**Santa Rosa Republican Women, Federated**

**Americanism**

May 2025

The first citizens of our Republic had to learn the hard way that a confederation of the States ain’t no way to govern this land of ours.

The Articles of Confederation, ratified by the States in the midst of war in 1777, was the first blueprint for the federal government in the Republic’s history. Americans’ mortal fear of governmental autocracy was such that the Articles formed a federal government so weak and inefficient that many of its leading citizens in the late 1790s decided to play a governmental mulligan, as it were, to consider remedies.

Meeting in Philadelphia in May 1787, delegates of the States convened to consider modifying the Articles, or, creating a new form of government altogether. Over the next four and a half months the Constitution of the United States was created and then sent to the States for ratification. The governmental result was **federalism**, or the combined governance of the citizens by the States in which they reside and the federal government.

The debate over States’ Rights (and the sovereignty of the several States) goes on.

- - -

**Historical note:** ***Interestingly, the nine million rebs of the Confederacy (1861-1865) had not learned much from history. They, too, found it incredibly difficult to wage war and rebellion in a confederacy.***



Other historical dates in May:

**4 May**: Kent State shootings. (1970)

**8 May**: Victory in Europe Day. (1945)

**14 May**: The Corps of Discovery begins its odyssey. (1804)