



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Calendar of Events
- Member's Spotlight
- Aurora-Douglas Report
- Cyber Space Report
- MLRW Report
- BCARW Report

**REPORTS
INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

1st Resolution of 2023	1
SDFRW Past Events	2-4
Save the Date	5
Aurora-Douglas Report	6
Cyberspace	8
Calendar of Events	12
Member Spotlight	13



The South Dakota Federation of Republican Women Calls on Congress to Act to Maintain the Size of Supreme Court at Nine Justices

On January 17, 2023, the South Dakota Federation of Republican Women (SDFRW) Executive Committee unanimously adopted a resolution supporting a constitutional amendment to keep the Supreme Court at nine justices.

It reads:

WHEREAS, An independent United States Supreme Court is an essential element of America's system of checks and balances that protects our Constitutional rights; and,

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has been composed of nine Justices for more than 150 years; and,

WHEREAS, The United States President and Congress should be prohibited from undermining the independence of the Supreme Court by changing the number of Justices on the Court; and,

WHEREAS, The practice of "packing the Court" for political advantage greatly decreases confidence that the Supreme Court exists as an essential element of America's system of checks and balances, which guarantees and protects a citizen's constitutional rights; and,

WHEREAS, A number of former state attorneys general oppose "packing the court," and recent polls have shown that voters support a "Keep Nine Amendment" by more than a three-to-one margin;

RESOLVED, That the South Dakota Federation of Republican Women joins the National Federation of Republican Women and the Republican National Committee to urge Congress to adopt the "Keep Nine Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution that states: "The Supreme Court of the United States shall be composed of nine Justices;" and,

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to South Dakota U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson to encourage him and his bill co-sponsors in their fight to "Keep Nine," copies of this resolution be sent to South Dakota U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds as a show of our support for their efforts to "Keep Nine," and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the National Federation of Republican Women to underline their call to action to "Keep Nine".

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

National Guard Thank You

What an honor it was to receive this framed recognition from the 235th Military Police Company!

SDFRW loves supporting our South Dakota National Guard, presenting guardsmen and women returning home from a mission with thank you cards and custom hat pins displaying their unit logo.

We are truly grateful to them for their service and sacrifice!



SDFRW Comes Together at the SDGOP Central Committee Meeting

Our SDFRW members had a blast together at the January Central Committee Meeting in Pierre!



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

Congratulations to everyone elected, including the new SDGOP Chairman John Wiik! Giving a special shoutout to the Republican Women elected in January to the SDGOP Executive Committee:

Mary Fitzgerald - Vice-Chair
Marilyn Oakes - Secretary
Catherine Barranco - Region 1 Director



New SDGOP Chairman
Senator John Wiik

South Dakota Federation Republican Women
Wishes All Our Ladies' a Happy Valentine's Day!



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

MINNEHAHA-LINCOLN COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Feb 1, 2023

New officers were installed at our January 26th meeting. Outgoing President Juanita Schmunk led the installation:

President - Dee Van Deest for 2023-24:

Vice President - Kim Petterson

Secretary - Mary Froisland

Treasurer - Cynthia Srstka

At Large – Joy Jacobson

At Large – Trish Murphy

Past President – Juanita Schmunk

Lou Johnson remains as Chaplain.

Juanita was thanked for her years of service and presented with a Waterford Crystal Vase. She graciously accepted the gift and thanked the club.

Our first speaker for this year was Leslee Unruh, founder of the Alpha Center, a crisis pregnancy center in Sioux Falls. Leslee informed us about the Life Defense Fund and the “Decline to Sign” campaign that has begun throughout South Dakota to combat a proposed amendment for the 2024 ballot that would allow abortions up through 9 months. It is up to all of us to discourage anyone from signing the petitions that are being circulated right now. Reportedly, there are 600 paid petitioners around the state attempting to get 37,000 signatures before November this year.



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

BROWN COUNTY AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Greetings from Brown County Area Republican Women.

We ended the year with club elections and had Rep. John Hansen speak on the Decline to Sign Campaign.

In January we presented the club with our new Caring for America project. We will have "baby showers" three times a year (March, July and November) during our regularly scheduled meetings. We asked members to bring baby diapers that we will distribute to area pregnancy centers. Our speaker was Brown County Commissioner Mike Gage.



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

SDFRW Parties at Inauguration!

