

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

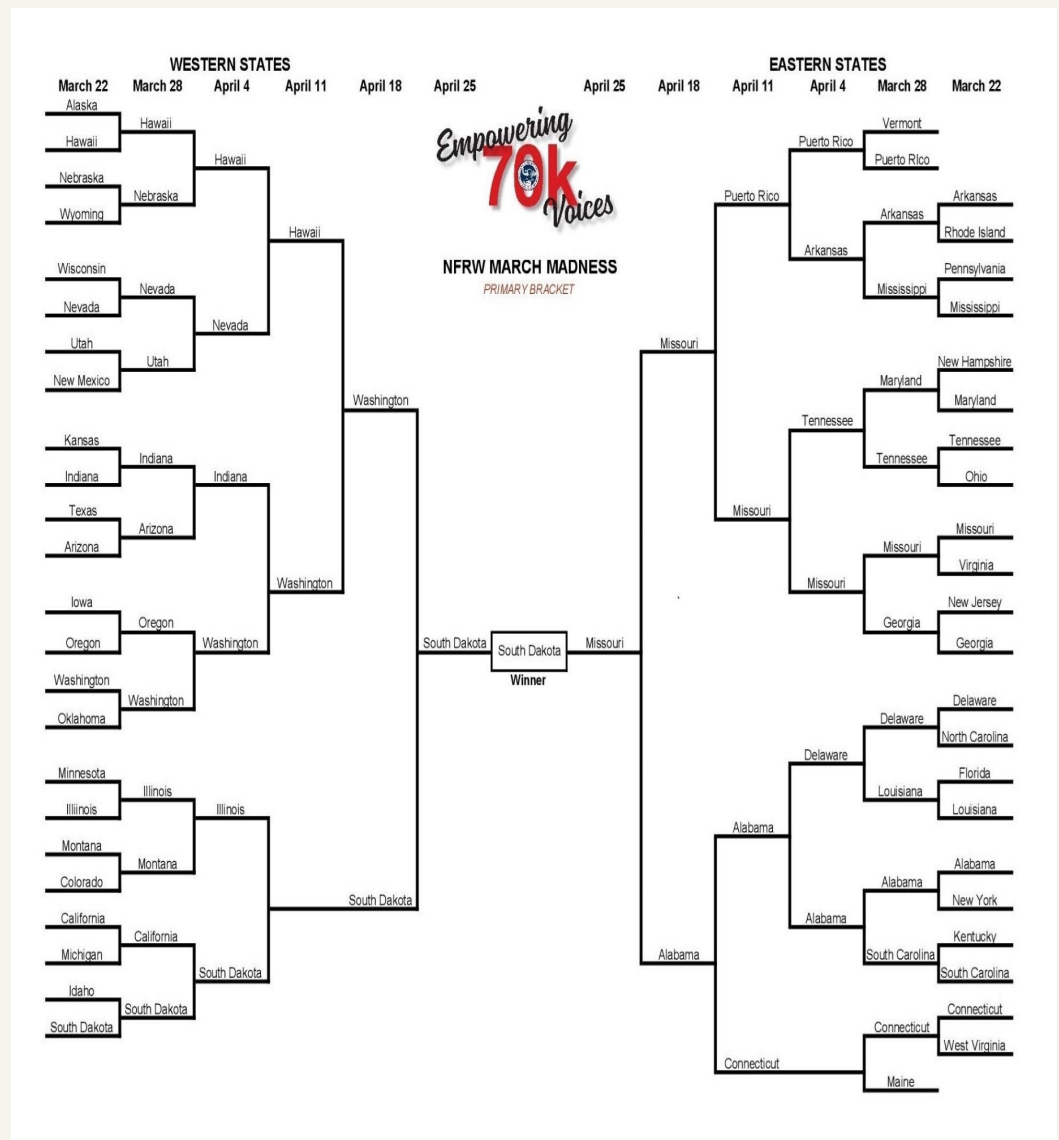
**THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLE FROM NFRW:
SDFRW WINS THE FIRST-EVER NFRW MARCH
MADNESS MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION!**

