



# South Dakota Federation of Republican Women



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- From the President's Desk
- Sioux River Report
- Beadle Co. Report
- Website Report
- Important Dates
- SDFRW Calendar

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The SDFRW ended the year with an incredible board meeting, Christmas at the Capitol, and the first-ever First Ladies & First Gentlemen Reception hosted by SDFRW.

The board meeting was at the Capitol Visitor Center with the room being beautifully decorated by Nancy

We were joined by Former First Ladies Linda Daugaard and Pat Miller to unveil the new SDFRW First Ladies & First Gentlemen plaque for the Capitol Inaugural Display.

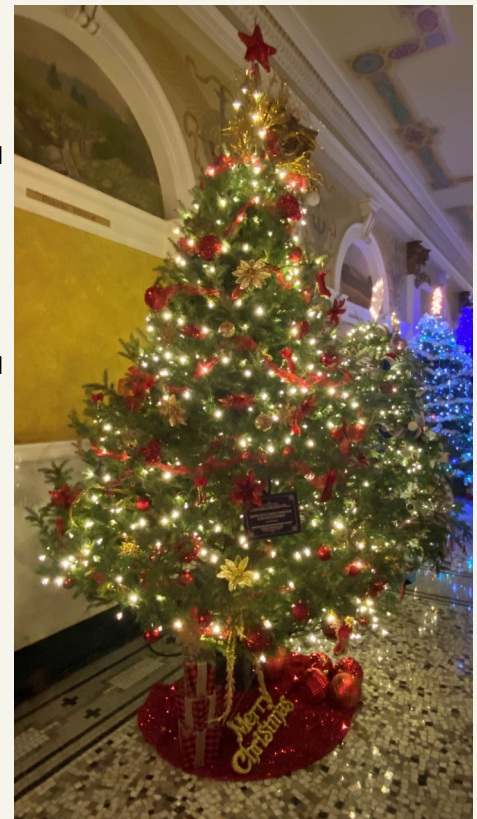
Then we headed off to the St. Charles where we were joined by Fmr. Governor Dennis Daugaard and Michele Rounds Birch, Sen. Mike Rounds' sister. We got in the Christmas spirit with carols sung by Sara Frankenstein, we learned about the history of the Inaugural Display, and we thoroughly enjoyed hearing about some of the First Ladies' favorite memories of Inauguration and Christmas at the Capitol.

At the end, they were presented with posters and custom-made cookies from Fig Tales depicting their Inauguration outfits.

Thank you to the SDFRW First Ladies Committee for putting together such a fantastic event: Chair Claire Rydberg, Past Chair Paula Van Scharrel, and Executive Board Advisor Penny Sattgast! Special thank you also to Brant Malfero for being our photographer for the day!

To learn more about the SDFRW's role in creating the First Ladies & First Gentlemen's exhibit, watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fv3TScXuCrw>

See more of the festive photos continued Pg. 2



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## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

### Capital Connection

Weekly news and information for our members

WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2023

#### Around the Federation

Former First Ladies **Linda Daugaard** and **Pat Miller** joined the **South Dakota Federation of Republican Women** as they unveiled the new SDFRW First Ladies and First Gentlemen plaque, which will be on display at the inaugural gowns exhibit in the State Capitol. The unveiling was followed by a First Ladies and Gentlemen Reception at the St. Charles Hotel. Read more [here](#).



## First Ladies and First Gentlemen reception held in Pierre



### FIRST LADIES & FIRST GENTLEMEN RECEPTION HELD

By Dakota News Now staff  
Published: Dec. 6, 2023 at 6:53 PM CST | Updated: 3 hours ago



PIERRE, S.D. (Dakota News Now) - An event to honor the First Spouses and recognize their contributions to the state of South Dakota took place in Pierre last weekend.

The first-ever First Ladies and First Gentlemen Reception was hosted by the South Dakota Federation of Republican Women. The event also raised awareness of the First Ladies and First Gentlemen Exhibit in the Capitol.

