SAVE THE DATE
The WNDC Semi-Annual Membership meeting will be held on Saturday December 14th
A Call to Action

We stand on the brink again. A deeply divided electorate is forced to peer into the looking glass to determine the truth of the moment we inhabit. Our national discourse has descended into a discordant cacophony of accusation and counter-accusation. Truth and falsehoods seem to be interchangeable, dependent entirely on the news source you choose. The distinction between right and wrong is becoming blurred. The sequence is to deny, be confronted with the truth, and then to brazenly own and flaunt it. What an abysmal example we are setting for the young and uninitiated!

We understand the typical corrupt patterns of bribery, nepotism, patronage, misappropriation of funds, and sale of office. But, political corruption also refers to the violation and undermining of the norms of the system of public order upon which our political democracy rests. The impeachment enquiry currently underway highlights the cynical attacks on our democratic norms. Winning an election is the only consideration, however criminal the means might be. Disenfranchising voters, seeking foreign political assistance, defrauding the populace with lies while sowing confusion—these tactics populate the political toolbox. The test is to withstand this paradox of power and morals. Confronted by deviant behavior for private gain, citizens must resist disillusionment and opt for greater political participation. We have many examples of personal integrity and selfless public service. We must keep those in our sight. There are real issues confronting us. Our personal freedoms are under attack, our environmental degradation is accelerating at breakneck speed, and our compromised Supreme Court is unlikely to come to the rescue.

So, what recourse do we have as citizens? On the eve of the centennial of women’s suffrage the answer is clear. We must exercise our right to vote. We must make our voices heard. We have to stay engaged in civic life and the political process. Our success lies there. Just as women and men rose together in a show of solidarity during the Women’s March and the 2018 Midterm elections, so we should band together, again, to bring about lasting change. There is too much at stake. We need to take our country back. The WNDC will do its part, but your support during this period of turmoil is vital. Together we can overcome!

—Nuchhi Currier
**NOVEMBER 2019 EVENTS**

**Tuesday, November 5**

**Member's Happy Hour**

*TIME: 5:30- 7:00 pm*

The Membership Committee invites all members to join us for Happy Hour. Meet old friends, make new ones, build connections, and celebrate the wonderful community we are all a part of. Stay on to watch the Virginia election results.

Free but registration is required

**Tuesday, November 5**

**Election Results Watch Party**

*TIME: 7:00- 11:00 pm*

Bring in the win with friends and fellow Democrats! Watch the Election Results come in, drink a glass of wine or three, and celebrate all the work we have put in to flip Virginia blue!

Free but registration is required

**Thursday, November 7**

**Virginia 2019: Analysis of Election Results**

*TIME: 6:30- 8:00 pm*

The Virginia elections are critical not just because important issues are at stake, but also because they will be closely watched as a sign of the continuing strength of the blue wave ahead of 2020. And Democrats are so close to winning control of the Virginia General Assembly.

Congressman Jim Moran, former mayor of Alexandria and US Representative for Virginia's 8th Congressional district from 1991 until 2015, will be here to walk us through the why-they-won and why-they-lost and what this means for both state and national politics.

**LUNCH:** $20 members
$25 non-members

**Tuesday, November 12**

**Surviving Dysfunction and Disaster: the American Political System in 2020 and Beyond**

*TIME: 12:15 pm—Lunch served; 1:00pm - 2:00 pm—Presentation*

Join us for a lively and informative discussion with Norman Ornstein, a Washington fixture and frequent commentator on politics, elections, and Congress as we discuss the future of the country after this unusually turbulent and dysfunctional era. A long-time observer and analyst of American politics and the US Congress, Ornstein has been involved in political reform for decades, particularly campaign finance reform and the reform of Senate committees. His interviews have aired on CBS, CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, NPR, and PBS NewsHour, among others and has been published widely, including in Politico, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post. He is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he is a co-host of AEI's Election Watch series.

