

MFWDC Member Orientation

Each local Democratic Women's Club is affiliated with their respective Congressional District Club, the Missouri Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs (MFWDC) and the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW). A District Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs is made up of all clubs in a Congressional District.

Each local club is independent and is not affiliated with County Central Democratic Committees or the State Democratic Party. However, many local Democratic Women's Clubs work closely with their respective County Central Democratic Committees. Many Federation women are also very involved in the Democratic Party.

Information and bylaws can be found at:

National Federation – www.NFDW.com

Missouri Federation – www.MFWDC.org

National Federation of Democratic Women

NFDW

NFDW is made up of all state Federations of Democratic Women's Clubs. The National Federation has an executive committee with officers from different states and has an annual National Federation Convention.

NFDW Objectives

The objective of NFDW is to unite women of the Democratic Party; to promote the cause of the Democratic Party and to encourage full participation of women in every level of the Democratic Party structure.

Convention

The annual NFDW Convention is held between May and July, depending upon the NFDW board decision, for a period of three to four days, with a business meeting and banquet. Each year a different state or U. S. territory hosts the annual NFDW convention

Missouri Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs

The MFWDC is made up of the local clubs that pay dues to the MFWDC and to the District Federations of Women's Democratic Clubs. The Federation has an annual convention and two executive board meetings throughout the year. Men are allowed to be members of the Federation.

MFWDC History

A group of 150 women met in Kansas City on October 11, 1930, to begin the Federation. The Missouri Federation was organized in 1931 from Women's Democratic Clubs across the state dating back to the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. The Fourth District Federation of Democratic Women chaired the 75th MFWDC Convention June 9-11, 2006, in Jefferson City, Missouri.

MFWDC Objectives

- to organize all women's Democratic clubs in the state of Missouri into one group working for the success of the Democratic Party
- to encourage its members to participate in all the activities of the Democratic Party
- to unify and strengthen the individual clubs comprising the Federation
- to assist in the organization of new clubs
- to promote the welfare of the Democratic Party by providing educational programs as developed through conferences, committees and projects

Basic Policies of the Federation

- The name of the Federation or the names of the executive board members, as officers of this organization, shall not be used in any political campaign, political advertising or other public action, nor shall be attached to any petition without a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the executive board.
- The Federation shall not endorse any candidate before the primary election.
- The Federation officers and executive board members shall support all Democratic candidates in the primary and all Democratic nominees in the general election. Failure to do so shall be cause for removal from office of said officer or executive board member.

Organization of MFWDC

Congressional District

A District Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs is made up of all clubs in a Congressional District. If there is more than one club in a district, a district Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs is formed by the clubs that pay both district and state dues. Each district and local club operates in accordance with its bylaws and rules and in accordance with the MFWDC bylaws and rules as pertain to districts and clubs.

Objective of the Congressional District

To unite all the Women's Democratic Clubs of the Congressional District into one group working for the success of the Democratic Party.

Local Club

Local clubs are made up of members of a particular area. A local club may be a countywide club. There may be more than one club in a county or several counties may join together to form a club. Each club sets its own dues and deadlines for payment. Members of a club only pay dues directly to that club. Clubs must pay both district and state dues to be affiliated with MFWDC.

Each district and local club operates in accordance with its bylaws and rules and in accordance with the MFWDC Bylaws and Rules as they pertain to districts and clubs. *Roberts's Rules of Order Newly Revised* is used on matters not specifically in the bylaws.

Dues

Each local club must pay district and state dues to be affiliated with the MFWDC. The dues are paid by local clubs and not individual members.

The deadline for payment of state dues is 45 days prior to the state convention held annually in June. Dues for the State Federation are \$1.00 per capita and must be paid by the deadline for the club to be eligible to have voting delegates at the annual convention. (Each club is entitled to 1 delegate and 1 alternate per 10 paid members.) The State Treasurer mails a dues reminder to the clubs (please make sure the treasurer has current addresses of officers of your club).

Dues and deadlines for payments to the District Federation are set by each District. Dues must be paid before they are eligible to have voting delegates at the MFWDC State Annual Convention. Districts do not pay dues to the state unless a district has only one club known as the district club. If there is more than one club in a district the local clubs pay district and state dues.

Members of a local club pay dues directly to the club. Individual members do not pay district or state dues; district and state dues are paid by the local club.

Meetings

Congressional District

District meetings are set by the districts, but must occur at least annually.

State

A business meeting is held at the annual state convention on Saturday morning. The executive board usually meets twice a year.

Missouri Democratic Executive Committee: The MFWDC President has a seat on this committee and is to be in attendance each time the committee meets.

Convention

The MFWDC Convention is held in June of each year, Friday-Sunday. The location is rotated among Congressional Districts, and the place is set two years in advance. It includes Friday evening activities with an auction, a Saturday morning brunch and business meeting with speakers, a Saturday evening banquet, and a president's hospitality room. The convention events are covered in a program book. Local clubs, districts, and county elected officials are asked to buy ads in the program.

A listing of events and awards are included in this member orientation for information of ongoing Democratic Women's activities. Local and district clubs should work on them throughout the year to be prepared to submit when information is received by them or when deadlines are set.

It is usually too late for a club or district to begin the process for nominations if they wait until they are notified of the deadlines. BE PREPARED and have nominations ready. Just because there is a deadline doesn't mean it cannot be submitted earlier – it should be if possible.

All local clubs and their members are responsible for making their own reservations and registrations for events. Please be prepared to make reservations early because there is usually a block of rooms held for the event. Encourage members to ask other members to share rooms and transportation to make events more affordable to members.

Program Book

A program book is printed annually for the state convention with agendas and speaker biographies. Ads for the program book are purchased by clubs, districts, officeholders, businesses and individuals. There is a deadline for ad copy--usually three to four weeks before the convention. District and club presidents are notified of deadlines for information. All local clubs are encouraged to sell ads for the program book.

Auction

An auction is held on Friday night of the state convention and is one of the largest fundraisers for the Federation. Everyone is encouraged to donate items for the auction and to participate.

President's Hospitality Room

At the state convention there is a President's Hospitality Room for attendee's enjoyment. All district presidents serve on the committee and all clubs and districts donate food, beverages or money to provide snacks at the convention. Districts have scheduled times for members of their district to help host with setting up, serving, and clean up.

Awards

Woman of the Year: the award is presented annually at the state convention. Districts should have a woman chosen from the local clubs early in the year to be ready to submit by the deadline date. The form needs to be completed and pictures attached for state convention program book. Local clubs should be choosing their WOY nominee early in the year. The deadline is usually 6-8 weeks prior to the convention, set by the WOY committee and shared with district presidents.

Scrapbook: the award is presented in odd numbered years at the state convention. Individual clubs or districts may present scrapbooks for judging. The scrapbook should cover local activities from last odd numbered convention. Specific rules and guidelines are available on the website or from district presidents.

Bess Truman Award: the award is presented in even numbered years at the state convention. This is the award for the most impressive new club. The forms will be online and sent to the district presidents. District presidents or local presidents can nominate a local club.

National Federation of Democratic Women Awards and National Federation of Democratic Women's Internship Award: these awards are nominated annually by the state. This information is available on line at www.NFDW.com and is mailed early in the year to district and club presidents for nominations and for young women in the clubs to apply.