

**Dear NORWF Members and Supporters,**

As we approach the 20th year of our vision to create NORWF as a thriving community of like-minded Republican women, I am filled with gratitude for your support and the difference we've made together. The upcoming year, 2026, marks the 20th anniversary of NORWF becoming a certified organization, and it's a moment for all of us to celebrate our collective accomplishments.

This year, we made a significant impact on the **2024 election cycle**, advancing the causes and candidates that align with our values. We have exceeded the achievement requirements set by the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) and the Florida Federation of Republican Women (FFRW), and for that, I thank each one of you for your dedication and hard work.

However, as we celebrate these victories, we must acknowledge the challenge we face: a decline in membership. To continue making a meaningful difference, we must recruit new members and engage those already with us in a more impactful way. As we work to address the evolving demands on women who seek to make their mark in the political landscape, we also recognize the challenge of information overload. To help with this, we are committed to ensuring that our newsletter is a valuable tool for communication, and that our website remains a reliable source of resources. If you've found tools that have been especially useful, please share them with us!

Most importantly, we need your help to spread the word about **NORWF's mission** and bring guests to our monthly events. Whether it's a networking session, luncheon, program, or business meeting, every event is an opportunity to inspire and empower new women to join us in making a difference.

**Event Details:**

- **When:** 3rd Thursday of each month
- **Where:** Hilton Garden Inn, 580 E. Main St, Apopka
- **Time:**
  - 11:00 AM – 11:20 AM: Networking
  - 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM: Luncheon/Program/Business Meeting (Members)

We're excited about the year ahead and will continue to offer programs that combine both fun and valuable information to help us achieve our mission: **"Women Making a Difference."** Thank you for the privilege of serving as NORWF's President. **I look forward to hearing from you and working together to ensure that NORWF's legacy continues to thrive.**

Warm regards,  
Dr. Loretta Forlaw, PhD, FACHE (R)  
COL (Ret.) US Army Nurse Corps  
Website: [www.NORWF.org](http://www.NORWF.org)  
Email: loretta.forlaw@gmail.com  
Cell: 407-579-5971



## NORWF

### Northwest Orange Republican Women Federated FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday, February 20th, 2025

Diane Velazquez, Apopka City Commissioner Seat 2/Vice Mayor



Lunch Meeting Networking: 11:00 to 11:20 Starts at 11:30 AM-1:30 PM  
Reservations \$25.00 Per Meal/\$30.00 at the door

**HILTON GARDEN INN • APOPKA  
APOPKA  
580 E. MAIN ST  
APOPKA, FL 32703**

Reservations: Barb Zakszewski at [barbzack@mail.com](mailto:barbzack@mail.com) Or 407-921-7219  
Visit us at <https://WWW.facebook.com/NORWFC>  
[NORWF.ORG](http://NORWF.ORG)

Want to learn more about Republican Women, and Apopka, visit our  
February meeting.



**Don't forget about the NFRW App!**

Receive push notifications for up to the minute information, action alerts for crucial legislation, and reminders for Zoom meetings! Go to your Google Play Store or the Apple App store to download!

Be sure to check out the video below for how to navigate the app!



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## CALL TO CONFERENCE

2025 FFRW Legislative Day &  
Spring Board of Directors Meeting

March 20-22, 2025

***Taking Action. Getting Results.***

AC Marriott Hotel

**801 S Gadsden St, Tallahassee, FL 32301**

**(850) 392-7700 (main number)**

**To the 2025 FFRW Board of Directors,**

We are excited to announce the FFRW's Annual BOD and Legislative Meeting.  
Our Spring BOD meeting will be held at:

**AC Marriott Hotel  
801 S Gadsden St, Tallahassee, FL 32301**

Our Conference Planning Committee is diligently working, planning a series of great speakers and training sessions for all attendees as well as a **Thursday Night Pre-Conference Reception (March 20th)**. You won't want to miss this great conference. It's going to be fun and full of information. Updates and an agenda will be forthcoming as we get closer to the Conference.

### **LEGISLATIVE DAY**

We will start off our conference on Thursday with Legislative Day! Be at the AC Marriot by 7:30 AM or at the Capitol Rotunda by 8:45 AM for a historic tour of the House Chamber. After an individual lunch and afternoon events, our Spring Conference begins with a welcome reception at 5:30 PM. More information is forthcoming.

