

Ellen Nau

VFRW President | 2016-18



Overview

During Ellen's presidency, the Virginia Federation of Republican Women focused on **unity, engagement, and strengthening the organization during a challenging political climate**. Her leadership emphasized bringing members together to advance the mission and goals of VFRW across the Commonwealth.

Political Landscape

Ellen served during the administration of **Governor Terry McAuliffe**, a period marked by policy differences between the Governor's agenda and Republican priorities. During this time, VFRW remained committed to advancing Republican principles and supporting conservative leadership throughout Virginia.

Leadership Focus

A central priority of Ellen's presidency was fostering **unity within the Federation**:

- Emphasized collaboration among clubs and members statewide
- Focused on the "greater good" of the organization
- Strengthened alignment around VFRW's mission and goals

Her leadership helped ensure the Federation remained cohesive and effective during a politically divided time.

Conventions & Political Involvement

Ellen was deeply involved in both state and national Republican activities:

- Attended numerous **VFRW and Republican Party conventions** across Virginia, including:
 - Charlottesville
 - Roanoke
 - Richmond
 - Harrisonburg
- Participated in key historic conventions, including:
 - **George Allen's gubernatorial nominating convention**
 - **Oliver North's Senate nominating convention**

She also served in leadership roles at the local level:

- **Vice Chairman**, Chesterfield County Republican Committee (during George Allen convention)
- **Chairman**, Chesterfield County Republican Committee (during Oliver North convention)

At the national level:

- Served as a **Virginia Delegate to the Republican National Convention in Cleveland**, where President Donald Trump was nominated for his first term

National Federation Engagement

Ellen attended several **National Federation of Republican Women conventions**, including:

- Orlando, Florida
- Phoenix, Arizona (multiple conventions)

These experiences provided opportunities for both leadership development and fellowship among Republican women nationwide.

Fundraising & Events

One of the most notable events during her presidency was a successful fundraiser held at:

- **Morais Vineyards and Winery**, recognized for its beautiful setting and strong attendance

Ellen credited her Executive Board for their leadership and support, including:

- **Janet Haley Varre**, Event Chairman
- **Dolores Switzer**, Treasurer

State Conventions

Ellen chaired two successful VFRW conventions featuring prominent speakers:

- **Roanoke Convention**
 - Featured speaker: **Detective Joe Kenda (“Homicide Hunter”)**
- **Richmond Convention**
 - Featured speaker: **Charlie Hurt, FOX News host**

Her First Vice President, **Mary Franklin**, played a key role in securing these speakers and supporting convention success.

Reflection

Ellen’s presidency was defined by a commitment to **unity, strong leadership, and active engagement in both state and national Republican efforts**, ensuring VFRW remained a strong and effective organization during a challenging political period.