

NFRW AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

The NFRW Americanism Committee has put together some thoughts and projects for state federations and local clubs. We hope you find our suggestions worthy of your consideration and support.

1. Check your calendars and keep a file of upcoming holidays, month by month For example:

January: birthdays: Benjamin Franklin, patriot

Alexander Hamilton, 1st Secretary of the Treasury

January 2, 1776: George Washington ordered the American flag be flown from a staff in front of his headquarters of the Continental Army in Cambridge, Massachusetts. What type of flag was flown in 1776?

February: Celebrate the birthdays of three of our Presidents:

Ronald W. Reagan, February 6, 1911, Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1809, George Washington, February 22, 1732

March: U.S. Constitution went into effect, March 3, 1820

“Star Spangled Banner” declared National Anthem, March 31, 1931

April: George Washington Inaugurated First President, April 30, 1789

May: V-E Day- War with Germany ends, May 1, 1945, First Memorial Day, May 30, 1866

June: Birthday: George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st President, June 12, 1924

Adoption of the first American flag, June 14, 1777, Flag Day, June 14th

July: Birthdays: George W. Bush, 43rd President, July 6, 1946

Gerald R. Ford, 38th President, July 14, 1913; Calvin Coolidge, 30th President, July 4, 1872

July 4, 1776: First Independence Day Celebration

2. Create a Flag Ceremony Program geared to Nursery School age children. Our committee will write a sample of ceremony for you which will include the pledge of allegiance. . Suggest you purchase small flag pins or small flags for each child. Contact a local nursery school and set up appointment with director for a flag program.
3. Create a know George Washington program for elementary school children. Present Washington not only as the leader of our country, but a man. You can contact Mount Vernon for an educational packet (DVD/Book) on George Washington For more information contact: <http://www.mountvernon.org>
4. The state federation or local clubs can sponsor an essay contest with suggested topics:
 - a. What the Flag means to me?
 - b. Is Voting Important?

You can chose any American History subject. Winner can be awarded a Savings Bond and be invited to attend your state federation annual meeting. Set up a committee to select a topic and judge the essays. Contact principals of local high schools or put an ad in the local paper announcing the essay contest sponsored by your federation or unit club.

5. Set up a study group on Women’s Voting Rights? And learn the history of your state federation.

Did women in your state have:

1. Voting rights prior to 1920?
2. Were their rights limited to education or library issues?
3. When did your state ratify the Suffrage Amendment?
4. When and who was the first Republican woman elected to public office in your state?

6. Donate children’s history books to a local public or school library. A good source would be books written by Lynn Cheney for younger children such as “America: A Patriotic Primer;” “A Time for Freedom;” and “Our 50 States.”

7. Suggest unit clubs set up a study committee on the value of the U.S. Constitution.
 1. Does it protect all citizens?
 2. Does the Supreme Court uphold the Constitution?
 3. Is the Supreme Court legislating and changing the intent of our founding fathers?
8. Suggest unit clubs set up a study committee on the Electoral College.
Should the Electoral College be disbanded and replaced by popular vote?
9. A great way to learn our American History is to visit our National Parks and historical sites. There are homes, parks, and buildings of historical note in all of our states. A day trip to a site is a wonderful way to get to know members!
10. Birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Clubs can present programs on the Lincoln Presidency, the Gettysburg Address. Many of our states have set up programs and exhibits to celebrate Lincoln's Birthday, for example, The State House in Albany, New York has an ongoing exhibit and Springfield, Illinois is sponsoring many events.
11. Support the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund is dedicated to Americans in our armed forces who have sacrificed either life or limb defending America. The Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund provides educational scholarships for their children. For further information contact: Freedom Alliance, 22570 Markey Court, Suite 240, Dulles, Virginia 20166 Or: www.freedomalliance.org
12. Support the Army Fisher Houses: Fisher House Foundation is very similar to the Ronald McDonald houses. They provide places for military families to stay when visiting their relatives in military hospitals. The Fisher House can be supported by funding or by donations of personal items, toys, books, games, etc. Fisher Houses are located in Texas (Ft. Sam Houston), Washington (Ft. Lewis), Washington, D.C. (Walter Reed) and other locations. In Texas, contact: Inge Godfrey, Manager BAMC Fisher Houses, 3623 George C. Beach Rd., Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234
Email: Fhbamc@aol.com
For more information on Army Fisher Houses: <http://www.armyfisherhouses.org>
13. Visit returning veterans in hospitals.
14. When travelling, if you see military personnel, please make a point of greeting them and thanking them for their service to our country. You can also offer to buy them lunch/dinner.
15. Suggested activities from different federations:
 - a. California state federation hosted a banquet at their fall conference inviting and honoring military wives
 - b. The Piedmont Area RWF (CA) hosted a cocktail reception and invited military moms and wives to say "thank you" for their sacrifices
 - c. Women from Republican Women's Club of South Beaufort County, S.C. collected Christmas gifts for military families and donated funds to military families in need.
 - d. Texas Republican Women visit recovering vets at VA hospital. If they can't visit, encouragement cards are mailed to military men and women thanking them for their service.
 - e. A Connecticut federated club donated personal items along with toys, books, puzzles, etc. to the Fort Hood Texas, Fisher House.

16. Do a program on Flag Etiquette; i.e.: Care of the Flag, Demonstrate folding the Flag, Discuss the meaning of the colors of the Flag, etc.

17. Support the National Federation of Republican Women headquarters by donating funds to the Marion Martin Building Fund.

The fund was set up to meet capital improvements and preserve our investment. 124 North Alfred Street, Alexandria was built in 1829 and is listed in the National Register of Historical Buildings. Under the leadership of past presidents, Judy Hughes, Colorado and Huda Jones, Kentucky, an independent NFRW Headquarters for the NFRW became a reality. It was made possible with the support and contributions of state federations, local clubs, and individual donations.

Contributions from state federations, local clubs and individual members to the Marion Martin Building Fund are always welcomed!

18. Organize A Voter Registration Day. Contact either your state or local election officials to set up a voter registration session. Or ask for mail in voter application cards and deliver them to new neighbors or residents of your county identified as Republican supporters.

19. Campaign 2010, "GET OUT THE VOTE". Organize a statewide federation get out the vote campaign.