

A Message from the President



It almost seemed like summer would last forever! The changing leaves, crisp morning air, and visions of pumpkins remind us fall is here.

With the shifting seasons, I have also observed a change in FEW activity. We transitioned from National Training Program (NTP) events to **Women's Equality Day** and beyond, turning attention to our [Legislative](#) focus area.

During August, we welcomed esteemed panelists, Dr. Theresa Horne, Chief Diversity Officer at the National Endowment for the Arts; Wing Padilla, Deputy Associate Administrator at the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS); Michelle Wenberg, Associate Administrator at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); and Ms. LaJuan Bryan-Beveridge, Acting Executive Director from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



to celebrate the adoption of the **19th Amendment**, granting women the right to vote in 1920. The spirited discussion about advancing women's policies and moving FEW's mission forward laid the perfect groundwork for September's **Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill** in

Washington, D.C. During

Advocacy Day, FEW met with staff from the House of Representatives and the Senate. We also visited the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument for reminders of the great suffrage movement. FEW continues to lead the band marching towards women's equality.

Cooler temperatures remind us how grateful we are

to have a roof over our heads and food in the refrigerator. FEW National Board members Althea Sprosta (Treasurer), T. Patrice Waters (Contracts Management Chair), and



I had the honor of doing [Outreach](#), helping to feed the homeless at the Petey Greene Community Service Center in our nation's capital. We are thankful for our own safety, health, and well-being while understanding not everyone lives with these simple assurances.

October ushered in Intimate Partner: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Indigenous Peoples' Day, and a [Diversity](#) celebration for **Hispanic Heritage Month**. We are indebted to Cynthia Vazquez, Deputy Regional Mission Director with the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, for a rousing discussion about culture, family, bravery, values, and being a "Pioneer of Change" in the federal government.

One thing we cannot forget when we talk about advancement for women: financial independence.



While women earned the right to vote in 1920, it has been an uphill battle for additional rights and privileges in American society. It took another 43 years for the **Equal Pay Act of 1963** to offer a promise of change in compensation for working women. We know this promise has yet to be realized. Then, it took

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another 11 years for a woman to have the right to apply for and secure a credit card in her own name with the passing of the **Equal Credit Opportunity Act**. This is a shocking reality. Our mothers and mother figures did not have this right until 1974 – only 50 years ago! Ms. Allie Latimer and other FEW National Presidents and board members did not have this right towards financial freedom in the early years of this amazing grassroots organization! What advancements for women will we see in the next 50 years? What advancements for women will we be responsible for?

In November, we honor our military service workers who dedicated their lives to defending this great United States of America on **Veterans Day**. We applaud the veterans who are still with us while mourning those we lost in service. It is both a joyful and a somber holiday. A heavy price was paid for the freedoms we enjoy every day. This message is not about guilt, but about leveraging our privilege to make life better—not just for ourselves, but our workplaces and our communities.

This brings me to my final topic: **VOTING**. It was not just veterans who served, suffered, and (in some cases) died to uphold civil liberties, but also those who labored to ensure we can participate in the election process. I implore each of you to exercise your civic duty and right. Whichever method you choose to vote (in-person during early voting, in-person on election day, or submitting an absentee ballot) – just make sure America counts YOUR vote. You have a voice and your voice matters.

Enjoy December when FEW offices will take a break for the holidays...

Until next time....

Pamela R. Hall
National President
Federally Employed Women