Linda & Dennis Daugaard, Pat Miller, and Michele Rounds Brich, who represented the Rounds family, attended the event.

Former Miss South Dakota Sara Frankenstein sang Christmas carols at the event and each First Lady was given a keepsake poster of her gown displayed in the Capitol.

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*South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*



*Merry Christmas to Everyone!*



# *South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

## **From the President's Desk: A Banner Year for SDFRW!**

What a year for Republican Women! We smashed record after record. Our membership surpassed 500. Our Facebook followers shot up 42%, meaning we're more popular than Pennsylvania, Illinois, or North Carolina. Obliterating every previous threshold, we TRIPLED fundraising. Hundreds of newspaper, TV, and radio spots featured SDFRW. Nearly 1000 social media posts and tweets discussed our events and initiatives. We set all-time records for Rushmore Regents as well as campaign and political service hours. At the National Federation's Biennial Convention in Oklahoma City, for the first time ever, we took home multiple prizes – the Betty Heitman State Excellence Award, the Caring for America Award (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), and the prestigious PR Award (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), ranking alongside Florida and Texas. South Dakota was 1 of 8 states recognized for dramatic membership growth. And it was my personal honor to serve as NFRW's National Elections Supervisor and to Chair NFRW's Election Audit Committee.



While accolades are fantastic, it matters more how we earned them. In Brookings, we hosted the Property Rights and Pipelines Debate, drawing 400 attendees and media from across the Midwest. Per *The Dakota Scout*, it was “the first debate on eminent domain reform ever in [South Dakota].” We provided trainings, online and in person, explaining how citizens can look up bills, how bills become law, and how to approach elected officials. We helped activists and volunteers understand effective ways to win local elections, scoring key victories in Watertown and Rapid City. We enjoyed an exciting Legislative Day and a beautiful Christmas at the Capitol, where we decorated a stunning 10-foot tree! We hosted a historic First Ladies and First Gentlemen reception with Fmr. Governor Dennis and First Lady Linda Daugaard, Fmr. First Lady Pat Miller, as well as Senator (and Fmr. Governor) Mike Rounds’ sister representing the Rounds family. After cleaning the Inaugural displays – with help from our SD Constitutional Officers -- we unveiled a plaque for the First Ladies and First Gentlemen Exhibit. We hosted fun play dates for young Republican families, and we brought recent college grads together over pedicures. We launched Instagram and Twitter accounts, attracting influential followers and Fox News personalities. We expanded our Youth Voter Registration Drive, and initiated a College Send-Off program, giving freshmen the tools and inspiration to resist woke indoctrination and defend conservative principles. In Madison, we introduced an incredible day of family fun, raising awareness about South Dakota Kids Belong and the need for loving foster families. To support our SDFRW sisters, we established the HEART Committee, celebrating good times and offering encouragement in bad times. We created a committee of Prayer Warriors who answer prayer requests and send out custom-made SDFRW prayer cards, letting folks know we’re praying for them.

Even as 2023 winds down, we haven’t taken our foot off the gas. We’re launching a website to help veterans find businesses that appreciate their service. We’re raising awareness about conservative children’s literature, hosting a September Zoom call with Fmr. White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer (author of *The Parrots Go Bananas*). Then, on December 13, we hosted a Zoom call with Fmr. Housing Urban and Development Secretary Dr. Ben Carson (author of *Why America Matters*). We passed resolutions in support of Israel and Keep 9. We stood against revisionist history and cancel culturists who dream of destroying Mt. Rushmore. We demanded the Biden Administration stop using taxpayers’ money to support traffickers at the border. At least once a month, we offer club leaders private trainings with state and national experts. We’re establishing a transition system for committees including After Action Reports so future leaders can learn from past successes and struggles. We’ve continued building organizational infrastructure – streamlining and systematizing processes, expanding communication, creating a text-based notification program, improving transparency, and growing accessibility.

