

Sometimes it's just Magic
Especially when we are
United in Vision and Values

I am grateful to have been your President for this term, and doubly grateful for the friends I've made and the wonderful women who worked with me to put the VFRW on an upward path toward the future.

Ideas can turn to Magic when people buy into them and decide to make them realities. This is how I see the last two years. Once the current group of officers campaigned on improving Communications for the VFRW and then set about implementing that concept, a grand group of women came together to fulfill that promise. By the end of our first six months we had put out two VFRW Victory quarterly newsletters, staged our first "Boots on the Ground Soiree," successful fundraiser, contracted with PayPal, automated the RSVP System for Board meetings, and constructed the organization's first bi-annual Budget. In that Budget we included a line item each for the YR and CRs, to foster closer cooperation with Republican affiliates. (A political bloc consisting of College, Young, and Federated Women Republicans groups is formidable) We also added a line item for Communication that allows us to continue to improve at the state level, but to also help our local clubs. Eventually we realized a volunteer organization is not ideal for running and maintaining a more complex website so in October 2015 we contracted with J-Tec in Chesterfield to overhaul and redesign ours. It has history and current events for the VFRW along with all essential documents and necessary VFRW and NFRW deadlines. We are adding more Republican Business women and an expanded photo gallery. All the pieces are in place for expanding our membership and for delivering our core message of **United in Vision and Values**. This allows us to communicate more fully, more rapidly, and with more timely information. And, it enhances our ability to participate in effective political campaigning that gives success a greater chance.

We included children in the fundraising efforts in order to encourage young families to participate and it provides the VFRW a path to the next generation. Jeff Ryder, Chief of Staff, Virginia Senate Caucus said, "The challenge of attracting Millennials is consistency, and it is a long term battle." Millennials are visually oriented. Our website is a start, but to attract them we will need to go where they are.

In 2015 we supported 22 member candidates, many of whom were running themselves for the first time. They reflected a positive, professional image to the public of themselves and of this organization. Fourteen won and we are thrilled. Those who did not will try again, with our help. Significantly, they drew a map for the Republican Party that indicates where time and money are needed for success in November. That same map can guide the NFRW Bus that will come to Virginia to make a traveling and very visible statement that Women support Republicans.

We have requests for assistance from two groups of Republican Women. The College Republicans at Sweet Briar College near Lynchburg would like assistance getting re-organized after the trauma of the State Attorney General's attempt to close the school. They are not allowed to return to extracurricular activities without funding as the school is still recovering from the expensive effort to remain open. The second group is the Federated Republican Women of Pennsylvania. They will have the 2017 NFRW Convention in Philadelphia and their theme is the 13 Original Colonies. Ellen Nau and I attended a preliminary meeting at the NFRW Convention last September. In conjunction with the NFRW and VFRW 2017 Conventions we have suggested incorporating a program from the Lorton Workhouse Women's Suffrage Museum that in 2017 will celebrate 100 years since the Nineteenth Amendment prohibiting the exclusion from voting because of sex began its three year journey from the national legislature to the final required ratification in Tennessee on August 18, 1920.

We have very good relations with the State Central Committee, the RPV, and with Chair John Whitbeck. I never failed to recite, "Women are 53% of the population, they are more likely to vote, and they literally decide elections-my job is to make women on the right a greater percentage of that 53%."

The best part of my job is the friends I've made in the 30,000* miles I've traveled visiting local clubs from Pulaski County to Alexandria City, Virginia Beach to Clarke County. I provided information about state operations and they taught me about their areas and always inspired and delighted me with their talent and dedication. I found our local clubs are the best idea generators in our system, and in that sense, the source of all Magic.

*(That figure is my darlin' Dan Bartlett's estimate. He bought me a new, sturdy car so I would be safe-he's a keeper!)

I send my very Best for the next Administration. The VFRW is ready to soar and I am looking forward to watching that happen. Please let me know if there is anything I can help with. I will surely see you all on the campaign trail.

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