

## NETWORK '96

Sponsored by the  
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM  
of the  
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE



*Network '96 is a new organization created by the Women's Leadership Forum - itself a strong new force within the Democratic Party. Members of Network '96 are part of a national network of women committed to re-elect Clinton/Gore, regain control of Congress, and elect Democratic candidates at every level. Each Network '96 member will be included in a Network '96 reception and a DNC training program in support of grassroots organization.*

*The Women's Leadership Forum, founded in 1993, has created new opportunities for women who are leaders in their communities to become active in the Democratic Party at the national level. The WLF has been impressively successful in raising money for the DNC, and WLF members have built an important nationwide network that continues to grow and strengthen.*

*The party has benefited from a fresh infusion of women's ideas, energy, abilities, and resources. Through the WLF, more women have come together to participate in the political process in a direct and significant way. WLF members have discovered the empowerment that comes from working with women who share their values and aspirations. In addition to Network '96 events, full membership in the Women's Leadership Forum includes issues briefings in Washington, D.C., special receptions, and a quarterly newsletter.*



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

NETWORK

## The Women's Leadership Forum of the Democratic National Committee

invites you to attend  
a NETWORK '96 reception  
honoring

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Monday April 22, 1996

7:00 p.m

Hotel Inter-Continental  
Grand Ballroom  
100 Chopin Plaza  
Miami, Florida

Honorary Chairs  
Rhea Chiles      Adele Graham      Anne MacKay  
WLF National Co-Chair  
Gwen Berlin



For more information, please call 305 460-4071

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

NETWORK

NETWORK '96  
Sponsored by the WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM  
Florida Reception, April 22, 1996

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to join Network '96 and attend the reception. Membership in Network '96 requires a contribution of \$100.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a member of the Women's Leadership Forum, attend the Network '96 reception and a special reception for Women's Leadership Forum members. Membership in the Women's Leadership Forum requires an annual contribution of \$1,000.

I am unable to attend the reception, but would like to join

\_\_\_\_\_ Network '96 with a contribution of \$100 or more.

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's Leadership Forum with a contribution of \$1,000 or more.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

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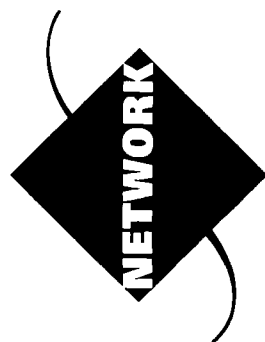
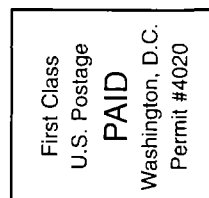
Please read and fill out required information on reverse.

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Women's Leadership Forum  
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Miami, FL 33233-0003

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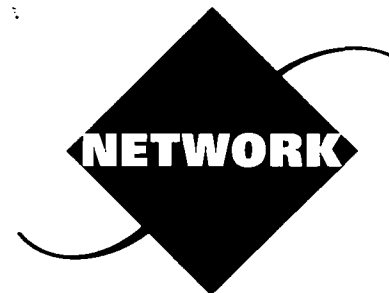
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city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
business telephone \_\_\_\_\_ facsimile \_\_\_\_\_  
soliciter (person who solicited you) \_\_\_\_\_



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

Democratic National Committee  
430 South Capitol Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

Individual and federal PACs: Your contribution to the DNC/Federal Account is for use in connection with federal elections and is subject to the prohibitions and limitations of the Federal Election Campaign Act. Make check payable to "DNC/Federal Account/WLF."

Corporate and union checks: Contributions to the DNC/Non-Federal Account will be used in connection with state and local elections. Make check payable to "DNC/Non-Federal Account."

Paid for by the Democratic National Committee.