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## *South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

Our sisterhood includes elected officials, professionals, GOP leaders, and pageant title holders, plus fantastic moms and grandmoms working hard to raise kids right! If you know of someone you think might be interested in joining, please reach out to your Club President or contact me at [president@SDFRW.org](mailto:president@SDFRW.org) – I'd be happy to connect her with a club! In the meantime, I hope you'll enjoy our Year In Review slideshow and will share it with others who are interested in learning more about SDFRW! [https://youtu.be/wbz-124kBbM?si=Kw0mYsG\\_9JzJuPCg](https://youtu.be/wbz-124kBbM?si=Kw0mYsG_9JzJuPCg)

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

Catherine Barranco





# South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

## This month's Featured Article from NFRW



WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2023

### A Message from the President

### Highlights of My Term as President



It has been an incredible experience serving as NFRW president these last two years. The highlight of my term has been meeting many talented Republican women during my travels and learning so much about my Republican sisters.

The NFRW Board of Directors contributed their talents and time to innovative projects and were devoted to serving. The staff at headquarters were efficient, professional and supportive.

Together with the commitment and dedication of each one of you, we have made outstanding progress building a stronger, bolder organization. Here are a few highlights.

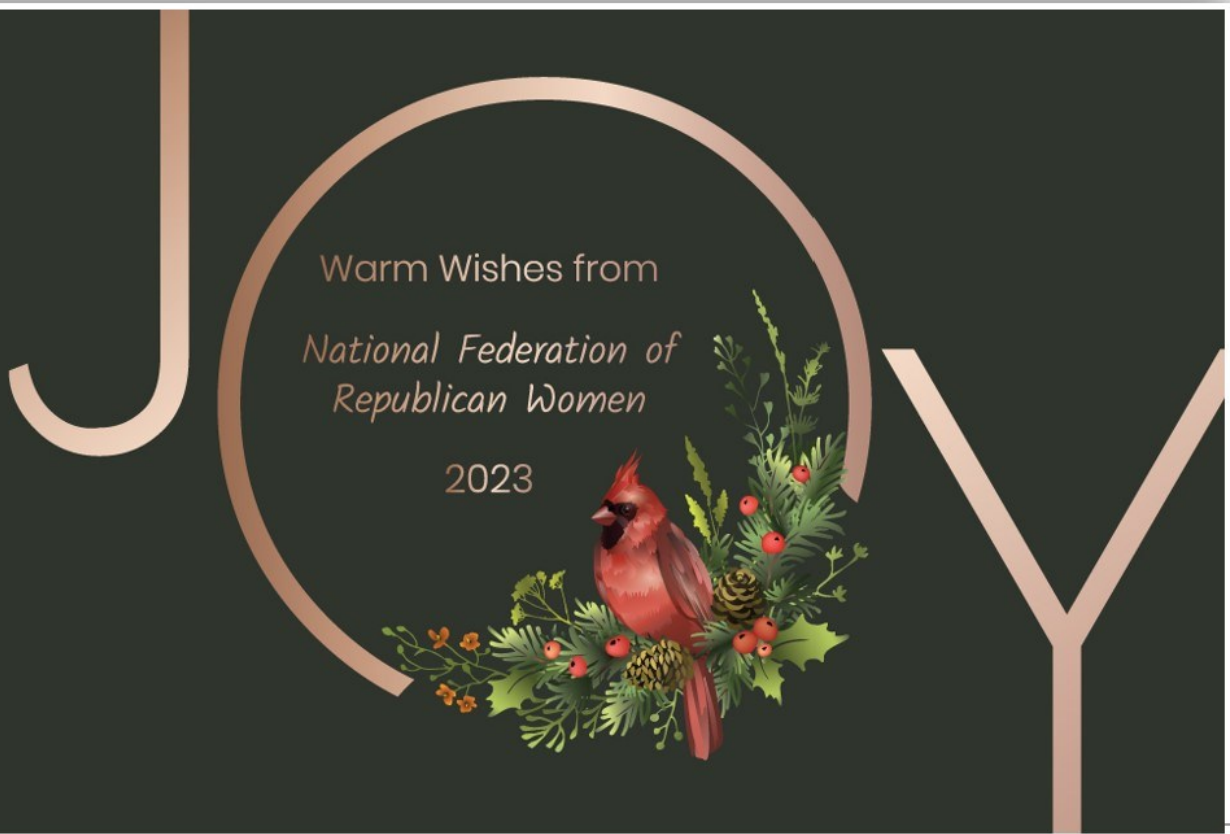
- **The NFRW commemorated its 85th Anniversary** at the Biennial Convention in Oklahoma City with a celebration of the incredible progress we have achieved as the largest grassroots Republican women's organization in the nation, and with a renewed commitment to our enduring mission of engaging and empowering women from all backgrounds in the political process.
- **NFRW members worked tirelessly in 2022 and 2023 on campaigns.** Your total hours and calls saved campaigns over \$435 million! We set a new record for campaign volunteer work, and those we elected took notice of our efforts. The Campaign Committee's brilliant idea to have semi-annual reporting certainly helped too.
- **We expanded programming and training** by offering an award-winning campaign school free to members and virtual programming featuring high-level speakers who informed us on important issues. These programs are on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).
- **The Youth Outreach Committee connected with state presidents,** and the response was exceptional, with 80% of state federations appointing a youth outreach chair to develop strategies to reach young women.
- **The Faith Coalition Committee produced resources to engage women of faith** at events with the goal to register them to vote and provide information on how to join a Republican Women's club.
- **A record number of clubs totaling 153 were chartered in 2022-23** (see [list](#)). We added new federations in Vermont and Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia has a club for the first time in several years.
- **The Virtual Club Coalition was formed** to strengthen virtual clubs and provide speakers.
- In 2022, NFRW paid off the mortgage on the president's condo which was purchased in 2015. [The NFRW is debt free!](#)
- **I worked tirelessly to be more visible as your president** and to be unstoppable to promote YOU and this organization that I believe in with all my heart and soul.
- **I was interviewed by Fox News Channel,** attended CPAC, engaged in many media interviews with syndicated media and print media, and wrote op-ed pieces on topics related to the mid-term elections.