There is no cost for Legislative Day but please RSVP when you register.

### **SPRING BoD MEETING**

A final agenda is forthcoming. The BoD meeting will start at 8:00 AM on Friday and will adjourn at approximately noon on Saturday.

As our Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, voting includes but is not limited to:

- Conference Rules
- Bylaws Amendment Schedule
- Standing Rules Update
- Elect District 5 Representative
- Proposed Resolutions
- Final Financial Review for 2024
- Proposed Budget for 2025
- Elect a Nominating Committee

## Elect Delegates and Alternates for NFRW Convention

If you have any proposed resolutions you would like to submit, please submit them to Lorri Kobe by at [lkobe@lwklaw.com](mailto:lkobe@lwklaw.com) by February 20, 2025.

## REGISTRATION

**Registration for the 2025 FFRW Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors is open.**

All registrations must be made online.

The **early-bird registration** period is February 2-20. The conference fee is \$200.00. If you pay by Credit Card, the fee will be \$200.00 plus the applicable processing fees of \$10.00. If you register and pay by check before February 20, the cost is \$200. You will be given the payment options on the registration form.

If you choose to register **AFTER** the early-bird registration, the **regular registration** period is February 21 - March 5. The pay-by-check fee is \$250. If you pay by credit card, the registration fee plus the applicable fees is \$260.

Guest registration for the conference is under the event page on the FFRW website.

We have reserved a block of hotel rooms at the AC Marriot. As you reserve your room, be sure to let them know that you are part of the FFRW block. As they fill up we can add more. They might be at the higher room rate. The final day to reserve your room at the conference rate of \$245/night is February 26, 2025.

Presidents who register online will be immediately eligible as Board of Directors. District Representatives, Past Presidents (in good standing) and Standing Committee chairs are also part of the voting Board of Directors. *FFRW Standing Committees are Bylaws and Standing Rules, Campaign Activities, Fundraising, Legislative, Membership, Publications & Public Relations.*



## Get Ready for the March Madness Membership Recruitment Contest!

Everyone loves a little competition, and our State Presidents are no exception! Due to the overwhelming success of last year's **March Madness** competition, we're bringing it back this year, bigger and better than ever.

There are two brackets this time—the **Numbers Bracket** and the **Percentage Bracket**—which means each state has **two chances** to win! So, whether you're rallying for the most members or the biggest increase in percentage, there's a place for everyone.

**Contest Rules & Prizes:** (Yes, we have prizes!) All the details, including contest rules and prize information, can be found [here](#).

The **first-round winners** will be determined on **March 5th**, and the **final round** winners will be announced on **April 9th**. The goal is to encourage members to have their dues paid at NFRW by the end of the contest period.





Mardi Gras in New Orleans in 2025 will last from **January 6 to March 4**, including parades, festivals, and community celebrations. The biggest day of celebration is **Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras Day, which falls on March 4, 2025. 47 days before Easter.**

### Explanation

- The Mardi Gras season, also known as Carnival, begins on January 6, which is Twelfth Night. Twelfth Night is the Christian holy day of the Epiphany.
- The season ends on Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent.
- The most popular time to visit for Mardi Gras is the final weekend leading up to Mardi Gras Day.
- Mardi Gras is celebrated annually, with the exception of 2021 when parades were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### National Federation of Republican Women

*Building Leaders. Energizing Communities.  
Keeping America Strong.*



Americanism

Awards

Caring for America

Federation Fund

Legislation and Advocacy

Regents Program

Armed Services

Campaigns and Elections

Email Network

Leadership Development

Literacy and Education



*Look where he comes;  
Let him in to feel your fire,  
And toss him of your crumbs.*  
-Christina G. Rossetti (1830-94)



Northwest Orange Republican  
Women, Federated

*"Women Making a Difference"*



P.O. Box 56, Apopka, Florida 32704-0056

[www.NORWF.org](http://www.NORWF.org)

Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/NORWFC>

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS February 26<sup>th</sup> Lillian Finno**