Our SDFRW Sisters were looking gorgeous and glamorous having a blast at the South Dakota Inauguration!



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

SDFRW UPDATES

Save the Date

**SDFRW Legislative Day &
Quarterly Board Meeting**

Monday, February 13, 2023
Pierre, SD

RSVP by February 8
Click here for the Eventbrite link

\$25 Registration Cost
- Catered Hot Lunch Included -

More details to come!



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

AURORA- DOUGLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN

Six Aurora Douglas Republican Women attended the Winter SDFRW meeting at Pierre and enjoyed seeing the Christmas trees at the capitol. At our first meeting of the year, January 27, we discussed committees and new activities for our club. Our youngest member, Cassidy Vanden Hoek, graduated from Dakota Christian School in May and by June she was a member of our new Aurora Douglas Republican Women. She became very active at meetings and attended state meetings at Pierre. Currently Cassidy is a legislative assistant at Pierre while she continues her classes at Black Hills State University. We hope to have her speak at our next meeting.



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

Cyberspace Republican Women

VERY Exciting Announcement from Cyberspace!

This month, Cyberspace announced that it is a founding member of the new Virtual Club Coalition! The VCC is a collaborative effort between several of NFRW's Virtual Clubs from across the country, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin (so far!)

HOW IT WORKS.

Each month, the host club will feature one of their favorite speakers. All members of the participating virtual clubs are invited to join the call. Then, at the end of each call, the clubs will separate into breakout rooms where they will conduct individual business meetings.

We have a stellar lineup of speakers this year that you will NOT want to miss -- U.S. Senators and Representatives, Governors, and Presidential hopefuls!!

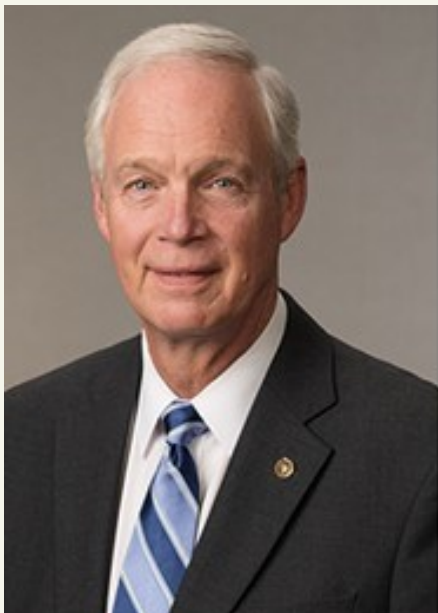
Meetings are free for Cyberspace Primary and Associate Members; non-members pay \$5 to attend. If you're not yet a Cyberspace member, here's the link to join!

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/SDFRW/CyberspaceMembershipForm>

We have an early bird special going on right now through 2/15 -- \$35 for Active Memberships! Associate memberships run just \$10 – two meetings and it's paid for itself!

Our first speaker will be Wisconsin's U.S. Senator Ron Johnson on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30pm CST / 6:30pm MST! Excited to learn more about Senator Johnson?! Check out his bio: <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/biography>

Watch the Cyberspace Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CyberspaceRepublicanWomen>) for registration links to this and other calls!



You're Invited!

~ Zoom Call w. ~

U.S. Senator

Ron Johnson

Wednesday, February 15

7:30pm CST / 6:30pm MST



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women



HEART Committee

HAVE A HEART!

The new HEART Committee helps our members feel the love of their SDFRW family. They lift up those who are fighting through dark times and celebrate those who are enjoying bright times. But in order to fulfill that mission, they have to know about our sisters' struggles and triumphs.

Do you know of a member who's going through a tough time? Maybe she's sick or injured, maybe she lost a loved one, maybe she's going through some other dark time and could use encouragement. Or do you know of a member who's going through a wonderful time? Maybe she started a new job or welcomed a new grandbaby. Maybe she reached a milestone anniversary or was honored with an award.

To let the HEART Committee know about an SDFRW member who could use encouragement or elation,

Go here: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/SDFRW/WeLoveOurSDFRWSisters> .

Please save this link so you have it handy any time you want to help lift up one of your SDFRW sisters.

Thank you to **Barbara Johnson** for serving as our very first HEART Committee Chair!

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

SDFRW Texting Program Launched!