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- From the Desk of the President
- SDFRW Campaign Committee
- SDFRW First Legacy Award
- Care Packages for VETO Day
- Thank you to SDFRW Members

**REPORTS
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From the President's Desk:

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. In the previous SDFRW newsletter, I begged for help in the Sioux Falls City Council at large election. That race, which involved roughly 10x a legislative district's population, featured one Republican against two liberal Democrats, including one who called the GOP a "terrorist organization." Election Day produced a runoff. Over the ensuing weeks, SDFRW made sure the Republican candidate prevailed. We hosted a party at which hundreds of conservatives gathered to pick up campaign signs and coordinate efforts. Our digital billboards racked up 60,000 views a week – over a quarter of a million views in total! MLRW President Dee Van Deest issued a series of emails supporting our Calls to Action. After we trained volunteers in Campaign Sidekick, the door knocking app used by the SDGOP, our teams pounded the pavement, imploring voters to keep Sioux Falls from going the way of drug addled Portland and crime ridden Minneapolis. In the end, our four-part plan helped secure victory! Surprising nearly every expert, turnout actually increased for the runoff. What's more, voting rates were highest in neighborhoods and precincts where we focused our efforts. It's abundantly clear that without you a socialist would have won.

As a mother of two young boys, I thank you from the bottom of my heart! Your hard work ensured Republicans will continue to govern the place I am proud to call home. It is by your tremendous effort that – at least for now – we have kept Sioux Falls from going the way of Minneapolis, and South Dakota from going the way of Minnesota.

While we were busy winning a critical city council seat, we also won NFRW's first-ever March Madness Membership Competition! Not only does that honor come with national bragging rights, it earned us free registration to the 2025 NFRW Convention, saving SDFRW nearly \$600! The Presidents of the five local clubs with the largest membership increases are:

Claire Rydberg, CenKota
Karen Brandt, Northern Hills RW
Teresa Thompson, Meade County RW
MaryLee Plut, Codington County RW
Gracia Kuipers, Aurora-Douglas RW

Each of these ladies will receive a commemorative NFRW pin!

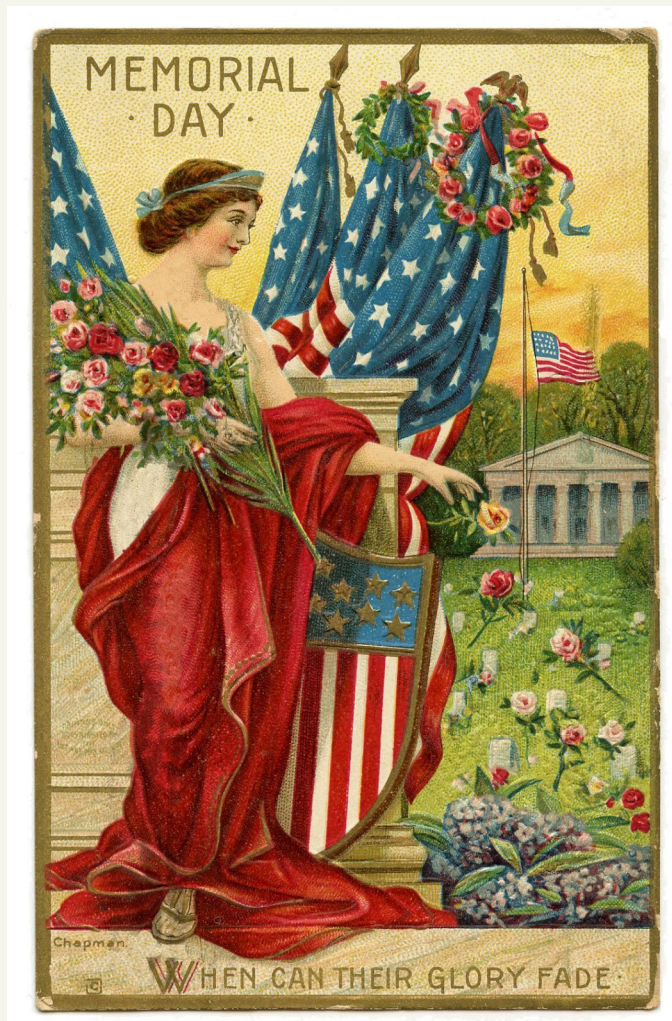
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I also want to thank everyone who filled in for me at the Board of Directors meeting in Oacoma. Now, a dozen bowls of chicken soup later, I am well on the way to recovery! It was thoughtful of the board to table the Nominating Committee selection. If you want to run for one of the three spots on this committee, please email me at president@SDFRW.org by Sunday, May 19.

