers

Relevant provisions of the MFRW Bylaws (amended 15 Oct 2023) are noted below.

STEP 1: Appointment of a Nominating Committee – Article IX, Section 1

The Nominating Committee consists of 1 member from each of MFRW's 6 regions. A Nominating Committee member cannot be considered for an elective office, and must leave the Committee should circumstances change.

STEP 2: Notice to those interested in being considered for office -- Article IX, Section 3

Within 14 days of the Spring Board meeting, a call for letters of interest will be posted on the MFRW website and emailed to all members whose 2025 dues have been paid. The notice will include the email address for electronically submitting letters of interest and the submission deadline (30 days from date of notice).

An applicant may express interest in more than one office but, if selected, can be slated for 1 office only.

STEP 3: Responsibilities of the Nominating Committee

- Article IX. Section 2
 - The Nominating Committee shall review all submissions and nominate 1 candidate for each office.
 - No 2 vice presidents may be from the same region.
 - Each candidate must be contacted and be willing to serve.
- Article IX. Section 4
 - Nominees must be members in good standing within the MFRW.
 - The Nominating Committee shall interview all who expressed interest in an office.
 - o In the absence of interest for a particular office, the Nominating Committee may reach out to individuals who did not submit a letter of interest.

STEP 4: Handling of submissions

After the submission deadline and at least 14 days prior to the meeting of the Nominating Committee at which letters of interest will be reviewed, the MFRW Corresponding Secretary will forward submissions to all members of the Nominating Committee.

STEP 5: Slate of officers – Article IX, Section 5

The Nominating Committee submits a slate of names to the MFRW President for inclusion with the mailing of the Call to Fall Convention. The Call must be issued at least 30 days prior to Convention. The proposed slate of officers will also be posted on the MFRW website.

STEP 6: Election of officers - Articles X and XII

The election of officers will take place by ballot at the Fall Convention. If there is only 1 candidate for each office, a voice vote is allowed. Nominations, with the consent of the nominee, may be made from the floor. A simple majority elects.

Those voting are:

- The Board of Directors (elected officers, regional chairs and vice chairs, club presidents, standing committee chairs, former MFRW presidents), and
- Club delegates (1 for each 5 club members @ June 30th).

DATES to REMEMBER

MFRW = Maryland Federation of Republican Women
National = NFRW deadlines

	2025	
MFRW	1-Jun	Deadline <i>Trumpeter</i> submissions
National	1-Jun	NFRW Club Achievement Awards to MFRW President
National	1-Jun	Armed Services Awards to MFRW President
National	1-Jun	Caring for America Awards to MFRW President
National	1-Jun	Literacy & Education Awards to MFRW President
National	28-Jun	Certification date for Biennial Convention
		(membership in NFRW database determines voting delegates)
National	30-Jun	MFRW President forwards awards submissions to NFRW
National	30-Jun	MFRW's Betty Heitman award submitted to NFRW
National	15-Jul	Political & Campaign Awards - online reporting (Jan-Jun 2025)
National	???	Club presidents designate Convention delegates/alternates
National	28-Aug	MFRW President to NFRW club delegates/alternates
MFRW	1-Sep	Deadline Trumpeter submissions
National	7-Sep	MFRW President certifies at-large delegates/alternates
	17-Sep	Constitution Day / Citizenship Day
MFRW	21-Sep	Fall on the Farm
National	Sep 25-28	43rd Biennial Convention Orlando FL
National	1-Oct	State's can begin entering 2026 membership renewals
MFRW	Oct 24-26	Fall Convention Ocean City
MFRW	1-Dec	Deadline Trumpeter submissions
MFRW	10 Jan 2026	Leadership Conference

2026	Gubernatorial Election Calendar
14-Jan	General Assembly 2026 convenes
15-Jan	MGA 2nd Day distribution of MFRW Legislative Priorities
24-Jan	Candidate filing deadline
9-Jun	Closing voter registration / change of party affiliation
18-Jun	Early Voting through June 25th
30-Jun	PRIMARY ELECTION
13-Jul	Voter registration reopens closes on October 13th
22-Oct	Early Voting through October 29th
3-Nov	GENERAL ELECTION

43rd NFRW Biennial Convention 2025

Rosen Shingle Creek · Orlando FL

Friday, September 26, 2025 Welcome reception – generally 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 27, 2025 Convention General Sessions – morning and afternoon

Sunday, September 28, 2025
Voting for National officers (2026-2027 term) – generally 7-9 a.m.
Convention General Session – generally 9 to Noon
Optional networking luncheon

** Attendees are reimbursed 1/2 the "Early Bird" registration via MFRW's Legacy Fund.

Credentialing is the process by which local clubs and the state federation designates their delegates to the NFRW Biennial Convention. These members have a voice and a vote on behalf of their local club or state federation when NFRW business is conducted during the Convention General Sessions, including election of national officers.