Thank you for your part in making these accomplishments possible. United we will continue to achieve success in electing Republican leaders and standing up for Republican principles!

*Eileen Soljack*



*South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*



Warm Wishes from  
National Federation of  
Republican Women  
2023

*Merry Christmas*

from President Eileen Sobjack  
and Staff



*Eileen Pam Carol*  
*Terri Nadia Jenny*  
*Lisa Eva Lori*

# *South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

## SI OUX R I V E R R E P U B L I C A N W O M E N

In our short 6 months, The Sioux River Republican Women (Brookings, Moody, and Kingsbury Counties) have accomplished a lot.

In June we had our inaugural meeting, where we installed our officers and began our club with 37 founding members. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, and our mission is To Inform, Not Influence.



We hosted our Property Rights and CO2 Pipeline Debate in concert with The Dakota Scout and The SDFRW on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, where over 300 people were in attendance from four states.



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## *South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

In September, Rep. John Mills, District 8 House, was our guest speaker. He took questions from the group, reviewed our GOP Platform, and facilitated good discussion about our South Dakota Constitution. Two from our club also attended the NFRW Convention in Oklahoma City.



In October, Rep. Ellissa Heermann, District 7 House, and fellow Sioux River RW member, was the guest speaker and our October meeting. She walked us through her first year as a Representative in Pierre and talked about the bills that she was instrumental in getting passed.