A couple weeks thereafter, we'll convene a special board of directors Zoom meeting to vote on this topic plus any other urgent business we need to complete prior to convention. I will email the board more information including the meeting agenda once the date has been set. Please note that Nominating Committee members are ineligible to run for an SDFRW office and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. Each club is limited to no more than one Nominating Committee member at a time.

With gratitude for our incredible SDFRW sisterhood,
Catherine Barranco



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SDFRW Campaigns Committee was out in force to answer Sioux Falls' call for help!

Our SDFRW Campaigns Committee jumped to answer the call for help winning the Sioux Falls City Council At Large Seat! In that race, one Republican ran against two woke Democrats, one of whom called the GOP a "terrorist organization." This single election would not only determine who would fill the At Large seat on the Council, it would also determine whether Republicans would hold on to the majority on the Council: if the Republican won, we'd have 5-3 Republicans vs. non-Republicans on the Council. If the Republican lost, the Council would be split 4-4. There was no disputing that this was a must-win race!

We began by offering a series of in-person trainings on Campaign Sidekick, the door knocking app that the SDGOP uses. Then we recruited volunteers and organized a series of days for lit drops and door knocking. Temps in the low 40s and 55mph gusts of wind couldn't keep us home!

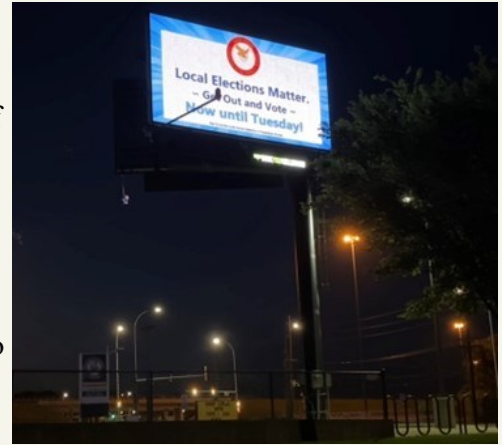


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The Republican owners of BookYourBillboard donated ad space to us on their digital billboards across Sioux Falls, which allowed us to run Get Out the Vote ads that garnered **over a quarter of a MILLION views!!** Every one of those views not only stressed the importance of voting and informed the viewer of the time frame in which to vote, each view also helped build our name brand, familiarizing the viewer with our organization. We'll continue to reap benefits from that name recognition for years to come!

On Election Day, SDFRW and MLRW hosted a Watch Party that doubled as a Sign Distribution Event! Not only did we get a chance to energize volunteers to continue to fight as the race went to a runoff election, we gave the Republican candidates in 11 districts – almost a third of the state! – an

opportunity to connect with constituents and send supporters home with yard signs and palm cards. Over the course of the evening, hundreds of people attended from Sioux Falls and beyond. With delicious food, fantastic live music, and a Republican elected to the school board, it was a pretty fantastic evening!



In the end, all of our work paid off – the Republican candidate (Richard Thomason) won the runoff election with more constituents turning out to vote in the runoff than in the main election, which is extremely rare!

Special thank you to SDFRW Campaign Activities Chair **Val Higgins**, MLRW President **Dee Van Deest**, and MLRW Member-At-Large **Trish Murphy** for all your work to bring home the victory in this critical election. With your help, we were able to maintain the Republican majority on the City Council, protecting Sioux Falls from Minneapolis' and South Dakota from Minnesota's fate – at least for now!