**\*\*INTERNAL ONLY\*\***

**Women's Leadership Forum  
1996 Requests  
\*\*Updated 4/3/96\*\***

*Evan  
Do we  
have a file  
for this —*

**FLOTUS**

**MEG**

**April:**

**New York (April 22 Lunch)  
Miami (April 22 Evening) (CM)**

**Ohio (April 25)**

**May:**

**WDC (May 14 Lunch)(New Exec. Board)  
New York (KW)**

**Seattle (May 22)  
New York**

**June:**

**Cincinnati (June 10 Lunch)  
Detroit (June 10 Evening)  
Boston (June 20) (KW)  
LA/San Francisco  
WDC (CM)  
POTUS REQUEST**

**LA/San Francisco  
WDC**

**July:**

**Denver  
Little Rock  
WDC (New Exec. Board)  
Michigan (early)**

**Denver  
Memphis/Nashville**

**August:**

**Chicago  
Convention  
Hamptons (early) (Exec. Board)**

**Chicago**

**October:**

**WDC  
Philadelphia**

**WDC  
Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh**

**Please note that all cities which are bolded request both the FLOTUS and MEG for a three tiered event.**

# WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

Democratic National Committee

Tipper Gore  
WLF Honorary Chair

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March 26, 1996

Dear WLF Friend:

If you share our concern for America's families and communities, then the outcome of the November '96 election is of great importance to you. The Republican Congress was elected in 1994 because 54 million women who were eligible to vote did not do so. Energizing women across the country and educating them about what is at stake in their lives is vital to the re-election of the President and Vice President and electing Democrats at all levels of government.

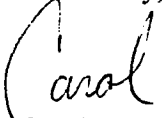
We need your help. The Women's Leadership Forum (WLF) of the Democratic National Committee is planning to host what we expect to be the largest women's political and fundraising event ever held in New York. The event will honor First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Tipper Gore, Honorary Chair of the WLF. We hope you will agree to be a Co-Chair, Vice-Chair, or member of the Host Committee for this event.

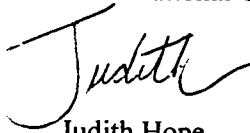
The WLF's new organization, Network '96, is our vehicle to mobilize women to spearhead critical grassroots organizing during this crucial election year. Membership in Network '96 requires a contribution of \$125. Members will be included in a leadership training for those who are interested in a more active role in the campaign.

Our first steering committee meeting for this exciting event will be **Tuesday, April 9, from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Presidential Room at the Loews Hotel**, 569 Lexington Avenue. We cannot do this without you. Help us make this the most successful, most inclusive women's event in history.

Please fill out the enclosed form indicating how you would like to participate. We look forward to seeing you on April 9th.

Yours truly,

  
Carol Pensky  
WLF National Chair

  
Judith Hope  
New York State Chair

  
Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn  
WLF Executive Board Member

  
Leslie Grossman  
WLF New York Chair

# WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

Democratic National Committee

Tipper Gore  
WLF Honorary Chair

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The Women's Leadership Forum of the Democratic National Committee is a strong new force within the Democratic Party. Founded in 1993, the WLF has 1,000 members nationwide. It has created new opportunities for women who are leaders in many fields to become active in the Democratic Party at the national level.

The mission of the WLF is to politically empower and galvanize Democratic women throughout the country. Our goals are threefold: 1) to re-elect Clinton/Gore, regain control of Congress, and elect Democratic candidates at every level; 2) to be an important source of fundraising at the Democratic National Committee; and 3) to develop a large network of members and maintain an ongoing database of these members.

From its inception the WLF has been impressively successful in raising money for the DNC, but the contributions made by members of the WLF go far beyond financial support. The Party has benefited from a fresh infusion of women's ideas, energy, abilities, and resources. Through the WLF more women have come together to participate in the political process in a direct and significant way and have built an important network that stretches from coast to coast and continues to grow. Monies raised by the WLF will be used for critical DNC projects, including the Women's Vote Project, the Media Fund, and the Coordinated Campaign.

There are three ways to participate in the Women's Leadership Forum. General membership in the WLF requires an annual contribution of \$1,000. These members receive all WLF benefits including a quarterly newsletter, issue briefings in Washington, D.C., DNC daily faxes, and invitations to special receptions and Network '96 events. The WLF Executive Board is made up of members who contribute between \$10,000 and \$15,000 annually. Board members also have reciprocal membership in the Democratic Business Council. Network '96 is a new WLF sponsored organization of women who are committed to spearheading grassroots organizations during this critical election year. Membership in Network '96 requires a contribution of \$125. Members will be invited to one Network '96 reception and included in DNC training programs.

