

MISSISSIPPI
FEDERATION OF
REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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Elephant Tracks

"Politics make it possible, women make it work"

FALL 2009

MFRW

- President**
Rita Wray
Brandon, MS
- Immediate Past President**
Alyssa Farmer
Brandon, MS
- First Vice President**
Nell Frisbee
Kiln, MS
- Second Vice President**
Judy Batson
Madison, MS
- Third Vice President**
Cemper Scott
D'Lo, MS
- Secretary**
Vicki Blackwell
Southaven, MS
- Corresponding Secretary**
Veronia Naylor
Madison, MS
- Treasurer**
Dana Stringer
Brandon, MS
- Chaplain**
Ross Hooper
Jackson, MS
- Parliamentarian**
Genie Wheeler
Jackson, MS
- First District**
Ellen Jernigan
Hernando, MS
- Second District**
Helen Carney
Madison, MS
- Third District**
Betty Twiner
Brandon, MS
- Fourth District**
Jean Box
Gulfport, MS

DATES:

- February 23, 2010
MFRW Spring Board Meeting
- February 24, 2010
Legislative Day
- March 11-13, 2010
NFRW Spring Board Meeting

Elee Reeves, Editor



President's Corner

As busy and as challenging as the service of President is, I am thoroughly enjoying working in conjunction with the members of MFRW and in collaboration with fellow Republican leaders. As I meet and interact with members in their home setting for officer installation and keynote addresses, I realize how truly exceptional you are in working with the initiatives related to our mission; each of you are integral to our Federation and to our Party. I am proud of our collective progress and I thank you for this grand opportunity.

Our Program {Plan} of Action which includes Building, Bonding and Branding calls for building our membership by 10%, growing our financial net by 10% and increasing our visibility by our presence at GOP Events is on course to exceed goals by the end of 2009! MFRW Bylaws have been updated and sent to NFRW. Manuals have been developed to orient and assist new and existing Clubs. We have participated in the NFRW Legislative Day and Spring Board of Directors meeting in Washington DC, MRP State Central Committee meetings in Jackson, MS, Fall Board of Directors meeting and the 35th Biennial Conference of the NFRW in Orlando, FL, supported the MS Republican Party as a host at the Pioneer's

Dinner honoring Wirt Yerger, Jr., and are working tirelessly, since April 2009, in collecting signatures for the Petition to amend the MS Constitution to address Voter ID.

In 2010 and beyond, if you are a registered voter or know of a registered voter, who supports the platform and principles of the Republican Party, I invite you to join me in the MFRW as we work to strengthen the Republican Party by recruiting, training, and electing candidates, to advocate the Party's philosophy and initiatives and to empower women of all ages, ethnic origins and backgrounds in the political process.



Introducing the MFRW pin...



Contact Mary McLaurin, MFRW Fiance
Chair to purchase your pin for \$5.



National Federation of Republican Women's 35th Biennial Convention

The National Federation of Republican Women's 35th Biennial convention was one of the largest meetings of Republicans this year. More than 1,300 registrants from forty six states attended the NFRW's 35th Biennial Convention in Orlando, Fla., Sept. 10-13, thirty+ were from Mississippi. The Biennial gave Republican women activists the opportunity to:

- **TRAIN** for leadership roles in government, politics, business and community by attending the two-day campaign management school, and political and policy workshops on healthcare reform, women and campaigns, technology and new media, and membership development – taught by nationally recognized experts.
- **REPARE** for the 2010 political season by hearing for Republican leaders and elected officials, political analysts, policy experts, authors and other notable guests – including Republican National Committee Chairman **Michael Steele**; Minnesota Gov. **Tim Pawlenty**; Florida Gov. **Charlie Crist**; and, **Frances Rice**, chairman of the National Black Republican Association.
- **HONOR** one of America's outstanding teachers; the NFRW presented the fifth biennial award to elementary school teacher and former army pilot **Susan Jordan** of Salina, Kan., during the luncheon Saturday, Sept. 12.
- **RECOGNIZE** distinguished leadership and service within the Federation. Sunday, Sept. 13, the NFRW presented awards recognizing accomplishments at the state and local levels in the areas of membership and program development, campaign activities, community service, and public relations, including almost 500 Club Achievement Awards and dozens of other awards to include Mississippi's State Federation Members with Most Volunteer Hours Reported: **Jane Winn**, Jones County Republican Women.

Club Achievement Awards: Diamond

Jones County RW
Lowndes County RW
Madison County RW

Silver

Hancock County RW
RW of Desota Area

Bronze

Rankin County RW
RW of Simpson Co

- **NETWORK** with women from across the country. Delegates and other attendees had plenty of opportunities to network with women from across the nation at events such as the Opening Night Reception hosted by the Florida Federation of Republican Women, and the evening hospitality receptions hosted by states and candidates such as *A Taste of Mississippi*. Mississippi's themed hospitality reception gave registrants the opportunity to get a real taste of southern hospitality when Mississippi Republican Women hosted the Hospitality Suite on Opening Night. They had everyone Rockin' to the tunes of the 50's by highlighting music of our native born King of Rock N Roll, Elvis, and serving up choice state delicacies like Red Neck Caviar. Special recognition to **Donna Russell**, who chairs the Convention Committee, for her leadership. State President from Simi Valley, Ca, Mary Anne Donat, sent a follow-up email stating "Thank goodness for Mississippi to throw the fun, good food etc evening! So, you folks are in the LEAD, congratulations! The music for me was something so special, I cannot say enough."
- **PLAN** the future of the Federation. Convention delegates made pivotal decisions as they elected the women who will lead the Federation in 2010 and 2011. **Sue Lynch** of Wisconsin was unanimously elected president Saturday, Sept. 12. Also elected were:
1st Vice President – **Joyce Smith**, Indiana
2nd Vice President - **Rae Lynne Chornenky**, Arizona
3rd Vice President – **Martha Jenkins**, North Carolina
4th Vice President – **Jessie Morton**, Louisiana
Secretary - **Jane Lane**, New Hampshire
Treasurer – **Brenda Smith**, Kansas
Following the convention, the Board of Directors elected the following as Members-at-Large to the Executive Committee:
Patt Parker, MD | **Kathy Brugger**, CA | **Carrie Almond**, MO
- **CONDUCT** Federation business
Common themes and topics during the four-day event included opposing the current healthcare reform plan and helping the Republican Party build momentum for the 2010 elections. In addition, 10 state presidents, to include Mississippi's own, **Rita Wray**, as well as several members of the Florida Federation, participated in a healthcare roundtable with Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele the afternoon of Sept. 12.

Delegates also approved three amendments to the NFRW Bylaws, an annual membership dues increase, a resolution supporting the Enumerated Powers Act (H.R. 450), as well as four additional resolutions. One bylaw was successfully amended to allow State Federations to continue to address local Clubs concerns rather than the National Federation, as a result of an amendment to the amendment put forward by Mississippi delegate, **Rita Wray**. The Bylaws amendments and the dues increase (\$2.00 per member) will take effect January 1, 2010.

The 36th Biennial Convention, scheduled September 29-Oct. 2, 2011 will be held in Kansas City, Mo. SEE YOU THERE.

Thanks!

Thank you to the generous donation of Clark County Republican Women, past MFRW Presidents uniformly framed photos, purchased from *Old Tyme Frames*, now adorn the wall of our office at the GOP Headquarters.

Thank you to MCRW and Janet Thomas for sharing NFRW 35th Biennial Convention pictures. If you'd like to share and/or donate to the Mississippi Federation of Republican Women, please contact us!