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October 10, 2008

Dear State Presidents and NFDW Officers,

NFDW presents three awards during Convention each year unless there are no nominees or nominees do not meet the criteria. These awards began informally in 1986 at Convention in Arkansas. That year Rilla Moran Woods, NFDW Founder; Dorothy V. Bush, longtime DNC Secretary; Pamela Harriman, Democratic fund-raiser; and Betty Flanagan Bumpers, founder of Peace Links, received special recognition during the Convention.

By 1987, the Awards were formalized and criteria for nominations sent to NFDW members. States were encouraged to recognize outstanding Democrats in the three categories and forward the State choices as nominees to NFDW. The Awards Committee presents the annual winners at the Awards luncheon during convention.

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR NOMINATIONS & SELECTION OF NFDW AWARDS.

1. In submitting the supporting information for a nominee, follow the criteria which is the basis for evaluating nominees for the Awards.
2. Present supportive material as numbered exhibits with the letter of nomination.
3. Nominations are to be submitted by State Federations, or where the entire state is not federated by a member club. The nominee need not be a resident of the state submitting the nomination.
4. The nominee must be present at the National Convention to receive the award, unless some unforeseen event occurs to prevent attendance.
5. Organizations are requested to limit nominations to one per category.

Outstanding NFDW Member of the Year

1. Current active member of NFDW who personifies NFDW objective (i.e., Art. II, Bylaws: The objective of NFDW shall be to unite women of the Democratic Party, to promote the cause of the Democratic Party and to encourage full participation of women in every level of the Democratic Party structure.)
2. Contribution by the nominee to the growth, development and promotion of NFDW.
3. National scope and stature of the nominee.
4. Personal political involvement by the nominee.

Outstanding Elected Democratic Woman Holding Public Office

1. Current elected Democratic office holder of statewide, regional or national scope.
2. Demonstrated support of NFDW by nominee.

3. Significant contribution to the Democratic Party and its principles by the nominee.
4. Demonstrated commitment by the nominee to the success of other Democratic women in the Party organization and for elective office.

NFDW Humanitarian Award

1. Significant contribution to the cause of human and/or civil rights.
2. Demonstrated support of NFDW.
3. Nominee possesses leadership qualities.
4. Nominee's success in achieving human and/or civil rights. (The nominee may be either male or female, but must meet the criteria.)

Deadline for Receiving Nominations

Nominations must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2009.

Send nominations to: Gayle Owens
NFDW Awards Committee
6821 Haynie Rd.
Jacksonville, AR 72076

Email address: gowens5639@aol.com

Since we have so many wonderful, talented, caring leaders in this organization, I look forward to receiving hundreds of nominations.

Sincerely,

Gayle Owens
NFDW Awards Chair