



Idaho Federation of Republican Women - History

Idaho was the fourth state to grant women suffrage. As a result, interest in politics came early too. In 1904 the first woman, Minnie Howard of Pocatello, Idaho, held a meeting of Republican Women in Idaho. April 29, 1943, saw the establishment of Nez Perce County Republican Women's Club. The terrain in Idaho made it difficult to maintain contact among the first clubs. Thus, Idaho lacked enough clubs to become affiliated with NFRW until after 1943.

NFRW was organized in Chicago in 1938. Finally, in 1944, the Idaho Federation of Republican Women was founded and affiliated with the NFRW.

Several Idahoans have served as NFRW Officers; Rose May, Fourth Vice President; Gertrude Detweiler, Secretary, 1955-56; and Pamela Bengson, Fourth Vice President, 1985-1987.

IFRW currently has 434 members and 15 Clubs. They are:

- Ada County RW
- Blaine County RW
- Camas County RW
- Canyon County RW
- Clearwater County RW
- Gooding County RW
- Jefferson County RW
- Kootenai County RW
- Madison County RW
- Magic Valley RW
- Nez Perce County RW
- Southeast Idaho RW
- Southern Idaho RW
- Valley County RW
- Washington County RW

Idaho Federation of Women's Clubs are active in campaigns and political races throughout the state. The Clubs are also involved in community service and projects which give aid to our veterans.