This month, SDFRW officially launched our new texting program! If you'd like to receive texts from SDFRW with exciting announcements and helpful reminders, just send:

your name and number to president@sdfw.org



Happy Presidents Day



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

SDFRW - UPCOMING DATES

Please save these important dates in your calendar! For this year:

Mon, Feb 13 – Legislative Day + Spring Quarterly Meeting at the Visitor's Center in **Pierre**.

Sat, Apr 29 – Summer Quarterly Meeting at the Arrowwood Cedar Shores Resort in **Oacoma**

Sept 22-24 – SDFRW's Online Auction

Sept 28-Oct 1 – NFRW Convention in **Oklahoma City**

Sat, Oct 7 – Fall Quarterly Meeting at the Arrowwood Cedar Shores Resort in **Oacoma**

Sat, Dec 2 – Christmas at the Capitol + Winter Quarterly Meeting at the Visitor's Center in **Pierre**

Please also make a note of the date for our SDFRW Convention the following year:

Sept 26-29, 2024 – SDFRW Biennial Convention in **Rapid City**

Website Updates

The Website has been having some updating. (New Pictures and Info.)

With the new changes it is encouraged that everyone should take a look at it.

If you are having problems navigating the website please get in touch with:

Jen Boerger, Website Chair at sdfrwweb@gmail.com or [605.460.1766](tel:605.460.1766).

We can set up a time to go over the website together.

If you are seeing items that you would like to update

(Your Clubs Webpage or Committee page).

Please Send the items to me or call/text me and let me know how you would like to change your page to suit your club. There are many options so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jen

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women



IT'S TIME FOR OUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVES!

We were incredibly proud to set an SDFRW membership record in 2021.... and then another one in 2022! In 2023, let's go for a 3-peat!! 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 we're putting pieces in place for 2024 when we saddle up 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!

According to the Federation's bylaws, to remain a member in good standing, **NFRW must receive your dues no later than March 1st**. It takes time for your dues to go from you to your club Treasurer, who then sends a portion of your dues to our SDFRW Treasurer, who then sends a portion to NFRW. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so soon! And if you have friends who haven't yet joined, encourage them to!

We're holding our **4th annual SDFRW Membership Competition** this year - more details to come! Club membership increases will be measured relative to their 2022 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 Dee Van Deest at vandeestb@msn.com

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

LEGISLATIVE DAY — SAVE THE DATE!

Our **2023 Legislative Day and Spring Board Meeting** will be **Monday, February 13th in Pierre.** We hope you'll save the date! This is a terrific opportunity not only to spend a fabulous day with your SDFRW sisters, it's also a fantastic opportunity to recruit new members! If you know of any potential new members, please invite them to join us!

Place your reservation on Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdfrw-legislative-day-bod-meeting-tickets-507707836807>

Please RSVP no later than **February 8th**. Your **\$25 registration fee** includes a catered hot lunch.

Advertisement Spots

Available for the Newsletter & Website!

Please contact Jen

sdfrwweb@gmail.com for pricing

Calendar of Events

February:

- 3 - Meade County Republican Women
2pm Pizza Ranch Sturgis, SD
- 13 - ***SDFRW BOD Meeting***
Capitol Visitor Center Pierre, SD
- 16 - Beadle County Republican Women
12pm Ryan's Hanger Huron, SD
- 16 - Brown County Area Republican Women
11:30am The Flame Aberdeen, SD
- 16 - Pennington County Republican Women
12:45pm Alex Johnson Hotel Rapid City, SD
- 17 - Codington County Republican Women
11:30am Pizza Ranch Watertown, SD
- 23 - Minnehaha-Lincoln Republican Women
11:30am SD Military Heritage Alliance
Sioux Falls, SD

March:

- 3 - Meade County Republican Women
2pm Pizza Ranch Sturgis, SD
- 16 - Beadle County Republican Women
12pm Ryan's Hanger Huron, SD
- 16 - Brown County Area Republican Women
11:30am The Flame Aberdeen, SD
- 16 - Pennington County Republican Women
12:45pm Alex Johnson Hotel Rapid City, SD
- 17 - Codington County Republican Women
11:30am Pizza Ranch Watertown, SD
- 23 - Minnehaha-Lincoln Republican Women
11:30am SD Military Heritage Alliance
Sioux Falls, SD

