

**National Federation of Democratic Women Records**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2016**

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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016  
Revised 2021 October

## Collection Summary

**Title:** National Federation of Democratic Women Records

**Inclusive Dates:** 1960-2016

**Bulk Dates:** 1988-2016

**ID No.:** MSS86023

**Creator:** National Federation of Democratic Women

**Extent:** 8,500 items

**Extent:** 22 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 8.9 linear feet

**Extent:** 171 digital files (5.84GB)

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2015086023>

**Summary:** Women's political organization. Organization formed in 1971 to encourage the participation of women in every level of the Democratic Party. Correspondence, organizational history, chronological files, convention files, membership files, financial records, newsletters, and other records.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### Organizations

Democratic Party (U.S.)

National Federation of Democratic Women.

### Subjects

Women--Political activity--United States.

### Places

United States--Politics and government--20th century.

United States--Politics and government--21st century.

### Titles

*Communicator (Newsletter)*

## Acquisition Information

The records of the National Federation of Democratic Women were given to the Library of Congress by the organization in 2015.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of the National Federation of Democratic Women in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

## Access and Restrictions

The records of the National Federation of Democratic Women are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Digital Format

Digital files were received as part of the records of National Federation of Democratic Women. Reference copies were created from the original digital media. Advanced notice is required for access to digital content; consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or digital ID number, National Federation of Democratic Women Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Organizational History

Date	Event
1971	Members of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee agree to form the National Federation of Democratic Women, Washington, D.C. Rilla Moran Woods elected temporary chair
1972	First organizing meeting held in Nashville, Tenn. Rilla Moran elected as the first president
1972-1977	Recognized as the official women's organization of the Democratic National Committee Received a seat on the DNC Executive Committee and three seats on the Democratic National Committee
1973	First annual convention held in Washington, D.C.
1974	Official charter adopted at the annual convention in Kansas City, Mo.
1977	Rilla Moran Woods Fellowship established for woman ages eighteen to twenty-five to work at the Democratic National Committee
1994	Agnes Bird Internship Award established for an internship at a State Party or Congressional District office
1999	National Federation of Democratic Women Political Action Committee formed

## Scope and Content Note

The records of the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) span the years 1960-2016 with the bulk of the material from the years 1988-2016. The collection was processed by the organization and is organized into the following series: [Executive Board](#), [Annual Convention](#), [Regional Activities](#), [Publications](#), [Other Organizations](#), [Oversize](#), and [Digital Files](#).

The [Executive Board](#) series spans the years 1960-2016 and includes correspondence, history and bylaws of the NFDW, history committee reports, personal papers of the majority of the organization's presidents, and a chronological file. Among the papers of the presidents and executive board are letters from and pictures of significant political figures during the period. The series provides an overview of the activities of the NFDW from its origin in 1971 to the present.

The [Annual Convention](#) series spans the years 1974-2015 and contains information about most of the national conventions from 1975 to 2015, including convention programs and materials, pre-convention planning, local arrangements, financial records, awards, manuals, minutes, reports, and attendee's evaluations. The series provides researchers with a thorough view of the annual convention, the speakers and guests, the activities during the convention, and the cost for individual attendees as well as the entire organization.

The NFDW is divided into four regions--- eastern, midwestern, southern, and western. The [Regional Activities](#) series spans the years 1980-2013 and contains information about the regional organizations including reports from annual regional meetings.

The [Publications](#) series spans the years 1976-2015 and includes the NFDW's newsletter, *The Communicator*, dating from 1976 to 2015. *The Communicator* covers news from the NFDW president and officers, regional areas, and annual convention information. The series also includes other NFDW one-time publications, newsletter publication information, financial records, and photographs of members. Finally, there are materials on the publication of the newsletter on the internet, and web site materials from 2012 to 2015.

[Other Organizations](#) series spans the years 1972-2015 and contains information about related organizations to which the NFDW presidents, officers, and members belonged. Three members, including the president and two annually elected members of the NFDW, belong to the Democratic National Committee (DNC), and this series provides a variety of information about the DNC, its activities, and meetings. In addition, there are papers from state Federation of Democratic Women's organizations, which are voting members of the National Federation of Democratic Women. Finally, there are materials from a variety of other women's and Democratic organizations.

The [Oversize](#) series spans the years 1975-1986 and consists of certificates and photographs.

The [Digital Files](#) series spans the years 2006-2015. The 171 files (5.84GB) consist of .doc, .docx, .xls, .pdf, and .vob files. The series contains minutes, handbooks and guides, bylaws, budget and expense files, position papers, and audiovisual files.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Executive Board, 1960-2016](#)
- [Annual Convention, 1974-2015](#)
- [Regional Activities, 1980-2013](#)
- [Publications, 1976-2015](#)
- [Other Organizations, 1972-2015](#)
- [Oversize, 1975-1986](#)
- [Digital Files, 2006-2015](#)

## Description of Series

<b>Container</b>	<b>Series</b>
BOX 1-10	<p><b><u>Executive Board, 1960-2016</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, bylaws, historical narrative, committee reports, president file, chronological file, and photographs.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by topic or name of person.</p>
BOX 10-16	<p><b><u>Annual Convention, 1974-2015</u></b></p> <p>Convention programs, financial files, pre-convention planning documents, convention guides, manuals, minutes, reports, and attendee evaluations.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
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BOX OV 1	<p><b><u>Oversize, 1975-1986</u></b></p> <p>Certificates and photographs.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>
DF	<p><b><u>Digital Files, 2006-2015</u></b></p> <p>171 files (5.84GB) including .doc, .docx, .xls, .pdf, and .vob files. Minutes, handbooks and guides, bylaws, budget and expense files, position papers, and audiovisual files.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the files were removed.</p>

# Container List

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## Executive Board, 1960-2016

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DF	<b>Digital Files, 2006-2015</b> 171 files (5.84GB) including .doc, .docx, .xls, .pdf, and .vob files. Minutes, handbooks and guides, bylaws, budget and expense files, position papers, and audiovisual files. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the files were removed.  Executive Board Chronological files 2013 <i>See also Container 9, same heading</i> <b>Digital ID:</b> mss86023_124_001 2015 <i>See also Container 10, same heading</i> <b>Digital ID:</b> mss86023_124_003 Financial records, 2012, Jan.– Sept. <i>See also Container 10, same heading</i> <b>Digital ID:</b> mss86023_124_004 Annual Convention Convention materials

## Digital Files, 2006-2015

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**Digital ID:** mss86023\_124\_005

Other Organizations

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**Digital ID:** mss86023\_124\_006