Currently we are encouraging and developing regional WLF chapters. The WLF now boasts regional chapters in Washington, DC, New York, Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Orange County, Miami, and Philadelphia. If you are interested in sharing your time, energy, expertise, or resources, and would like more information on the WLF, please call the Women's Leadership Forum's Office at (202) 863-8020.

# **The Women's Leadership Forum Network '96 New York Event**

## **Levels of Participation**

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Network '96 Member</b>   | <b>(Contribution of \$125)</b><br><b>Will receive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*One ticket to Network '96 reception</li><li>*Opportunity to participate in the DNC Speaker Bureau Training program and the DNC Precinct Training program</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Event Host Committee</b> | <b>(Raisers of \$2,000 or contribution of \$1,000)</b><br><b>Will receive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*All benefits of Network '96</li><li>*One year general membership in the WLF</li><li>*An invitation to a reception for new WLF members</li><li>*Special recognition in the event program</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Event Vice-Chairs</b>    | <b>(Raisers of \$10,000)</b><br><b>Will receive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*All benefits of Network '96</li><li>*Two year general membership in the WLF</li><li>*An invitation to a special event</li><li>*An invitation to a reception for new WLF members</li><li>*Special recognition in the event program</li><li>*Preferred seating</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Event Chairs</b>         | <b>(Raisers of \$25,000)</b><br><b>Will receive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*All benefits of Network '96</li><li>*Women's Leadership Forum Executive Board membership</li><li>*Reciprocal membership in the DNC Business Council</li><li>*Honored guest status at the Democratic National Convention</li><li>*An invitation to a special WLF event</li><li>*An invitation to a reception for new WLF members</li><li>*Special recognition in the event program</li><li>*Preferred seating</li></ul> |

\* We are in need of underwriting and event sponsors -- any money raised or contributed towards either underwriting or sponsorship will count towards the above levels of participation.

**The Women's Leadership Forum  
Network '96 New York City**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Office

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the steering committee meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to participate, but I am unable to attend.

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\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in being on the Host Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in being an Event Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in being an Event Co-Chair

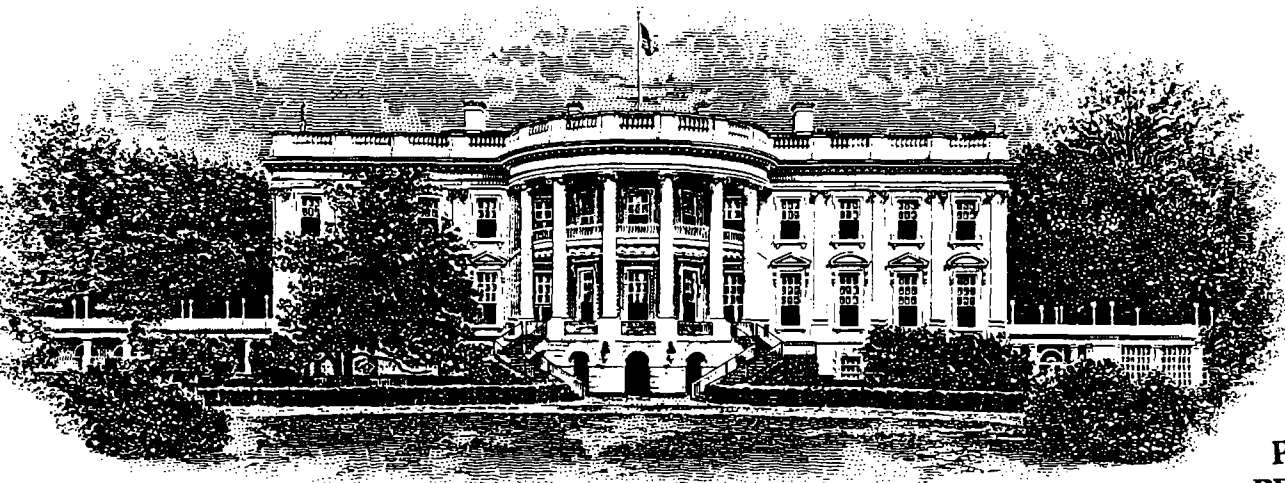
Please RSVP to Peter Kochansky by fax at (212) 223-7161, or by phone at (212) 801-9218, or mail to:

DNC  
c/o Greenburg, Traurig  
35th Floor  
153 East 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10022

File  
Women's



# The White House



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Remarks by the First Lady at  
Beijing Conference on Women 1995

(32)

*Remarks by*

FIRST LADY  
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

UNITED NATIONS  
FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE  
ON WOMEN

*September 5-6, 1995  
China*



*"If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference,  
it is that human rights are women's rights—  
and women's rights are human rights."*

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**WASHINGTON**

**May 14, 1996**

**Women's Cabinet Briefing**  
**Agenda**

**11:30 a.m.**  
**Roosevelt Room**

- |             |                            |                                        |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>Welcome</b>             | <b>Kitty Higgins</b>                   |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>Political Landscape</b> | <b>Doug Sosnik</b><br><b>Ann Lewis</b> |
|             | <b>The First Lady</b>      |                                        |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>Polling Update</b>      | <b>Mark Penn</b>                       |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>Discussion</b>          |                                        |

## **WOMEN'S CABINET BRIEFING**

**MAY 14, 1996**

### **MATERIALS**

- I. Remarks by the First Lady at United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women - Beijing, September 5, 1995**
- II. The First Lady's Schedule for May-June, 1996**
- III. Remarks by the First Lady at Women's Leadership Forum Philadelphia, February 26, 1996**
- IV. The President's Mother's Day Column**
- V. The President's Radio Address for Mother's Day May 10, 1996**
- VI. Talking Points on the Family and Medical Leave Act**
- VII. Women's Outreach Calendar**

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**TALKING IT OVER  
BY PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For Mother's Day, I thought I'd give Chelsea's mother a day off from her weekly column. Besides, I wanted to write about my own mother, Virginia Kelley, who died in 1994. I miss her every day, but especially when Mother's Day rolls around.

I remember, as a small child, watching my mother on a railway platform in New Orleans, sobbing and waving goodbye to me and my grandmother. As the train pulled away, she sank to her knees.

At the time, my mother was studying in Louisiana to be a nurse-anesthetist while I lived with my grandparents in Arkansas. Widowed three months before I was born, she was determined to get the skills she needed to provide for both of us. The image of her at the train station has stayed with me throughout my life, a powerful memory of her constant love.

Mother taught me about family, hard work, sacrifice and putting your children first, and about always being positive for them even on the bad days. For her, those bad days included my stepfather's alcoholism, the deaths of three husbands, my brother's struggle with substance abuse and her own fight with cancer.

As a child, I saw her go off to work each day in an era when it wasn't easy to be a working mother. As an adult, I marveled as she threw herself into politics to help me through victory and defeat, and encouraged my brother in his career while never giving up her unshakable belief that he could recover from his drug problem. And I watched with admiration as she endured her own disappointments with good humor and determination, always enjoying life and living it to the fullest, even as she battled the breast cancer that finally took her from us when she was 70 years old.

If you ever met my mother, or saw her on television, or read her autobiography, "Leading With My Heart," you know that in many ways she wasn't typical. She worked before most mothers did -- she had to. She wore lots of

makeup, including bright lipstick -- the brighter the better, she liked to say -- and layers of Max Factor. Hillary used to comment that my mother was the only person she had ever met who wore false eyelashes every day.

No matter what adversity she faced, she always tried to enjoy herself, and she loved seeing other people lap up life, too. She never begrudged other people their success and happiness. She just wanted the same for herself and her children.

She loved her work. She also loved parties, Elvis Presley and the racetrack. Even when her health was failing and she was in pain, she insisted on going to Las Vegas to see Barbra Streisand's magnificent concert on New Year's Eve in 1993.

I tried to call Mother for a couple of days after the concert to find out how it went, but I couldn't track her down! She was always out of the hotel room or on the phone. Then, after she got home, she called me. Hillary, Chelsea and I were at the dinner table so we had a four-way conversation. She told us about how great the concert was and what a wonderful time she had.