**LUNCH:**
$25 members
$30 non-members
$10 lecture only
Thursday, November 14

Masterpieces of American Furniture from the Kaufman Collection (1700-1830): Tour at the National Gallery of Art

**TIME:** 10:15 am

Tour this exquisite collection of American furniture at the National Gallery of Art with American furniture expert and staff member of the National Gallery of Art, Dianne Stephens.

This collection, considered to be the largest and most refined in private hands, was obtained over a period of five decades, by George M. and Linda H. Kaufman and promised to the National Gallery of Art. Please meet the group at the National Gallery of Art's West Building entrance on 6th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. Please register early since the tour is limited to 25 people.

Tuesday, November 19

Still the Promised Land

**TIME:** 6:30-8:00 pm

$20 Members
$25 Non-Members

Still the Promised Land is the deeply personal story of one man’s perseverance and how he achieved the American Dream. Author Natwar Gandhi was an impoverished immigrant who made his way to the New World, where he recreated his life and ultimately became the CFO of Washington, DC, overseeing the city’s finances as it transitioned from a near-bankrupt municipality into a financially healthy major American city. Despite the current anti-immigration rhetoric, Dr. Gandhi’s book delivers an impassioned message for present-day America.

Wednesday, November 20

November Birthday Luncheon

**TIME:** 12:30 pm

Free but RSVP is required

Calling members with November birthdays to celebrate with the WNDC on November 20 in our gorgeous dining room at Whittemore House. Your meal is free and you and your guests will also enjoy free birthday cake, so be sure to invite family and friends to this fun event.

November Debate Watch

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

Free but RSVP is required

One more month, one more debate! As is appropriate, we give thanks for the robust Democratic field of candidates while we assess their strengths. Join your friends and fellow members and do some debating of your own. Moderated by an all-female panel, including Ashley Parker, Kristen Welker, Rachel Maddow, and Andrea Mitchell, this debate will feature, at press time, the nine qualifying presidential candidates.

Saturday, December 14

Semi-Annual Meeting and Holiday Lunch

$35 Members | $40 non-members

Our Semiannual Meeting is open to all members. This is an important opportunity to learn what has happened at WNDC over the last six months, reconnect with old friends and to enjoy a special festive holiday lunch at the Club. Please join us!
Public Policy & Political Action Committee

Invitation to New Members

It is truly “the worst of times” in America today. The current President has put our very Constitution at risk. The Public Policy and Political Action Committee follows policy and civil rights issues and engages in resistance and lobbying. We need members to join one of our task forces, and to lead new ones. For a complete list of our Task Forces, please see the back page.

Please contact me, Karen Pataky, Director of Public Policy and Political Action, to discuss your interests, concerns, and ideas. Or, just show up at our next meeting: Monday, November 4, 2019 at 5:30 pm at our Whittemore House HQ. We need to make every voice count.

Onward, Karen

kjpataky@comcast.net, 202.337.3917, 202.288.7516

Breaking Barriers with a New Alliance

This year, we began a partnership with the BA Women’s Alliance (BA Women) a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that supports the educational, personal, and professional development of women who seek to make a difference in the world.

We are excited to build upon the partnership between the Woman’s National Democratic Club and BA Women. On November 15th, BA Women will hold its annual Breaking Barriers event at the Club with a ticketed luncheon with award-winning author Marita Golden. It will be followed by an optional “Daring Leadership: Rumbling with Vulnerability” workshop, based on Brené Brown's Dare to Lead™ curriculum. Club Member, Naomi Naierman, serves on the Host Committee and is the Club’s liaison to the Alliance.

To show their appreciation for WNDC’s support, BA Women is offering exclusive discounted pricing to our members for the program. We will receive exclusive early bird pricing through November 1st. Luncheon-only tickets are $75, while Luncheon + Workshop tickets are $100 for WNDC members—a 20% savings.

To learn more about the BA Women’s Alliance, and their November 15th event, please visit www.bawomensalliance.org/get-involved/breaking-barriers

Questions? Contact Marisha Kirtane, WNDC, mkirtane@democraticwomen.org or via phone at (202) 232-7363 or Anna Foster, Communications Manager, BA Women at anna@bawomensalliance.org or via phone at (202) 417-7925

*While your ticket purchase to Breaking Barriers is not tax deductible, any additional contributions are! Since no goods or services are received in exchange for additional gifts, 100% of that contribution is tax deductible, as allowed by law.