If there's an important race in your area in which there's only one Republican running, please contact SDFRW Campaigns Chair **Val Higgins** at valoriehiggins526@gmail.com – we love helping Republicans get elected all over the state!

Pictured: Richard Thomason with SDFRW President Catherine Barranco

SDFRW Members at the Watch Party



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Candidates & Elected Officials at the Watch Party



Newly elected City Councilman Ryan Spellerberg



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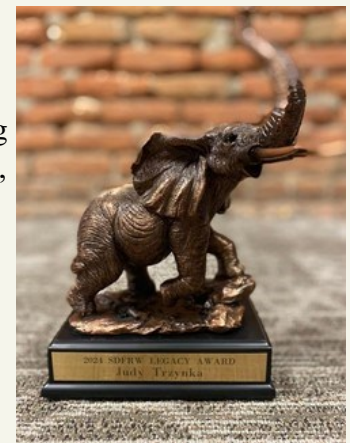


SDFRW Presents the First-Ever Legacy Award

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women has a tradition of recognizing members who have been most active over the previous year or two. This year, though, SDFRW did something special – we created the SDFRW Legacy Award. Rather than focusing on recent activity, the SDFRW Legacy Award

honors those members who have spent year after year, decade after decade, serving the Federation and the Party. We are thrilled to award the first-ever SDFRW Legacy Award to Judy Trzynka. Judy is an SDFRW Past President and has spent the past 50 years putting boots on the ground for the South Dakota GOP.

U.S. Senator Mike Rounds was on hand to help SDFRW present the award, giving a beautiful speech highlighting the many accomplishments of this GOP treasure.



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Care Packages for Veto Day

For Veto Day this year, Penny Sattgast and her family assembled and delivered care packages to the legislators for Veto Day! The packages included information about our online Republican Events Calendar to help them plan for Lincoln Day Dinner season! In addition, there was a membership brochure and an invitation to join as well as a sweet treat.



Thank you for tuning in!

When Democrats turn in ballot measure or candidate petitions, we need Republican volunteers to help verify that signatures are valid. If they're not, we can challenge the petition and potentially keep the liberals off the ballot!

Thank you for tuning in to the Zoom Call SDFRW hosted on March 22nd with SDGOP Executive Director Reggie Rhoden to learn how!



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AURORA – DOUGLAS REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Members of the Aurora Douglas Republican Women provided cookies and coffee at two cracker barrels that were held in February in our counties.

We are thankful that Cassidy Vanden Hoek, our youngest member, has been able to work on the Legislative Committee on the SDFRW State Level. While we were in the Capitol during the SDFRW Legislative Days we gave “Goodie Bags” to our Representatives and Senator.

Heidi Englehart was our guest speaker at our March meeting where guests were invited to a favorite dish meal. District 21 Senator Candidate Erin Tobin spoke to us via zoom and also District Candidate for Senator Mykala Viota was present to introduce herself at this meeting.

The Aurora Republican Central Committee held their Lincoln Day Dinner on April 13, 2024. This is the first year our group helped with the event. The chairman of the Central Committee expressed several times that it was such a help to have some help! We also had a silent auction. Trivent provided funds for a gas grill.

Our group has been looking ahead to elections and our campaign committee has assigned all the high schools in our two counties to our campaign committee members to register the seniors before they graduate. We have discovered that each school needs to have a special plan. We also are looking for young married couples to have them register again with a new last name and/or address. New people in the community or people who have moved recently have also been given voter registration forms. We have scheduled a debate in May between the three Republicans who are running for our District House Seats. We anticipate that our campaign activities will increase after the primary elections.



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C O D I N G T O N C O U N T Y R E P U B L I C A N W O M E N

January: Glen Vilhauer: District 5 Senate Candidate; Jeanne Horning: Legislative News.

February: Kristie Fiegen: Chairperson SD Public Utilities Commissioner.