Delegates and alternates must be certified according to NFRW Bylaws:

Article 9, Section 3. Representation:

- A. The voting body of the Biennial Convention shall be:
- 1. one delegate from each club,
- 2. five delegates-at-large from each state federation, and one additional delegate-at-large for each 500 members or major fraction thereof in the state federation based on the payment to the NFRW of the current year's dues and postmarked ninety days prior to the convention, # of delegates-at-large and # of alternate delegate-at-large
- 3. presidents of state federations...

Prior to being certified, delegates and alternates must be a current member in good standing (2025 dues paid) and have registered for the full Convention. Late registrants cannot be credentialed to vote.

- Delegates and alternates under Article 9, Section 3, A(2) will be calculated on the number of paid club members 90 days prior to Saturday, September 27, 2025 – June 28th
- Club delegates and alternates must be certified 30 days prior to Saturday, September 27, 2025 -- by August 28th at 5:00pm ET
- State at-large delegates and alternates must be certified 20 days prior to Saturday, September 27, 2025 – by September 7th at 5:00pm ET

BAY CLUB

Have you joined the BAY CLUB for 2025?

Join at *mfrw.org* or mail your \$110 check payable to "MFRW" and your contact info to MFRW, PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401.

There are currently 25 individual and 12 club members of the 2025 Bay Club.

The BAY CLUB is a donor group supporting the work of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women. It is open to all -- MFRW members, friends, family and businesses.

Your 2025 membership will fund MFRW efforts to increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government, inform the public through political education and activity, and elect Republicans at all levels of government.

Bay Club members enjoy special events, often coinciding with MFRW's Spring Board meeting and Fall Convention. Members also receive a printed copy of the *Trumpeter*.

Membership is valid January 1 through December 31, 2025.

2025 Bay Club members

Martine Jana	Baker Barberio	Jean Erin	Hruz McPate
Linda			11101 010
	Bradley	Karen	McKinley
Sharon	Carrick	Liliana	Norkaitis
Sylvia	Darrow	Carol	Randall
Jean	Delcher	Beth	Rodier
Lynne	DeMinco	Kim	Rosado
Ella	Ennis	Gary	Ruddell
Barbara	Freilich	Luanne	Ruddell
Patty	Hammond	Anne	Rutherford
Lisa	Herman	Linda	Stine Flint
Jana	Hobbs	Anne	White
		Donna	Zupancic

RW of Calvert County
RW Leaders of Calvert
RW of Cecil County
RW of Charles County
Chesapeake RW
Chevy Chase WRC
RW of Frederick County
Garrett County RWC

Harford County RW
Patuxent RW
Potomac WRC
RW of St Mary's County
Severna Park RWC
Wicomico Conservative RW
RW of Worcester County

LEGACY FUND

You can contribute at *mfrw.org* or mail your check payable to "MFRW" and your contact info to MFRW, PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401.

The **LEGACY FUND** is the brainchild of former MFRW President Betty Jane Carroll (2003-2005), an endowment created by Board resolution on April 16, 2005 to provide perpetual financial support for the organization. Once the Fund reached its base endowment of \$100,000, the MFRW has been able to utilize earnings to support trainings and educational opportunities related to leadership, participation in the legislative process, and election activities.

Those earnings annually support MFRW's Leadership Conference and Red Scarf Day, free to all MFRW members. The fund also allows the MFRW to reimburse a portion of registration costs to members attending the NFRW Biennial Convention. And, of course, there are income taxes on the earnings.

Earnings in excess of \$100,000 can be used for:

- Leadership development for MFRW members
- Educating MFRW members on issues of interest to the Federation
- Skills training for MFRW members
 - Campaign management
 - Communication (oral and written)
 - Lobbying
 - Media relations
 - Outreach skills to increase membership
- Scholarship opportunities
 - State and national meetings
 - Trainings that benefit the Federation

In the past, earnings have been used for:

- MFRW's annual Leadership Conference free to members
- MFRW's annual Red Scarf Day in Annapolis free to members and Maryland's Republican legislators
- ½ "Early Bird" registration for MFRW members attending the NFRW's Biennial Convention
- Income taxes on Fund earnings

Maryland is the only state federation in the National Federation of Republican Women with such a funding mechanism. We are forever indebted to Betty Jane Carroll for her foresight and tenacity in bringing the Legacy Fund to fruition.

