

Closing Remarks as 2021 & 2022 KFRW President to the Convention

By: Pam Roberts

Thank you, Helena, for that kind introduction.

What a great time we have had in Bowling Green.

The most important thing for me to say is this, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve Him for His Purpose while president of this federation.

I quote President Ronald Reagan from his inaugural address on January 20, 1981,

"Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem."

To follow two US Senators who challenge this ideology every day they serve in the United States Senate, there is little more I can say except to give credit to those who support people like Senator Rand Paul and Senator Marsha Blackburn.

It was just over 15 months ago that I had the privilege of presenting a new charter to the Republican Women's Club of South Central Kentucky. If you are a member of this club, will you stand to be recognized?

Since they received their charter from the national organization, we have watched as this group of women grew into our largest local club in the Commonwealth in less than two years. They have become activists in their community who promote the principles, objectives, and policies of the Republican Party.

It was their club President, Jill Nixon who called to see how they could put a bid in with the Kentucky Federation to host the next state convention after attending the 41st NFRW National Convention in Orlando, Florida last September.

They did the work, put together a proposal and presented their plan to the KFRW Board of Directors during a meeting in Lexington the day after the devastating tornadoes tore through western Kentucky. They did so with no internet and limited cell service while the magnitude of the destruction was still not known.

Ladies, on behalf of the KFRW, thank you for the work that you have done to make this one of the best conventions we have ever had.

Ladies, please remain standing. Helena Pitcock, will you please stand with these ladies?

Jill and Helena, please wave to the audience to be recognized.

Under the direction of these two ladies as cochairs of the Convention Committee, at the convention we have been entertained, fed, met with candidates and elected officials and gathered

to conduct the business of the convention session. The results of your leadership are evident by the attendance here in Bowling Green and we thank you for using your talents to direct our steps.

Please remain standing ladies and I promise this will not take much longer.

The business of our Kentucky Federation is conducted by an Executive Committee and a Board of Directors. Our Executive Committee includes all elected and appointed officers, chairwomen of appointed committees, the immediate past president and all 9 region directors. Our Board of Directors include those just mentioned on the Executive Committee as well as all club presidents.

If you are on the Board of Directors for our Federation and not yet standing, please stand and will all Board members wave to the audience to be recognized.

For those in attendance tonight, these are the ladies who lead the charge to carry out the purpose of the Kentucky Federation of Republican Women in accordance with the provisions of our Bylaws.

It is their responsibility to approve the program of actions presented by the committee chairwomen and it is these ladies who approved the plan to hold our convention in Bowling Green. Great choice ladies and thank you for the work that you do.

Before I let these ladies take a seat, will the remaining members of the Kentucky Federation please stand with the women already on their feet.

Madame President Eileen, elected officials, candidates, and guests, I present to you the backbone of our organization. We are federation sisters who work to build leaders, energize our communities, and help keep America strong while we provide a forum for women to serve as leaders in the political, government and civic arenas.

Because of these women, we elect people like Senator Paul and Senator Blackburn along with many others. Since becoming state president, it is because of these women we have 4 new chartered clubs, have gained almost 400 new federation members, and have the highest number of members in the Lincoln Legacy Circle, or the fundraising arm of the KFRW since its inception in 2016.

It is because of the work of many of these women that we watched Kentucky as it flipped red. Our members reported 26,488 hours of campaign related activity with only 8 of our clubs reporting. I know the dedication and determination our members have and those hours if reported would have been quadrupled.

Thank you Ladies for the work you do in your communities and our organization. Please be seated.

A wise man said to me, “Pam, as a leader, you can not do what others do”. I did not question the words of this wise man for I knew where his Wisdom came from. I knew that God had prepared me for a time such as this.

Senator Paul, when you spoke those same words to me during a phone conversation we had about voter integrity, I had no idea what God was about to teach me, I just knew He would give me what I needed to fulfill His Purpose.

Have there been bumps along the way? No, there have mountains. Some days felt like they would never end.

But, while we climbed to those peaks, I learned about trust, commitment, humility, wisdom, patience, sacrifice, courage, loyalty and most important, love. I am talking about love when in the human sense, I did not want to love at all because of outside influences.

Leadership has special privileges and must withstand criticism. Discernment is the difference between truth and persuasive speaking.

Motives cause a person to act. Truth is sincerity in action and honesty will win every time.

As I close out this journey in my life, thank you to those who walked on this road with me and those who joined along the way. You know who you are but, more important, God knows who you are. You were put in the place to help with what He was trying to accomplish. You stepped up and together, we accomplished.

The struggles we experienced are real, and it will take your commitment for corrective action.

We can grow strong in our weaknesses but, we must trust our differences to those who bring us together.

You have new officers who will lead. I encourage each of you to focus on commitment to the mission instead of being critical of those with the influence.

I urge you to do the same with our elected officials and candidates even if your choice of person did not win.

One woman in recent history was wrong, it really does not take a village; it takes an army. It takes a group of like-minded people who are trained to rally, to be disciplined and to unify in order to show change from within. We the People have the values that clash with accepted morals of today.

Our Convention Slogan says it all. We are “Runnin Red for the Future”. Maybe we should add because of the pressure to adapt to the failures of today.

Best of luck ladies. Lead for our future. Get our voters to the polls and thanks for the memories. May God Bless!