



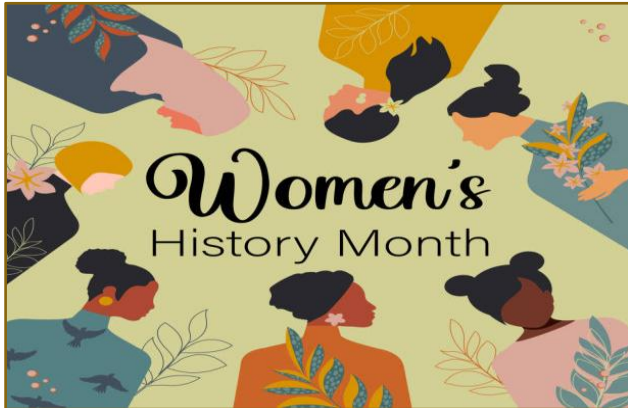
EMPOWERED VOICES

WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Issue 13—Thirteenth Edition

January - March 2026

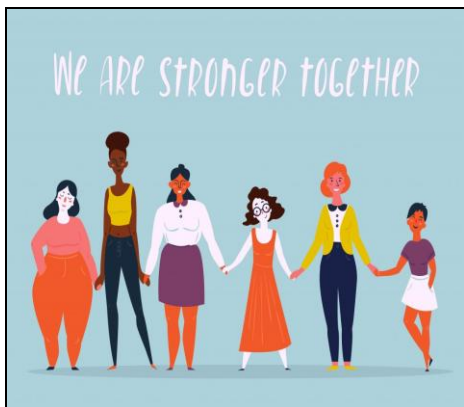
"If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it, I know I can achieve it." - Rev. Jesse Jackson



Debbie Richardson - Installation Speech

SAVE THE DATE!

WDSC Monthly Meetings
Every third Monday
6:30pm to 8pm
Sacramento City Teachers
Association (SCTA)
5300 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 No Kings Day!
- 3 2026-2028 Board Members
- 4 Women's History Month

President, Women Democrats of Sacramento County.

I am deeply honored to stand before you as the newly elected President of the Women Democrats of Sacramento County. I accept this role with humility, gratitude, and a deep sense of responsibility and I promise to lead with integrity, intention, and boldness. This is the same for our awesome executive team!

Tonight is not simply a transition in leadership—it is a recommitment to our mission as an organization that has a proud legacy of advocacy, courage, and impact. I want to thank the women who laid this foundation—our past presidents, board members, and volunteers. Because of you, we are strong and we are ready. We step into this new chapter at a defining moment for our nation. Across the country, democratic values are being tested and we are navigating this work during a Trump administration that often stands in direct opposition to the values we hold dear.

However, **WE will succeed regardless of who is in the White House.**

Our power does not come from Washington. It comes from women who organize locally. From voters who are informed and engaged. From communities that refuse to be silent, and...it comes from women who show up, speak out, and refuse to be sidelined. The next two years are critical. We have a great deal of work to do—and we are ready for it. Right?

As President and with our Executive team, our vision is focused and strategic. The Women Democrats of Sacramento County will be bold, visible, and effective. (Cont'd on page 2)

Message from the President (Cont'd from page 1)

First, along with the Executive Board and you--our membership--and friends of the Women Dems, we will grow this organization.

It is vital—now due to the current climate with the Trump administration and the activities of ICE, that we must all come together and strategize and turn our emotions of hurt, anger, and frustration into passion and more action within our communities.

Let us get out and attend school board and county meetings, and be more aware of local and state legislation. Decision-makers will know that when women speak together, our voices carry weight.

And most importantly, we will continue building a strong leadership pipeline to identify, train, mentor, and support women and individuals to serve in elected positions. We have a great group of candidates now-- ready to share their campaigns and platforms to become our endorsed candidates. We will be known as the organization that launches women into leadership—not someday, but now.

The Executive Board and I cannot do this alone. I ask each of you to consider how you can contribute to the Women Dems: by volunteering, mentoring, organizing, fundraising, or stepping into leadership. Even a small commitment, has power—and your contribution matters.

Look for our upcoming events, fundraisers, and membership drives in the near future and a meet and greet to hear our Executive Board members share their roles, committees, and strategies for the Women Dems.