It was the last time I ever talked to her. Just a few hours later, she died in her sleep. And while I regretted not having the chance to say goodbye before she died, I knew in my heart that we had said all we needed to say. There were no accounts to settle, no words or emotions left unsaid. I feel lucky for that, and even luckier for the life and legacy she left me: love and respect for family and work, and for other people, regardless of their station in life or how different they seem on the surface.

This Mother's Day will be my third without my own mother. I still miss her. I miss our long talks at the kitchen table and on the phone. I miss her laugh and her hugs. I miss the fire in her eyes and her never-say-die attitude. There are still some Sunday evenings when I have the urge to pick up the phone to call her and suddenly realize that I can't do that anymore.

But this Sunday, as I watch my daughter and my wife talking and laughing at the dinner table, I know I'll hear echoes of my own conversations with my mother. And I'll be grateful for my mother's love and for every mother's love. Our mothers' spirits stay with us always.

Happy Mother's Day.

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May 7, 1996

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(University Park, Pennsylvania)

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Embargoed For Release  
Until 10:06 A.M. EDT  
Saturday, May 11, 1996

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Tomorrow millions of Americans will honor our mothers with hugs and bouquets and visits for dinner. Others of us will simply offer up a silent prayer for the mother who still lives in our heart, but who has left this Earth. I miss my own mother very much, especially on Mother's Day. I can't give her roses tomorrow, but with your help we can honor all mothers by giving mothers-to-be something far more important -- the assurance that when they bring a baby into this world, they will not be rushed out of the hospital until they and their health care provider decide it is medically safe for both mother and child.

Today I want to discuss legislation that will guarantee mothers the quality care they need when they've had a baby.

In 1970, the average length of stay for an uncomplicated hospital delivery was four days. By 1992, the average had declined to two days. Now a large and growing number of insurance companies are refusing to pay for anything more than a 24-hour stay, except in the most extreme circumstances, and some have recommended releasing women as early as eight hours after delivery.

This is has gone from being an economical trend to a dangerous one, one that carries with it the potential for serious health consequences. Early release of infants can result in numerous problems, including feeding problems, sever dehydration, brain damage and stroke. In addition, many mothers are not physically capable of providing for a newborn's needs 24 hours after giving birth. Often they're exhausted, in pain, and faced with an overwhelming set of new responsibilities. Many first-time mothers also need more than 24 hours in the hospital to receive instruction in basic infant care and breast feeding. And sometimes an early discharge can be fatal.

Michelle Bauman testified before a Senate committee that she was told to go home 28 hours after her daughter was born. Her baby died within one day of going home. If she had been allowed a

-MORE-



48-hour stay, she would have been in the hospital when her daughter's symptoms appeared. As she so tragically put it, another 24 hours and her baby's symptoms would have surfaced "so that we could have planned a christening, not a funeral."

Susan Jones and her baby son were discharged after about 24 hours. It turns out that he had a heart defect which was not noticed by the hospital or the home health nurse who came to visit on the third day. The baby died. Susan and an independent group of pediatric cardiologists believe the problem would have been noticed in the hospital by the second or third day.

As a nation that values the health of women and children, we must not turn our backs on this problem. There is an emerging national consensus that we must put a stop to these so-called "drive-through" deliveries. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have issued guidelines recommending a minimum stay of 48 hours following most normal deliveries, and 96 hours following most cesarean sections. Sixteen states have enacted laws to guarantee that level of coverage and 25 more are considering such a move.

A growing number of hospitals have taken it upon themselves to provide the second day of coverage free. And one group of insurers, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans of Pennsylvania, has responded to public concerns by voluntarily offering 48-hour minimum coverage. I believe every insurance company should step up to this problem and do what these insurers in Pennsylvania have done.

But in the absence of coverage for all women in all states, we have a responsibility to take action in Washington. Already a Senate bill and separate House bills have been introduced -- most with bipartisan support -- to guarantee 48-hour post-partum hospital stays for mothers and their children.

I urge members of Congress to move legislation forward as soon as possible that makes this protection for mothers and their children the law of the land. No insurance company should be free to make the final judgment about what is medically best for newborns and their mothers. That decision should be left up to doctors, nurses and mothers themselves. Saving the life and health of mothers and newborns is more important than saving a few dollars.

