

## TFDW Call to Convention

Previously, TFDW announced a delay of our 2020 Convention. Current restrictions on events and cautions for people whose health is easily compromised due to the threat of the Coronavirus led the TFDW Executive Committee to make this decision. We elected to postpone the TFDW Convention to the Fall of 2020.

Since announcing that decision, the National Federation of Democratic Women found themselves in the same position and cancelled the National Convention scheduled for June. NFDW will hold a 'virtual' election of officers and business meeting. The business meeting will include chapter reports and committee reports. The TFDW Executive Committee has elected to provide a similar on-line or virtual convention and election of officers. Holding such an election will enable TFDW to more closely adhere to our By-laws and maintain the appropriate timeline for elections.

**NFDW also decided to meet on June 13<sup>th</sup> – so to accommodate that meeting, we have moved our Convention date to June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Virtual Convention and Election of Officers**

With the support of the TNDP, TFDW will hold a virtual convention and election officers on **June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm via the Maestro** meeting software. This is the same software that the TNDP uses for their meetings. Each participant will be sent a call-in number for the meeting. In order to hold elections, each chapter is asked to send their delegate and alternate list in advance of the meeting so that the delegates can be verified and loaded into the Maestro platform. Any alternates can be substituted in place of a delegate who is unable to attend up to an hour before the meeting.

The elections process will be conducted through the Maestro platform. This platform will accommodate a secret ballot process. Candidates who have submitted their intent to run include:

Mary Linden Salter, President

Kim Walter, Middle TN Vice President

Ginger House was recently elected as West Tn Vice President and she as well as others can be nominated from the floor.

### **Credentialing**

Just as in a typical TFDW election, the credentialing process to determine the electors will be based on the chapter member rosters that have been submitted.

Each chapter is able to have one person per 10 members listed in addition to their chapter President as delegates. Each Chapter president is asked to submit their list of delegates and a separate list of exact same number of alternates WITH EMAIL ADDRESSES for EACH name by June 1. Delegate lists should be sent to Jan Newsome at:

*claiborneplanner@live.com*

### **Convention Attendees – Delegates and Guests**

Before the convention, a registration link will be distributed. This link will be able to be used to register delegates, alternates and guests from each chapter. After registration, each registrant will be sent a link for the convention call. **If you are a delegate, it is VERY IMPORTANT not to share the call link that you receive with others. Your registration link will be tied to your delegate status.** Please encourage everyone to register separately.

### **Convention Agenda**

The meeting will be held from 1 pm to 5 pm. The agenda will include:

- Anna Belle Clement O'Brien Scholarship Award announcement by DWSC
- ByLaws Report
- Credentialing of Delegates and Election of Officers
- Election of Elections Committee for 2021
- Endorsement recommendations for Candidates—more information on this will be distributed
- Chapter reports as time allows

### **Fall Board Meeting**

We are hoping to hold the Fall Board meeting at the same location as had been planned for the convention. Arranging an alternate date that allows for these same activities to be held is being pursued. We will honor our 'Stars' and give out the President's Award and the Gwen McFarland Service Award among other activities. The Fall Board meeting date has yet to be determined but will be sent out at the earliest possibility. New registration forms and dates will be distributed as well. Any current registrations will be honored for the new date or refunded as needed.

We greatly appreciate all the efforts of the east Tennessee Chapters who have worked on this event and hope that holding most of our activities at the Fall Board meeting will allow more member participation together (*hopefully, in person!*) in all the planned activities.

Thank you for your participation – we hope to see you all soon.