Our Caring For America Committee hosted a food drive, where each member brought a non-perishable food item that was collected and donated to the Brookings Food Pantry, and the SRRW women walked in the Hobo Day Parade with the SDSU College Republicans.

We wrapped up 2023 with our annual meeting in November and will take the month of December off. We are excited to come together again in January to kick off the upcoming 2024 campaign season.

# *South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

## BEADLE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Beadle County Republican Women have kept busy over the past few months. We were please to welcome a variety of speakers to our meeting. We had the Beadle County Sheriff, Doug Solem, speak about our county law enforcement. Catherine Barranco, SDFRW President joined us at our August meeting and inspired us with her enthusiasm for SDFRW. Ted Haeder, CEO of Greater Huron Development Corporation gave us information on what is happening behind the scenes in Huron. We were amazed at the variety of things he is involved in. Ron Volesky, President of the Board of the Salvation Army, gave us an overview of the history of the Salvation Army and how it has impacted the Huron community with its hope and generosity. Several of our club members attended the NFRW Convention in Oklahoma City in September.

Our club was excited to win a national award at the convention - Caring for America for a small club. We are busy planning our programs for next year.

Nancy Ziegeldorf, President



*South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

**SDFRW IMPORTANT DATES**

MON, FEB 5 – LEGISLATIVE DAY + BOARD MEETING IN PIERRE

SAT, APR 27 – BOARD MEETING IN OACOMA

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

*Please save these important dates in your calendar!*



MERRY CHRISTMAS

&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

# *South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

## **SDFRW Club Calendar**

### Dec:

- 01- Meade County Republican Women  
5:30pm Pizza Ranch Sturgis, SD
- TBA - Aurora- Douglas Republican Women  
7pm Travel Plaza, Corsica, SD
- 12- Brown County Area Republican Women  
11am Alleivity, Aberdeen, SD
- 14- Pennington County Republican Women  
11:30am Alex Johnson Hotel Rapid City, SD
- 15 - Codington County Republican Women  
11:30am Pizza Ranch Watertown, SD
- 21 - Beadle County Republican Women  
12pm Ryan's Hanger Huron, SD
- 28 - Minnehaha-Lincoln Republican Women  
11:30am SD Military Heritage Alliance  
Sioux Falls, SD

### Jan:

- 05- Meade County Republican Women  
5:30pm Pizza Ranch Sturgis, SD
- 16 - Aurora- Douglas Republican Women  
7pm Travel Plaza, Corsica, SD
- 18 - Beadle County Republican Women  
12pm Ryan's Hanger Huron, SD
- Brown Co. Area Republican Women  
No Meeting in January
- 18 - Pennington County Republican Women  
11:30am Alex Johnson Hotel Rapid City, SD
- 19 - Codington County Republican Women  
11:30am Pizza Ranch Watertown, SD
- 25 - Minnehaha-Lincoln Republican Women  
11:30am SD Military Heritage Alliance  
Sioux Falls, SD



*South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

**2024 Website Report**

*Merry Christmas to Everyone!*

**We have new pages on our website this year and we are excited into adding another addition to our website is a calendar that will allow us to first and foremost list SDFRW's and our Club's events and also our State & County GOP events so please get your club's events in and if you know what your county or district is doing for the upcoming year let me know by the email listed below.**

**Website Reminder:** Clubs can submit at anytime with club updates, photos for their page on the website.

**Please don't let it get outdated we have many people that look at our website.**

**Send any questions, reports &/or pictures to:**

**[sdfrwnews@gmail.com](mailto:sdfrwnews@gmail.com)**

**Website & Newsletter Chair: Jen Boerger**





*South Dakota Federation of Republican Women*

**2024 Newsletter Monthly Schedule**

**January, April, July, & October:**

**Cenkota, Codington, 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](mailto:sdfrwnews@gmail.com)**

**Newsletter Chair: Jen Boerger**

## See Us Now!



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



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*America Home of the Free & the Brave!*