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

SDFRW Member Spotlight

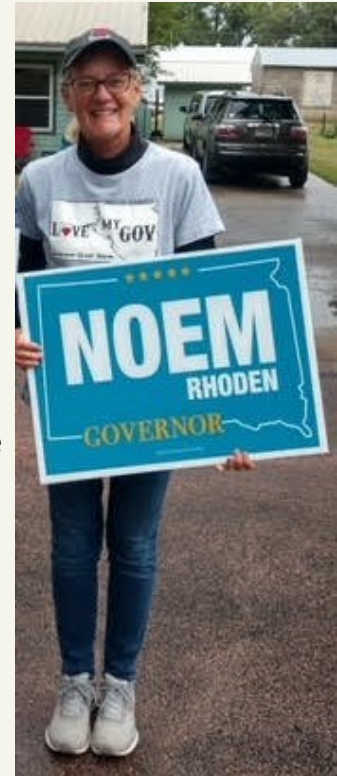
Dawn Donker

Dawn Donker was born Feb. 27, 1962, in Platte, SD. I was the third child of 4 in my family. My parents had a small dairy farm, raised stock cows, hogs, chickens and horses. I was brought up in the Christian Reformed church where we went to church, Sunday school and learned Catechism. I was in 4-H, FFA and FHA. I went to Platte High School, during that time I worked part time for the local veterinarian. After graduation I worked for SD tourism for one summer. When I came home I started dating my husband-to-be Myron (Mike), was married a year or so later. We moved south east of White Lake on my husband's family farm south east of White Lake, SD and farmed, raised sheep, cattle and 1 milk cow. We were blessed with 3 children, Matthew, Benjamin and Kate. I worked with my husband along with my garden and canning. I have worked various part-time jobs for almost 20 years; sale barn café, a care giver, grocery store, locker and a cleaning company.

Our children are grown and married. Matt and Rachel have 2 boys, Cole and Lane who live at rural Stickney. Ben and Calsie have 2 young children, Brayden and Aleigha who live at rural White Lake. Kate and Brandon live south of Burke with their 2 daughters Kaisley and Braylee. We are so blessed with our family and having them close by Grandma gets a lot of "Grandma Time" with them and I help where I can.

An achievement that I think of is at age 50 my daughter and my sister got me started training for half marathons. During those years I have ran several half marathons and a trail run in the Black Hills. I am proud to be a Charter Member of the Aurora/Douglas Republican Women, a friend called me and asked me to join which has been a life changing event for me and looking forward to see where it leads me. It has been a privilege for me to work side by side with these incredible women and have learned so much. Being an American makes me very proud and is very important to me and wants to give back somehow. The State meetings are so refreshing, getting to know like-minded Christian Women who love Jesus, their families and the unborn. That is what we strive for in the Republican Party. I have many favorite Republicans but what matters most to me is if they put Christ first in all they do and speak. We as citizens of this state and country must always remember to pray for our leaders.

My favorite scripture is found in Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and Strength, an ever-present help in trouble" The whole Psalm is reassuring to me.



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

KNOW ANY RECENTLY ARRIVED REPUBLICANS?

People are coming to South Dakota in droves for the freedom we enjoy here. If you're new to the Mt. Rushmore State, welcome! If you know of a Republican woman who recently moved to South Dakota, please help us reach out to her!

It can be jarring to move to an unfamiliar place -- especially if you aren't used to Midwest winters. Our new program for Recently Arrived Republicans (RARs) is designed to offer these new South Dakotans a way to meet like-minded friends, seek recommendations, learn the South Dakota lingo, and just have a whole lot of fun! Then as election season draws near, we offer them ways to help make sure that the liberal, socialist policies they suffered in the blue state they escaped don't take hold here in South Dakota.

To kick off our new program, SDFRW started a private Facebook group for RARs! If you'd like to join, go here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sdfrwRARs> ! And if you know of someone we should reach out to, email **Laci Sosa** at lacibug@hotmail.com

**Recently
Arrived
Republicans**



South Dakota Federation of Republican Women



Republican Mom's Playdate!

Join us on February 20th (President's Day)
from 2:00-3:00 pm at Skyzone
5129 S Solberg Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57108
in the party room

Kids can jump while the moms can chat!
Moms pay the kids' jump fees, but
Light refreshments are complimentary!
Please RSVP to meganmassman@gmail.com
by February 18th



Rapid City Republican Mom's Playdate!