A minimum \$25 club contribution to the Legacy Fund and/or The Diana Waterman Scholarship Fund is a required element (#11) for the 3 highest MFRW Achievement award levels – Black-Eyed Susan, White Oak, and Maryland Shield.

The Diana Waterman Memorial Scholarship

Established 2024

The Diana Waterman Memorial Scholarship was created to honor Diana's memory and her commitment to people working in politics in the service of the greater good, without expectation of credit or personal recognition.

Chesapeake Charities, a community foundation, manages the financial, legal and administrative details of the scholarship. Questions and contributions can be directed to them at info@chesapeakecharities.org or:

Diana Waterman Scholarship c/o Chesapeake Charities 101 Log Canoe Circle, Suite O Stevensville, MD 21666

This fund awards scholarships to Maryland women studying a political science or related degree at an accredited college or university who demonstrate academic excellence and exemplify Diana's commitment to selfless political activism.

Criteria:

- 1. Female resident of the State of Maryland.
- 2. Current student pursuing a degree in political science or comparable field of study at an accredited college or university.
- 3. Excellent record of academic achievement -- minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA (validated by an academic transcript).
- 4. Demonstrates a record of involvement in political causes and/or organizations.



Diana Waterman was a powerhouse in Maryland Republican politics.

- MFRW -- Eastern Region chair, 1st VP, Assistant Treasurer, President (2018-2021)
- NFRW Board of Directors member during her tenure as MFRW President, member of the Campaign Activities and the Caring for America committees, member of the 2021 Nominating Committee
- Chesapeake Republican Women founding member, Treasurer, President (2 terms)
- MDGOP 1st Vice Chair (2010-2013), Chairman (2013-2017)
- Queen Anne's County Republican Central Committee (2006 to present) Treasurer, Vice Chair, Chair
- Republican Women's Federal Forum Advisory Council
- Women for Kelly Schulz for Governor -- Chairman
- Bob Ehrlich for Maryland 2010 -- campaign coordinator Queen Anne's County

MFRW website – https://www.mfrw.org

If you haven't visited lately, check it out!

About Us

- Governance a number of documents that govern what we do and how
- Committees
 - Standing Committees (Bylaws, Communications, Finance, Fundraising, Legislative, Membership, Political Activities, Programs)
 - Special Committees (Americanism, Awards, Literacy, Trumpeter)
- Newsletters 4 most recent editions of *The Trumpeter*
- Contact info for MFRW elected officers
- Resources
 - Municipal races 2025
 - Most recent Fall Convention handout
 - Most recent Leadership handout
- MFRW History
- Regional Information

Join Us

Contact information, website and social media links for each of our 26 clubs

Programs

Information on Awards, the Bay Club, the Legacy Fund, and lots of resources under the Americanism heading

Govt & GOP

Contact info for the Republican House and Senate Caucuses, the MDGOP, the NFRW, Congressman Andy Harris and the RNC

Legislative

- MFRW's Legislative Priorities
- MFRW Bill Testimony
- List of Republican legislators
- Issues research
- 2025 Legislative Update
- Positions on legislation

President Donald J. Trump Proclamation on Women's Equality Day August 25, 2020

Women are an essential part of the political, economic, and social fabric of our Nation. All American women — regardless of the role they play in the workplace or at home — contribute every day to the success of our great country. In addition to being homemakers, caregivers, mothers, and counselors, along with a host of other important roles, women also fill critical jobs in every sector of our economy, contributing to the financial security of their families and our Nation.

President Ronald Reagan
Proclamation 5775 – Women's History Month
March 7, 1988

Women continue to strengthen the family and enrich our lives with intellectual gifts, creative talents, and an indomitable spirit -- in business, government, volunteer activities, religious life, education, health, the military, sports, the arts, and many other areas.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher May 20, 1965

If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman.

Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you. – Ruth Bader Ginsburg

When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future. – Queen Elizabeth

You might not be able to control your circumstances, but you can control your response to your circumstances. – Condoleezza Rice

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained. – Marie Curie

If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then you are an excellent leader. – Dolly Parton

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. – Mother Teresa