## NORWF CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2025

### DATE

Ceremony – Sue Dewbre

February 20<sup>th</sup>

March 20<sup>th</sup>

April 17<sup>th</sup>

May 15<sup>th</sup>

June – no meeting

July – no meeting

August 21<sup>st</sup>

September 18<sup>th</sup>

October 16<sup>th</sup>

November 20<sup>th</sup>

December 18<sup>th</sup>

### GENERAL MEETINGS January 16<sup>th</sup>

Inauguration

**City Commissioner - Diane Velazquez**

**NO MEETING**

**NO MEETING**

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

# NORWF 2025 Volunteers

Month	<u>Raffle Basket</u>		<u>Dessert</u>	
	Name	Phone #	Name	Phone #
January	Joni Keams	407-883-1403	Brenda Solomon Sandy Bove	407-463-9437
February	Brenda Solomon Sandy Bove	407-269-2499	Barb Zakrzewski	407-921-7219
March	Loretta Forlaw	407-579-5971	Verlie Norris	407-221-8011
April	Paulette Chessa	321-229-6888	Loretta Forlaw	407-579-5971
May	Verlie Norris	407-221-8011	Louise Fortunato	407-301-8912
June		No	Meeting	
July		No	Meeting	
August			Lil Finno	407-703-4743
September	Andy Anderson	689-309-3467	Beverly Blackmon	407-361-6751
October	Barb Zakrzewski	407-921-7219	Lois Cooper	407-920-2508
November			Paulette Chessa	321-229-6888
December			Marty Harrison	407-493-0471

1-21-25

Please let Membership Brenda Solomon know which month you will be donating desert or basket (can share a basket

**Legislative Update**

**From FFRW Legislative Chair Kim Black**

- **Senate President Ben Albritton and**
- **House Speaker Danny Perez stand with**
- **Governor DeSantis**
- **as he signs Florida's Anti-illegal Immigration Bill**

Members,

When the greatest Governor and the greatest Legislators get together, great things happen to The People of Florida!

Yesterday, the House and Senate both passed SB 2-C Immigration, SB 4-C Immigration and SM 6-C, Secretary of Homeland Security, a memorial which urges the US Department of Homeland Security to provide guidance and training opportunities for 287(g) agreements.

The changes made to strengthen the Bills were a collaborative effort from Governor DeSantis, our state legislators and from the greatest President in American history, Donald J. Trump!

Again, Florida leads the way for the strongest and most comprehensive legislation combating illegal immigration in the Nation. This is a huge win for Florida, for President Trump and how we begin to Make America Great Again! Together we are stronger!

In unity,

*Kim Black* FFRW Legislative Committee Chair

- ***PRAY FOR WISDOM, STRENGTH FOR OUR FOR OUR  
NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT!!!***



## NORTHWEST ORANGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN, FEDERATED, INC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Website:WWW.NORWF.ORG

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:  New Member  Annual Renewal

(Place an "\*" next to new/updated information)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (month + day) \_\_\_\_\_ How did you hear about our organization? \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:  Active Membership \$55.00/year

Female\*/Male Associate Membership \$40.00/year

\*Women who are Associate Members must be an active member in another Federated club. List the FFRW Club of your Active Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Young Republicans/Student Associate Membership \$10.00/year

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS: Includes one year of active or associate membership

Platinum Eagle \$251+  Gold Eagle \$200 - \$250  Silver Eagle \$100 - \$199  Bronze Eagle \$60 - \$99

Membership includes free monthly newsletters via email.

### I AM INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES (please check all that apply)

STANDING COMMITTEES:  Bylaws  Campaign Activities  Community Relations  Finance  
(Ways & Means)  Membership  Legislative/CAP/Resolutions  Programs

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:  Achievement Awards  Adopt-A-Soldier  Americanism  Caring for America  
 Armed Services & Veterans  Historian/Press Book  M.E.L.P.  Newsletter  Public Relations  
 Scholarships  Sunshine  Telephone  Chaplain  Newsletter/Website  Parliamentarian

AMOUNT PAID:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ CC \_\_\_\_\_

Signature on this application certifies that I am a Registered Republican. By signing this application, I also agree to abide by the By-laws and Standing Rules of NORWF, to include supporting only Republicans in partisan and non- partisan races.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION & PAYMENT TO: NORWF, P.O. BOX 56, APOPKA, FL 32704-0056

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NORWF