Join us on February 20th (President's Day)
from 2:00-3:00 pm at Get Air Trampoline Park
449 Americas Way Rapid City, SD 57701

Kids can jump while the moms can chat!
Moms pay the kids' jump fees.
Please RSVP to lacibug@hotmail.com
by February 18th

FUN FOR REPUBLICAN MOMS!

Republican Moms' Playdate - Feb 20th!

The **Youth Liaison Committee** has planned its first events, making it fun and easy for moms to participate in SDFRW—our first-ever **Republican Moms' Playdates!** School's out for President's Day, so bring your kiddos to play with other Republican kids while you relax with complimentary refreshments in the company of other Republican Moms!

If you know of any young Republican moms – whether they're SDFRW members or not! – please contact **Megan Assman-Kool** (Youth Liaison Chair) at [**meganmassman@gmail.com**](mailto:meganmassman@gmail.com). We'll have playdates scheduled for both Sioux Falls and Rapid City. If there's interest in other cities, we'd love to host events like this in a number of cities across the state!

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women



* **Social Media Club News Specialist** – SDFRW is a grassroots organization. Our members and clubs are the lifeblood of this organization! In this role, you'll regularly check our clubs' Facebook pages and share relevant posts with SDFRW. You'll be an important line of communication between SDFRW and our clubs, alerting the SDFRW team any time there's an opportunity for SDFRW to promote one of our clubs!

* **Zoom Call Backend Specialist** – SDFRW will host sizable Zoom Calls from time to time. When we do, it's difficult to handle both the role of hostess and technical support. We're looking for someone to help with the technical side of running a Zoom Call. Training is provided – we just need someone who's willing to learn!

If you want to get involved but have very little time, the Social Networking Committee's **Digital Strike Force** is a terrific option for you! All you have to do is like, share, and/or comment on SDFRW's Facebook posts. It's seriously a 2 minute commitment per day and can be done any time day or night from anywhere you can access Facebook!

To sign up for these positions or to join another of our committees, email **Catherine Barranco** at **president@SDFRW.org**

To check out all of our committee descriptions go here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kSFvgLohdKbWFnwAO2ANojDetRNuyWGk/edit>

South Dakota Federation of Republican Women

SD GOP Event Dates

Upcoming Cracker Barrels:

Brookings (Dist. 7 and 8) | Legislative Coffee

Saturday, Feb. 11 | 9:00am

City-County Government Center, 3rd Floor Chambers (520 3rd St.)

Pierre | Legislative Coffee

Saturday, Feb. 11 | 10:00am

Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce - Community Room (800 W. Dakota Ave.)

Saturday, Feb. 11 | 9:00-10:00am

Dahl Arts Center (713 7th St.)

Each Session may be attended in person -or- viewed via livestream on the Elevate Facebook page.

Dist. 10, 11, and 12

Saturday, Feb. 11 | 10:00-11:45am

Southeast Technical College, The Hub Auditorium (2320 N. Career Ave.)

The public can submit questions, and the conversations are moderated.

Yankton | Cracker Barrel

Saturday, Feb. 11 | 10:00am

City Commission Room at CMTEA (1200 W. 21st St.)

This is a facilitated event. Questions may be submitted to thrive@yanktonsd.com or by calling Yankton Thrive prior to the events at (605) 665-3636.

Spink | Cracker Barrel Monday, Feb 20 | 1:00pm

Spink Co Historic Depot

The public can submit questions, and the conversations are moderated.

Hughes/Stanley County Lincoln Day Dinner

Ramkota Inn 920 W. Sioux Ave. Pierre, SD

5:30pm Social

6:30pm Dinner \$30 per person \$240 a Table

For Tickets, Programs ads, tables, etc.:

Contact Jason Williams 605.222.4385 or

Email: 605jdub@gmail.com

Newsletter Monthly Club Report Schedule

January, April, July, & October:

Codington, Cenkota & Pennington

February, May, August & November:

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

March, June, September & December:

Cyberspace, Beadle, Fall River & South Central

The reports are due the 1st of the month your club is featured in.

For newsletters are to come out the 1st week of the month. Barring late entries.

Send reports to: sdfrwnews@gmail.com (New Email)

Questions? Please email Claire & Jeni

See Us Now!



www.sdfrw.org



@SoDakFRW



sdfederationofrepublicanwomen

America Home of the Free & the Brave!