As we move forward, let us remember why we are here. We are here because democracy requires participation. We are here because representation matters. We are here because the future of Sacramento County—and the future of this state and country—depends on women who are willing to lead. This is more than a club. It is a movement. A sisterhood. A powerful force for progress.

As we begin this new journey, remember this: **We are present. We are ready. And we are powerful. Together, we will lead—and we will make history.** ■



- **Parade from Sutter's Fort (9 am) to Sacramento State Capitol**
- **Elk Grove, Corner of Bruceville/Laguna Blvd.**
- **Folsom Blvd. Bridge**
- **Wilton/Sheldon on Gantline Rd.**
- **Galt City Hall**
- **West Sacramento, March, River Walk Park (10:30 am)**
- **Orangevale, Walmart on Greenback Lane.**



Heidi Sanborn swears in incoming 2026-2028 President, Debbie Richardson



Sandra Hazel (Immediate Past President) and Debbie Richardson (President)

Congratulations!

Ho-ho, Hey-hey,
women's rights are
here to stay!

Yes, We can!

SI SE PUEDE!

When fascists
attack,
we fight back!



2026 – 2028 Executive Board

Pictured (L-R front): Sue Litsey, (Membership), Julie Chapman (Treasurer), Debbie Richardson (President), Dawn Basciano (Vice President), Alaya Agee (Secretary), Sandra Hazel (Immediate Past President); (L-R back) Eric Wiesenthal (Member at large), Ariane Lyons (Fundraising), Linda Reed (Member at large), (not pictured) Brenda Borge (Political Affairs), Delores Roberts (Member at large)

Love not hate,
makes America



Special thanks to Heidi Sanborn, SMUD Board of Director, (pictured left) who conducted the swearing-in of the new Executive Board for the Women Dems. We appreciate you!

We also welcomed our newest little member, Anna Ioakimedes' son, to our meeting. What a cute little bundle of joy!



Thank you to our members, elected officials and friends of the Women Dems!





The theme for Women's History Month 2026 is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future," a theme designated by the National Women's History Alliance. The theme "highlights women designing blueprints for environmental, economic, educational, and societal sustainability, focusing on resilience, equity, and intergenerational well-being."

Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history, and society organized by the Sonoma Valley School District, California, in 1978. Soon, the idea caught on within communities, school districts, and organizations across the country.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring National Women's History Week, starting March 8th, International Women's Day. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. In 1987, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.



Co-founders of Women's History Month, honored in 2000 in Washington's Capitol Building. From left, Molly Murphy McGregor, Paula Hammett, Mary Ruthsdotter, and Maria Cuevas.

Phenomenal Woman
By Maya Angelou
*Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*



Quotes From Women Who Have Changed the World

“Women are like teabags. We don’t know our true strength until we are in hot water.”
– Eleanor Roosevelt, political figure, diplomat, activist, First Lady.

“The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.”
– Amelia Earhart, aviation pioneer.

“You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right.” – Rosa Parks, civil rights activist.

“If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”
– Shirley Chisholm, U.S. Congresswoman.

“My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”
– Maya Angelou, memoirist, poet, civil rights activist.

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.”
– Alice Walker, novelist, short story writer, poet, social activist.

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”
— Malala Yousafzal, Pakistani female education activist, Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

“Women have discovered that they cannot rely on men’s chivalry to give them justice.”
– Helen Keller, overcame immense communication barriers; civil rights advocate, ACLU co-founder.

“I’d rather regret the risks that didn’t work out than the chances I didn’t take at all.”
– Simone Biles, gold medal Olympic gymnast

“A really strong woman accepts the war she went through and is ennobled by her scars.”
– Carly Simon, songwriter, singer

“I never dreamed about success. I worked for it.” Estee Lauder, entrepreneur

“What do women want? Time.” – Maria Elena Salinas, journalist, author, Univision Network Anchor

“Every minute, a chance to change the world.” – Dolores Huerta, civil rights leader, labor activist



The Sacramento History Museum Exhibit

The Sacramento History Museum has added a special exhibition to celebrate Women’s History Month. Eleven women are honored for their unique contributions to the community and the City of Sacramento since the mid 1800’s. “Their stories evoke inspiration and commitment to building a better community for everyone.” The exhibit will be open through March 29, 2026.