America's mothers hold a special place in our hearts. They provide the lessons and care that enable all of our children to embrace the opportunities of this great land. They deliver the precious gift of life. Let's give them a Mother's Day gift they richly deserve. Let's guarantee them 48-hour hospital stays to

protect their health and the health of their newborn babies. Mothers sacrifice so much for us. It's the least we can do for them.

Happy Mother's Day and thanks for listening.

END

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**Office of the Press Secretary**

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**For Immediate Release**

**February 26, 1996**

**REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
NETWORK '96 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you, all. Thank you very much. Thank you so much. Thank you.

Thank you. I'd rather be in Philadelphia than anywhere. I was here last Thursday. I'm back today. Mayor, if you can think of another reason, I'll be back next week.

This is the most extraordinary outpouring of support and, really, a way for all of us in this room to say that we believe in an America that is inclusive, that cares about all of its citizens and the means for bringing us together.

This extraordinary new organization within the Democratic National Committee has made it possible for, literally now, thousands and I hope tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of women to be actively involved in politics. You know, sometimes people come up to me and they say, "How can you stand politics?" And I always say, "Well, do you mean 'politics' with a capital 'P', like electoral politics, or do you mean politics with a small 'p', like being a member of a family, or belonging to a church, or working in any organization, or being part of any group?" Because "politics" is how we come together to make decisions we think will further our interests. And women have an enormous stake in politics with a small "p" and a capital "P", and I hope every woman in this room, whether or not you have ever run for office or hold office, and I applaud each of you who has done that.

But I also applaud the rest of you, who, like me, has not done that, because we have an important role in politics as well. We are citizens, we have interests, and we have to make sure our voices are heard. And so thank you for being here and being committed to the political future of our country and ourselves.

But if all we were doing was coming together to applaud women who are in public life and women who in their private and personal and professional lives are involved in their communities, that would be important, but it would not bring us together in the numbers that we are joined together with tonight. Because the reason you're here, the reason Tipper and I are here, is because we have a certain vision about what we want our country to be, and we know we have to fight for that vision. We cannot leave it to anyone else. We have to be part of those who stand up and say, "Here's what we want for an America in the 21st century."

Each of us has a critical role to play in this next election, but each of us has a critical role to play every day, between now and next November and every day afterwards. Because of the diverse roles we already fill in society today, in the home, in the workplace, in our common life together, we bring both our special insights and experiences and our sense of the possible for our society.

You know, women have been catalysts for change since the beginning of our nation. I just learned the other day that the first demonstration that was ever held at the White House occurred when suffragettes chained themselves to the White House fence. Now, if you think anything any of us has done is controversial, you go back and read about what happened when those women chained themselves to that fence. It was met with the most extraordinary outrage, starting with President Wilson and spreading out to everyone. The major newspapers in the country were just indignant beyond words that women would try such a stunt to make their desires for the vote known.

So, women have been making their voices heard for a very long time. And women with education, women with sufficient income, not to worry where the next meal was coming from, women who were, frankly, lucky in their lives have been able to look beyond themselves and their day-to-day concerns to see what we as a society needed, and to band together.

We can go back and look at the role that women played in the Revolutionary War, in the Civil War, and during the great Progressive era at the turn of this last century. We can see women starting settlement houses and agitating to end child labor. We can see women not only working for the vote, but working for a voice in the labor fields of our country and trying all the ways they knew how to bring equality and justice to those who were left out. They spoke out, they lobbied politicians, they organized, they picketed, they made things happen.

And because of the work of so many women before us, we made progress as a nation. Women were there on the frontlines, lobbying for changes that ended 12 hour workdays, that took

children out of factories and put them into schools, that opened up the doors of opportunity to black women and brown women and women from every corner of the world.

We know that women have made a difference. But now we have to continue to make our voices heard. Seventy-five years after winning the vote, many women do not feel that they have a stake in our political process. Fifty-four million eligible women chose not to vote in the 1994 elections. That is a staggering number. And in that number, you can find women of every type, in every corner of our country, who think that politics with a capital "P" means nothing to them, who sometimes are stretched so thin trying to keep body and soul together, they can't imagine even taking an hour off to go vote.

