



The Elephant Speaks



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Linda Shomin, Editor

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—KATHY DRAKE

Happy Spring—I hope all of you have enjoyed a little taste of Spring.

We are all enjoying an off year but let us not get too comfortable. This is the time to lay the groundwork for 2012. We can all be doing things like recruiting members to our clubs, recruiting candidates for the 2012 election, keeping abreast of the important issues, and the list goes on.

MoFRW has had a busy winter. We had a good turnout at our board meeting in January; we had 275 register for our State Lincoln Day Luncheon; honored students and teachers at the My Favorite Teacher in Jefferson City, honored the wonderful Breckenridge Scholars, and visited with our Legislators at Legislative Day. Thanks to all of those who attended these events.

Carrie Almond, Sharon Barnes, and I attended the NFRW Board Meeting in Washington D.C. in early March. It was an honor to have Senator Roy Blunt and Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler address the NFRW Legislative Day attendees.

We are preparing for our MoFRW Convention June 10-12. We will be joined by our NFRW President, Sue Lynch. I hope to see many of you in attendance. There is important business to conduct with the election of our 2012-2013 officers and the election of our delegates and alternates to National Convention.

The district meetings start April 6, so I plan on seeing many of you in attendance.

Sincerely,
Kathy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/06/11—1, 2, & 3 District Meeting, St. Louis

4/09/11—District 8 Meeting, Licking

4/16/11—District 4 Meeting, Cedar County and
District 6 Meeting, Putnam County

4/30/11—District 5 Meeting, Independence and
District 9 Meeting, Washington

6/10/11 - 6/12/11—MoFRW State Convention, KC, MO

08/18/11—Missouri State Fair

8/27/11—Women of Tribute Luncheon

9/29/11—10/2/11 – NFRW Convention, KC, MO

Details of these meetings may be found at the MoFRW website.

MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Sharon Barnes is the Secretary of the MoFRW. She was appointed to that position for the remainder of 2011 in accordance with MoFRW By-Laws by President Kathy Drake, due to the loss of Joan Miller.

Sharon and her English husband, Geoff, will be married 19 years on April 10. They have no children. She is originally from Illinois and moved to Missouri in 1982. She has also lived in Brussels, Belgium and Copenhagen, Denmark.

Sharon's hobbies include sewing, scrapbooking, and rugby. She is a very busy lady! Her community activities are: owner of Cheri's (manufacture and selling of copyrighted clothespin dolls) since 1993; Chairman, eMINTS, Mason Academy Schools, 2006-2010; member of five Neighborhood Associations in the 24th Ward of St. Louis since 2004; member of SLACO (St. Louis Association of Community Organizations) Roundtable since 2006; member of 2nd District Police Business Association since 2007; and supporter of St. Louis Sabres Women's Rugby Team since 2006.

Despite all her community involvement, Sharon is also a very politically active individual. She is a member of the NFRW Membership Committee since 2010; serves as 1st Vice-President of the 2nd District Republican Women since 2010; is President of the Republican Women's Club of St. Louis since 2010; is the Missouri District 4 Republican State Committeewoman since 2010; is Chairman of the St. Louis City Republican Central Committee since 2010; is Republican Committeewoman, 24th Ward of St. Louis City, since 2004, has been a member of the MoFRW Century Club since 2005; and is a St. Louis City Special Roving Deputy for elections since 2004.

Sharon's past political activities and awards at the National, Missouri and local levels could probably fill the rest of this newsletter! Highlights of these are: 2010 NFRW Charter Member Legacy Club; 2008 Alternate Delegate to the Republican National Convention; 2008 Missouri State Chair, Women for McCain; 2006 Recipient of the Congressional Medal of Distinction; 2006 Republican of the Year, NRCC; 2005 Recipient of the Ronald Regan Republican Gold Medal; 2009 Missouri Delegate-At-Large, NRW Convention; 2009 Woman of Tribute, Republican Women's Club of St. Louis; President of the 24th Ward Republican Club for 2004-2007; and Membership Chair for MoFRW for 2006-2009.

2011 NFRW CONVENTION REPORT FROM VIOLET CORBETT

All eyes are focused on the 36th Biennial NFRW Convention September 28-October 2 in Kansas City, Missouri. The MoFRW is looking forward to hosting members of the NFRW and an exciting agenda is already taking shape! This year's convention is shaping up to be one of the top Republican gatherings of the year and will feature speakers, political and policy workshops, educational seminars, networking opportunities and events you won't want to miss. And don't forget the NFRW election of officers.