The California Democratic Party Convention 2026

By Sandra Hazel

The California Democratic Party Convention (CADEM) was held in San Francisco on February 20th through the 22nd. This was my second time attending the convention as a delegate representing Sacramento County. There was so much to see and do such as:

- ❖ **“Camp CADEM”**, a 5-hour training session that discussed skills and strategies to help win back the house in November.
- ❖ **Exhibit booths** provided the opportunity to meet and speak with the candidates running for the Constitutional Offices and other vendors.
- ❖ **Caucus meetings** – A caucus is a group that is formed around shared concerns or interests, and they meet to discuss strategies to ensure the Party and Elected officials will support their concerns. Click [here](#) to see the complete list of Caucuses.
- ❖ **Networking Events** (aka: parties) – Candidates, Labor organizations, and special interest groups host breakfasts, lunches, dinners and all kinds of activities such as bingo, ice cream socials, etc. to network with delegates and party officials.

But the main purpose of this convention was to hear the Constitutional Candidates on stage as they shared their message of why they are running for office and convinced us to vote to endorse them over their opponents. All of this was orchestrated with timed precision. All candidates entered the stage from the left to music, spoke for 3 minutes (the gubernatorial candidates spoke for 4 minutes), then exited the stage from the right.

We heard personal stories of humble beginnings, of families immigrating from other countries to seek a better life, working hard and beating the odds. And we heard their plans for tackling homelessness, housing, and the economy and their resume as to why they are the best candidate for the job.



Pictured L-R: Delegates Meredith Curry, Sue Tabadisco, Dawn Bosciano, Sandra Hazel



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. Representative/Former Speaker of the House

All of this took place in a 2-hour morning session, and another 2-hour afternoon session. My job was to listen intently, take notes and hopefully make the best decision for the future of our State.

My personal highlight of the Convention was when US Representative and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi was introduced via a lengthy video montage of her best moments before she walked onto the stage.

Her standing ovation was thunderous. When she spoke a hushed quiet enveloped the room. Her soft voice commanded attention and respect as she emphasized the importance of taking back the house in November to stop the continued advancement of the current administration’s attack on our democracy. Her words spoke truth and urgency. Later that evening there was a dinner held in her honor, but the tickets were unattainable for most of us – even at the discounted rate for delegates.

I highly recommend attending a convention and experiencing a moment in the state’s political history as it is being written. There is a surge of electricity you feel as you are walking among democrats from all over the state of California, networking and joining activities. It is a non-stop agenda, and you determine your own level of engagement.

[Click here for Convention Endorsing Conference Results](#)

Member Spotlight Corner



Angi Roberts



Angela (aka Angi) Roberts founded the Association Office in 1990, after many years of experience with AT&T, as a result of her personal experiences as a receiver of services provided to the first nonprofit organization she had formed. She found a need for smaller nonprofit associations and organizations to find competent assistance and support services, at affordable pricing, and concentrates on these smaller nonprofits primarily.

Since its founding over thirty-five years ago, The Association Office has expanded its client base to include a variety of nonprofit corporations and associations, covering a wide variety of industries from automotive to maternal healthcare, including companies in the area of green technologies, professional services, and more. The Association Office is a resource for event planning, database maintenance, election management, budget monitoring, and other functions commonly required by nonprofit Boards.

During much of her working life, Angi devoted her spare hours to the Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County. She also started a successful preschool and other nonprofits geared toward community support and service. Outside of work, Angi enjoys staying active in her community — walking the many beautiful trails nearby, attending local events, craft shows, and movies. A self-described food and wine enthusiast, she appreciates good wine and simple foods. She is also an avid baseball fan, cheering on the SF Giants. And when it comes to golf, she has discovered that she plays a better game with her eyes shut than open — a pastime she continues to enjoy alongside her husband.

New WDSC Members

Renewal and new Women Dem's memberships are accepted in January of every year. The annual fee is students \$25, seniors \$30, and general \$35 for 12 months. This year, we have received 15 new members. Welcome to Women's Dems!

We also want to welcome Ziggy Clavere and Karen Hernandez, our new interns!



Hi, my name is Teresa Hernández, the new Editor-In-Chief for the Women Dem's Newsletter. Whenever you see me at the meetings or events, please come by to introduce yourself. Suggestions for topics for articles and/or requests to write articles are most welcomed.

Email the Women Dems at Sacramentowomendems@gmail.com

VOTE!

California Elections

Primaries: Tuesday, June 2, 2026

General: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california>