

Alabama Federation of Republican Women

Est. 1962



Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties. And not to Democrats alone do I make this appeal, but to all who love these great and true principles.

Abraham Lincoln
August 27, 1856

March 30, 2009

RE: Report of Spring Board Meeting NFRW

To Board of Directors of AFRW:

I have safely returned from Washington DC and wanted to share with you the many things that I learned from this experience. At this time in our countries history we must be an informed member of this nation to be able to inform others of the breakdown of our freedoms and liberties. I was not alone in DC. Sallie Bryant, Kay VanSant and Joyce West Brown were also in attendance.

This Board meeting was held in conjunction with NFRW's Legislative Day on the Hill. We boarded buses at 7:00 am and headed to the United States Senatorial Offices where we heard from Senators and Congressman from across the country. Their message was strong and unified, even though told in different ways. Republican Women are the grass root workers of the Republican Party. They know that they owe their elections to the hard work that women have done over the years. They all wanted to come to thank us personally. They also had a message for us to take back home. Get loud, get vocal and let the people back home know that we have two choices, let the Government have an expanded role or let the people make the decisions of how to spend their money and run their businesses. I think we all know which of these Republican women selected to get vocal about. These members of Congress are fighting as hard as they can to defend our freedoms and liberties and we owe them a big thank you.

We met with all of the Alabama Republican Senators and Representatives in the afternoon. Our message to them was Thank You, for what they do for the people of Alabama and for the Federation. They wanted us to not forget about them. They are all committed to fighting for us back home. Several of them were in committee hearings and came out to speak with us. We were able to listen in to Congressman Bachus as he talked against the AIG bonuses and the tax being imposed on the company. Congressman Aderholt was in a budget hearing that was projected to go way into the night. We walked

with Senator Sessions to watch him cast a vote that went strictly down party lines. Congressman Bonner waited about going to his committee meeting because he wanted to see the Alabama Republican Women. We caught up with Congressman Rogers late in the day. He will need our help again in 2010 and Senator Shelby asked that we remember him in 2010 for he knows the importance of the work of the women.

I ask that all of you write or call these men and let them know how much we appreciate their hard work and offer them encouragement in these dark days ahead. I will include phone numbers and e-mails for each at the end of this report.

Even though the economy, stimulus package and budget were the topics of the day, several did ask that we not forget about other issues that have been pushed aside but are just as important as ever. The security of our nation, e-verify, card check, cap and trade were all mentioned as issues that must continue to be fought. We also heard reports on Stacy's Law, which pushes for DNA testing upon arrest and voter ID at the polls.

The board meeting turned its attention to the business of the federation. Membership is down across the country, even though at this time Alabama is ahead of their numbers from this time last year. As a result of membership talks, Joyce Smith our regional director will hold a conference call with presidents and elected officers in the upcoming weeks.

Technology was also a workshop topic. It is the way to stay connected in this fast pace world. Technology is an important tool in recruiting new members, especially younger women and minorities. All federation members were encouraged to join Face book and to learn to Twitter. Please plan technology programs for your club. There is a new web site program that NFRW is sponsoring that we will be participating in. They will highlight state web sites in the upcoming weeks. I was told that Alabama's was already one of the best they have seen.

At convention in September, there will be several by-law proposals to come before the delegates. All are intended to make the federation stronger. Reservations for the convention in Orlando may now be made on-line through the NFRW web site. These are hotel reservations only at this time. Louisville, Kentucky was chosen as the site for the 2013 convention. The site for 2011 is Kansas City, Missouri.

Fred Barnes of the Weekly Standard and Fox News spoke to us at lunch on Saturday. He was quite entertaining, but having been around Washington along time, he tells it as he sees it. He feels that in 2010, Republicans will make great gains in the House and Senate. If we are successful at that time, he feels that many of the wrongs being done can be righted except for the Health care issue. If socialized medicine is allowed to be put into place it will be the hardest thing to fix and take back. He also talked about the way in which Harry Reid will try and pass the budget through the Senate. It is called budget reconciliation which requires a simple majority instead of the 60-vote supermajority needed to prevent filibustering and usually is reserved for non-policy, non-substantive measures.

Ladies from California and Nevada expressed to us that they were embarrassed by Pelosi and Reid and that they were going to work hard to defeat them in 2010.

When I returned home, I received notice that the company that produced our direct mail piece that we sent to 50,000 targeted women in the state during the fall election has won a Pollie Award. They will be getting back with me, information on this award so that we can brag about it as well. This was the "shoe" that we showed at board meeting in March. You would not have received this mail piece because it was targeted to women who we needed to reach out to.

There was a whole lot more that I learned and heard, too much to put in this report but I really wanted you to know that the Republicans on "The Hill" need our encouragement and prayers. We must support them and get more of them elected in 2010. In the meantime, go to Tea Parties, be loud and be vocal, let people in your communities hear the real news and not the biased mess we hear from the media. Inform your members! Make them aware of the issues and polices like budget reconciliation that can be used to Obama's advantage. And let us not forget our own Alabama House and Senate. Montgomery needs some new leadership and we will make a difference in the 2010 election.

God Bless America!

Bobbie Lou Leigh
AFRW President

PS: As we stood on the steps of the Capitol having our picture made the group sang God Bless America.

Contact Information for US Senators and Representatives

Sen. Sessions (202) 224-4124

<http://sessions.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ConstituentServices.ContactMe>

Sen. Shelby 202- 224-5744

<http://shelby.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactSenatorShelby.EmailSenatorShelby>

Congressman Aderholt (202) 225-4876

<http://aderholt.house.gov/?sectionid=195§iontree=195>

Congressman Bachus 202 - 225-4921

<http://bachus.house.gov/HoR/AL06/Contact+Me>

Congressman Bonner 202-225-4931

<http://bonner.house.gov/HoR/AL01/Contact+Jo/Email+Jo>

Congressman Rogers 202- 225-3261

<http://www.house.gov/mike-rogers/contact.shtml>