There are still plenty of volunteer opportunities available for members of MoFRW. Donna Foster will organize and schedule volunteers. Contact your MoFRW President, Kathy Drake, with your name, address, e-mail and telephone number to volunteer.

Each club has been challenged to raise \$1,000 to help with the expenses for our opening gala – "Jazzin It Up in Kansas City, Missouri." You may bring your club's donations to the MoFRW Convention in June. Carrie Almond is in charge of corporate fundraising. If you know of a donor in your area, please contact Carrie or MoFRW President Kathy Drake. We will be hosting a special "Convention 2011 Auction" at our MoFRW June Convention. We have some very, very tempting items, and I promise you won't be disappointed! NFRW President Sue Lynch is our guest speaker and it will be her birthday! (Sue collects cookbooks, so bring one with you to the convention for her.) Let's show her how Missouri can raise money!

The downtown Marriott Hotel and Kansas City Convention Center have been fabulous to work with. With world class jazz, smoky barbecue, and more than 200 dazzling fountains, Kansas City offers several legendary experiences and attractions. Head to 18th and Vine Historic Jazz District to learn about rich Kansas City roots. The American Jazz Museum chronicles our city's jazz legacy, showcasing legends such as Ella Fitzgerald and KC's own Charlie "Bird" Parker. No visit to Kansas City is complete without experiencing the iconic County Club Plaza. Designed in 1922, this 14 square block outdoor shopping and entertainment district is filled with romantic Spanish style architecture, European art, and dazzling fountains. On the classical side, the 80 person Kansas City Symphony performs more than 50 concerts during its season, September through June. In 2008, construction was completed on the eight block Power & Light entertainment district, bringing more than 40 lively bars, restaurants, and night clubs to the heart of downtown Kansas City. Kansas City is a great secret in and of itself. Go to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Union Station, and the Liberty Memorial, and be inspired. Explore Science City, the 3-D Extreme Theater, planetarium shows, live theater and more, including world-class traveling exhibits. Visit unionstation.org to plan your adventure. Discover the Arabia Steamboat Museum. Learn about American's 33rd President Harry S. Truman. Leila Cahoon will bring her Independence

"Hair Museum" to the Marriott. NFRW Convention in Kansas City has it all—you won't be disappointed!

NFRW CONVENTION DELEGATES & ALTERNATES

As State MoFRW President, Kathy Drake will be a delegate. As a NFRW board member Carrie Almond will be a delegate. Each club in Missouri may send one delegate from their club. The number of delegates/alternates at large Missouri can have is based on membership. As a state, we get five delegates/alternates at large, plus one additional delegate for each 500 members or portion thereof; as of right now, we would have six delegates/alternates, unless membership as of June 29 warrants more (so get your memberships in!). Delegates/alternates at large will be elected at the June MoFRW Convention, and Kathy Drake will have the necessary credential forms for completion at that time.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY PRESIDENT RONALD REGAN

On February 6 of this year, President Roland Regan would have been 100 years old. He was the 40th President of the United States (1981-1989), the 33rd Governor of California (1967-1975), and an actor before that.

We're all pretty aware of the awesome job he did as President with his sweeping new political and economic initiatives, termed "Regonomics." His second term was primarily marked by strides in foreign matters—no one will ever forget his speaking at the Berlin Wall on June 12, 1987, where he challenged the Russian leader, Gorbachev, saying "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" And it was done!

Many conservative and liberal scholars agree that Reagan has been the most influential president since Franklin D. Roosevelt, leaving his imprint on American politics, diplomacy, culture, and economics. Since he left office, historians have reached a consensus that Reagan rehabilitated conservatism, turned the nation to the right, practiced a pragmatic conservatism that balanced ideology and the constraints of politics, revived faith in the presidency and in American self respect, and contributed to victory in the Cold War. Mr. President, we thank you for all you did for us and wish you a wonderful 100th birthday!

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Angela Stiffler, MoFRW Membership Secretary, and her family on the death of her father. Condolences may be sent to Angie at: 4005 S. Woodland Ave, Independence, MO 64052 or by email to anstiffler@yahoo.com.