The Capital II Toastmasters Club loves meeting at the Whittemore House and is pleased to welcome WNDC members who are looking to improve or practice their public speaking, develop off-the-cuff conversation finesse, and hone leadership skills. We’re a congenial and supportive group of diverse Washingtonians looking to add new faces to our twice-monthly gatherings. We’re at the WNDC the first and third Fridays of each month from 12:00-1:00pm, where we enjoy light refreshments or a full buffet lunch beautifully prepared and provided by club chefs. We’ll also be hosting an open house on November 1st, for you to meet the group and see what Toastmasters is all about. We hope to see you there!

For more information, please contact WNDC member, Lynn McConaughhey at lynnmac@starpower.net.
News from the Educational Foundation

As we break bread and give thanks this month, let’s also remember to thank the many thousands of women who fought and continue to fight for our right to vote. And take a minute to reflect on this inclusive vision of universal suffrage from 1869 that is featured in our Women and the Vote calendar this month. The illustration is a poignant reminder of how big the vision was and how far our struggle for suffrage still has to go! Women and the Vote calendars are available at our reception desk, the National Archives gift shop, the National Women’s History Alliance’s online store, and on Amazon.

Help EF raise the money to transform “The Pub!” Our vision is to transform the 2nd floor Pub into an exciting, vibrant, multi-purpose space that will allow us to: display art on a rotating basis—especially related to the Educational Foundation’s (EF) purposes (e.g., women’s rights, women’s activism, and achievements) —including our First Lady folk art portraits; provide space for our educational outreach programs, activism, conferences, lectures, meetings, and social interactions; incorporate a coffee bar; and more successfully rent the space to outside groups.

Help us leverage a very generous offer from one of our members to donate half of the funds needed if we can raise the other half from a broad group of WNDC members. Can you contribute $50? If 300 members give at least $50 each, we can make this happen.

Please write checks to WNDC Educational Foundation or contribute via credit card at: https://wndceducationalfoundation.org/donate. And let the New Pub Committee know if you would like to look at the plans and make suggestions (email wndcef@gmail.com).

Women’s Voices: An Oral History of DC Women. Project Director Judy Hubbard has reached out across the city to identify 30 women who are 80+ to 100+ who are being interviewed under our grant from Humanities DC. Nine club members have now been trained to conduct oral history interviews, and to reestablish EF’s capacity to capture the oral history of our members and other women. They are now “in the field” interviewing some amazing women.

Three history students from Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts were also trained and will make a video so that high school students can learn to conduct oral histories.

October 29, 2019, 4:00- 6:00 pm. Join us for Tea with Sojourner Truth. Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Executive Director, Pat Wirth, will introduce our passionate impersonator. She will also share the vision of the national memorial to all American women who fought for the vote. The memorial is being built near the Occoquan site where so many were imprisoned and tortured.

January 17, 2020. Let’s roll back to the 1920s and mark the 100th anniversary of the introduction of prohibition with an evening of jazz in our renovated pub.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD

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Lunch Service available with Reservation Tuesdays through Fridays. 11:30am - 2:00pm.

Speaker Luncheon schedules: 11:30am - Bar Opens | 12:15pm - Lunch Served | 1:00pm - Presentation

PRICE: $25 Members/ $30 Non-Members/ $10 Lecture Only.

Reserve 24 hours ahead via (202) 232-7363 or democraticwoman.org | Cancellation credit is given if cancellations are made at least two business days in advance.
Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we must receive December submissions by this deadline. No exceptions. We gladly post late entries on the website, but we cannot print any items submitted after the deadline. Please send your event write-up or article to lollison@democraticwoman.org.

Publisher Information:
Anna Fierst, Newsletter Editor
Winfield Swanson, Director of Communications

ON THE RADAR
Dec. 3 Ben Smith Luncheon
Dec. 5 Members Wine & Cheese
Dec. 14 Semi-Annual Meeting and Holiday Lunch

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