March: Ried Holien: Watertown Mayor, National Committeeman

April: District 4 House Candidates: Barbara Guenette, Vanessa Namken, Kent Roe, Dylan Jordan; District 4 Senate Candidates: Steph Sauder, Fred Deutsch; District 5 House Candidates: Dr. Josephine Garcia, Matt Roby, Byron Callies; Becky Reeves: CC States Attorney

Codington County Special Events and Caring For America Projects:

- Shona Marshall: Outreach Director of the Beacon Center (Women's Shelter). CCRW gave to their Wish List
- Life Defense Fund Participation Training
- Haven Pregnancy Center Tour
- Legislative Quarterly Meeting
- Home Show Participation
- Lincoln Day Dinner Bake Sale and Quilt Sale
- Oacoma Spring Quarterly Meeting



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JAMES RIVER REPUBLICAN WOMEN

April 2024

James River Republican Women had their organization meeting in December 2023 with the 1st official meeting January 16th with Rich Hilgemann as our 1st speaker.

In February, being new we are putting our heads together for membership gain and fundraising. We discussed Spink County's Lincoln Day Dinner and March Membership by bringing a potential member with them to the next meeting. Spink County Chair Larry Nielson was our speaker.

In March, we confirmed the Spink County Lincoln Day and were advised that we can have a membership table, receive the donations from the dessert table and have a small silent auction to benefit our club. We will also help with decorating. Spink County Candidate Lana Greenfield was our speaker.

Respectfully submitted by President Jeni Boerger

PENNINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

PCRW had a successful meeting on April 18. Our team who helped put this together did an excellent job. Excellent feedback was expressed by those who attended. This is the purpose of what Republican Women Clubs are called to do. It was an honor to do this for our community.

We will be having another Forum on May 16 for the candidates that are running for Representative. We are excited to be able to do this. We need to remember that we can make a difference at this level. Elections are important for the future.



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NORTHERN HILLS REPUBLICAN WOMEN

The Northern Hills Republican Women furthered our mission:



In January we welcomed Travis Lasseter from the Life Defense Fund to educate us on the "Decline to Sign" campaign regarding the radical abortion petition being circulated.

DECLINE TO SIGN
THE ABORTION UP TO BIRTH PETITION.
IT'S TOO EXTREME. HERE'S WHY:

1. Legalizes painful, late-term abortions, including abortions up to the point of birth.
2. Denies parents the right to know when their underage daughter is being bullied into getting an unwanted abortion.
3. Endangers women by canceling requirements for abortionists to follow basic hospital health and safety standards.
4. Allows taxpayer funding of abortions.

Photo by Life Defense Fund

In February Robert Williams, Chief of Police Lead SD prepared us for "Situational Awareness" in all aspects of our daily lives. Some key take-aways were: Scan the area; Use peripheral vision; Become a 'hard target'; Trust your gut; if something seems off, make choices to keep you safe. Call 911. This is true for public places and out enjoying the environment.

Also in February we attended Legislative Day in Pierre. The tours, speakers and SDFRW Board of Directors Meeting were enlightening and energizing. The day was capped off with an iconic photo on the stairs with Governor Noem and Lieutenant Governor Rhoden.



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March brought us to the realization of what it takes to "Keep The Light On". Kristie Fiegen SD Public Utilities Commissioner. Kristie shared several statistics on the diversity of energy sources in South Dakota and the goal to always have a R.E.D. energy policy for **Reliable Electricity Development**.



In March we also honored one of our founding members and past treasurer, Ann Thie, with our prestigious Nancy Reagan Award of excellence for service to the community. Northern Hills Republican Women (NHRW) donated \$500 to the Western Hills Humane Society in honor of Ann. Ann received a terminal cancer diagnosis necessitating resignations of her volunteer duties from several organizations in the community. Ann rescued several kitties through the years from WHHS and this monetary gift was her choice in lieu of a tangible award.

A framed certificate will hang on the wall of the Western Hills Humane Society commemorating this honor. WHHS representative Shelby Hansen was present to receive the donation along with Karen Brandt, NHRW President.



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women



PRINCIPLED.

✓ Voted 65+ Times to Secure the Border

EFFECTIVE.

✓ A+ NRA Rating

✓ 100% National Right to Life Score

CONSERVATIVE.

