



# Village Republican Women

## *New Member Orientation*

### **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN (NFRW)**

Founded in September 1938, the National Federation of Republican Women is now organized in all 50 states. It was founded at a conference held at the Palmer House in Chicago on September 23-24, 1938.

With the encouragement of the Republican National Chairman, John D. M. Hamilton, it was organized under the direction of Miss Marion E. Martin, then Assistant Chairman of the Republican National Committee and National Committeewoman for Maine. The original organizational meeting took place in Chicago on November 4, 1937 when 38 women members of the Republican National Committee met to discuss the “desirability” of federating.

The organization originally was known as the National Federation of Women’s Republican Clubs of America (NFWRC), and the name was changed in January 1953 to the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW). At the time of organization in 1938, clubs with 95,000 members had applied for affiliation.

#### **Charter Members**

The original 11 statewide federations that organized as charter members in 1938 were California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The additional states that were represented by 75 individual clubs were Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, South Dakota, **Texas**, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

To be considered “statewide” at that time, a state federation or a club had to have members in 60 percent of the counties of that state. Later this rule was changed to cover either 50 percent of the counties or 75 percent of the state’s Congressional Districts.

The final statewide federation to join the NFRW was Alaska in 1962. The Democratic Party has no comparable national structure for its women’s clubs.

Since 1952, the Federation’s President has been one of the ex-officio members of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee.

The Presidents of the NFRW rose through the ranks of state federations and served as volunteers. NFRW Biennial Conventions (except for wartime 1942) have drawn thousands of delegates to Detroit, Louisville, Philadelphia, St. Paul, Cleveland, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Atlantic City, Phoenix, Washington D.C., **Dallas**, Atlanta, Indianapolis, Denver, Orlando, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, New Orleans, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Nashville, Palm Springs and Orlando.

★★ *The story of Republican women’s clubs begins many years before women even had the right to vote. Inspired by the Republican Platform of 1872, which said: “The Republican Party is mindful of its obligation to the loyal women of America for their noble devotion to the cause of Freedom...” Republican women’s clubs were off and running. In fact, the oldest such club on record was founded in Salt Lake City in the early 1870’s.*