# Women's History Month and International Women's Day:
## Celebrating Our Leadership and Shared Future

Dear Members and Community,

Today, March 8, as the world recognizes International Women's Day, we are reminded that the story of women's leadership is both deeply local and profoundly global. Across communities, nations, and generations, women have contributed their voices, vision, and commitment to strengthening the civic life of the places we call home (United Nations, 2024).

Women's History Month invites us to reflect on that remarkable legacy.

Throughout history, women have stepped forward with courage and determination to ensure that participation in democracy continues to expand. Their belief in opportunity, dignity, and civic engagement helped shape the democratic institutions and communities we benefit from today.

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the Seneca Falls Convention, where women first publicly affirmed that the promise of democracy must include women's voices (Stanton & Mott, 1848). Their leadership sparked a movement rooted in optimism and the belief that society grows stronger when everyone has the opportunity to participate.

That belief continued through the generations. Leaders such as Fannie Lou Hamer and Shirley Chisholm reminded our nation that when women participate fully in civic life, democracy becomes more representative, more dynamic, and more responsive to the needs of the people (U.S. House of Representatives, 2021).

Their leadership was guided by a powerful idea: that the next generation should have even greater opportunities to contribute, lead, and serve.

Here in Sacramento, that same spirit continues through the Women Democrats of Sacramento County. Since 1953, our organization has encouraged civic engagement, supported leadership, and brought women together to participate thoughtfully in the issues shaping our city, our state, and our nation (Women Democrats of Sacramento County, n.d.).

For more than seventy years, members have supported candidates, educated voters, mentored emerging leaders, and encouraged women to step forward with confidence in public life. Our dedication reflects a simple truth: when more voices participate, communities become stronger and more vibrant.

Today, women are leading in extraordinary ways across every sector of society. Women are shaping policy, building businesses, mentoring students, strengthening neighborhoods, and contributing new ideas that help communities grow with energy and optimism.

Leadership today is collaborative, innovative, and forward-looking. Women continue to bring compassion, intelligence, and determination to the work of strengthening our democratic institutions and improving the lives of those around us.

Sacramento's strength is in the diversity of people who contribute to our shared civic life. Our community is enriched by individuals from many cultures, professions, and perspectives who come together with a common commitment to service and progress.

As we celebrate both Women's History Month and International Women's Day, we honor the women whose leadership helped create the opportunities we enjoy today. Their belief in our potential continues to inspire us to participate, to lead, and to encourage the next generation to do the same.

The story of women's leadership continues to unfold, and each of us has the opportunity to contribute to that inspiring legacy.

With appreciation,
Alaya Amyra Agee
Ms. Sacramento
Secretary, Women Democrats of Sacramento County

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