✓ "Taxpayer Superhero" from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

DustyJohnson.com

Paid for by Friends of Dusty Johnson

Important SDFRW Dates

Please save these important dates in your calendar!
Keep checking SDFRW Website Calendar for more events!

Thurs, Sept 26 thru Sun, Sept 29 – SDFRW Biennial Convention in Rapid City

Sat, Dec 7 – Christmas at the Capitol + Winter Board Meeting including a special **Pearl Harbor and WWII Remembrance Program** in Pierre

Primary Election

June 4, 2024

Calendar

May:

- 16 - Beadle County Republican Women
11:30am Ryan's Hanger Huron, SD
- 16 - Brown Co. Area Republican Women
1am Allevity Aberdeen, SD
- 16 - Pennington County Republican Women
11:30am Holiday Inn Downtown
Rapid City, SD
- 17 - Codington County Republican Women
11:30am Pizza Ranch Watertown, SD
- 20 - Sioux River Republican Women
6pm 1921 Building, Brookings, SD
- 21 - James River Republican Women
5pm Leo's Good Food Redfield, SD
- 23 - Minnehaha-Lincoln Republican Women
11:30am SD Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.
Sioux Falls, SD

June:

- 07 - Meade County Republican Women
5:30am Pizza Ranch Watertown, SD
- 11 - Northern Hills Republican Women (2-Part Mtg)
3:15pm Spearfish, SD (see online calendar)
- 17 - Sioux River Republican Women
6pm 1921 Building, Brookings, SD
- 18 - James River Republican Women
5pm Leo's Good Food Redfield, SD
- 20 - Beadle County Republican Women
11:30am Ryan's Hanger Huron, SD
- 20 - Brown Co. Area Republican Women
1am Allevity Aberdeen, SD
- 20 - Pennington County Republican Women
11:30am Holiday Inn Downtown
Rapid City, SD

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It's time for our club Membership Drives!

We were incredibly proud to set an SDFRW membership record in 2023! Now, this year, we set a new record – and won NFRW's national membership competition in the process!! Yes, it's fun when more people get involved. As the saying goes, the more the merrier! But a strong membership is so much more than that: it's a larger pool of talent and energy from people who are determined to save our country. The more members we have, the more we'll accomplish. If we accomplish enough, we'll pry our country loose from the Democrats' grip. We made terrific progress in 2022 when we took back the U.S. House. Now it's time to fight for both the White House and the U.S. Senate. Help us get ready by growing your club to its strongest membership yet!



We're holding our 5th annual SDFRW Membership Competition this year! This year's winners will be determined based on their club membership as of **August 15**. Club membership increases will be measured relative to their 2023 end of year membership levels. This year's competition will again include four categories:

- Largest Active Membership Increase
- Largest % Active Membership Increase
- Largest Associate Membership Increase
- Largest % Associate Membership Increase

If you know of any potential new members you think we should contact, please reach out to Catherine Barranco at president@SDFRW.org or Membership Chair **Lauri Davis** at ldavis6632@gmail.com

Would you like SDFRW to text you?

Would you like to receive texts about upcoming SDFRW events and announcements? FCC laws are prickly when it comes to texts, so in order for you to take part in the texting program, you must formally request to opt in. So, **if you'd like to receive texted reminders and notices, email Catherine Barranco at president@SDFRW.org with your name and the cell number where you'd like to receive texts.**



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2024 Newsletter Monthly Schedule

January, April, July, & October:

**Cenkota, Codington, James River, Northern Hills &
Pennington**

February, May, August & November:

Aurora-Douglas, Brown, Minnehaha -Lincoln, & Meade

March, June, September & December:

**Cyberspace, Beadle, Fall River, Sioux River
& South Central**

**Please find your Club and Write down the months that you
are in the Newsletter.**

The reports are due the **27th of the prior to the month
featured.**

Clubs may submit at anytime with club updates, photos.

Send any questions, reports &/or pictures to:

sdfrwnews@gmail.com

Newsletter Chair: Jen Boerger

See Us Now!



www.sdfwrw.org



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America Home of the Free & the Brave!