We have to persuade every woman that she does have a stake in the political life of her country, because the decisions that are made will impact on the life she leads. Changes in Medicare will not only impact her, but they more immediately may impact her mother, her father, her aunt, her uncle. Changes in Medicaid might not immediately impact her, but you never know, do you? And they might lead to the closing of a hospital or the cutting back on services that that woman does need next year, or the year after. Changes in environmental regulations may mean that the air she breathes and the water her child drinks may no longer be safe. We have to make it clear that the decisions that are made in Washington have a direct impact on how we lead our lives.

I believe that this is one of the most important elections in our political history. It's not only the end of a century, and indeed, a millennium, which always causes, I'm told by historians, many different feelings to come out in people. There's all kinds of uncertainty and regret about what hasn't happened in the last century, of feeling that we didn't do as much as we should. At the same time, there's this looking forward with a sense of possibility about what we can do if we enter the future positively and with optimism. This is no different than at any time in the past.

We see a challenge in our own country between those who would turn the clock back, who are ready to throw their hands up at the future, who want somehow to stop progress and go back to some time that never existed except in their imaginations. And against those people, we have others who see only a bright future, who think that cyberspace will solve all our problems, that will honeymoon in cyberspace--I can't imagine a worse idea than honeymooning in cyberspace! I've watched those people in those space capsules. I don't understand if you're floating around, but that's another issue. And so those people see only positive coming from changes.

But in the middle are most of the rest of us. A little bit worried about the pace of change, concerned about how we will cope with what is happening around us. A little nostalgic from time to time about what seemed to be a simpler and safer past. Excited about what can be, but uncertain about how best to arrive at that destination.

So, it's understandable that in a time of great change and challenge, people would be asking questions about "What should I do?", "How will I navigate into the future?" And so we all have to work through these challenges together, because this is an era of endless possibility and great uncertainty. And here, in our country, we are posed with the difficult question as to whether the kind of America that many of us have taken for granted as we've watched incredible change over the last 50 years will be there and be available. And the American Dream that so many of us have pursued for our children and our grandchildren.

I think the answers to these challenges rest with us. We will decide whether we permit the clock to be turned back, or whether we will work together to create a future that is worthy of all of us. In the State of the Union, the President talked about seven challenges. I like those challenges--they're ones that I relate to and I think about, and I believe many of you do as well.

The first challenge is to cherish our children and strengthen our families. We cannot simply talk about family values, we must act in ways that value all families. There is nothing more important. And we know that what happens to children starts with the care and attention and love and discipline of parents. But we also know that no family is an island, that what happens in the larger society, right outside the door, down the street, across the country, and now, across the world will impact on how well a family can fulfill its responsibilities to children.

That is why this debate between whether the government or family is responsible for children is a false debate. We know a government can't raise or love a child--who said that it could? But we also know that families sometimes need a helping hand--they need support, they need the kind of concern and care that a loving society can offer a family.

And we also know that in every family, including my own, there are outside influences over which many of us feel that we have lost control. The most obvious example--it's already been referred to--is the television. It comes into our homes, it says things to our children that we would not let a stranger walk in our door and say without calling the police, would we? And yet so many parents feel helpless in the face of this overwhelming

cultural presence. Well, the first thing is more parents have to exercise more responsibility to get up and turn off the television set and find some other things for children to do.

But a lot of parents, particularly working parents, need some help. That's why it was so important that when the telecommunications bill passed the Congress, with the incredible work over many years of Vice President Gore, that the President insisted that the V-chip be in the telecommunications bill. Why? Because when you hear people stand up on the floor of the House and say: "We don't need to program television sets so that parents can screen out X-rated and R-rated material if they don't want their children to see them. Just let those parents do it themselves." Well that's fine, if you're not a single parent working hard to support your child, if you're not a two parent working family, where one works one shift and the other works the other shift.

Parents need some help. That's what I mean by the kind of cooperation between the family and society. Yes, parents have to exercise more responsibility, but yes, the government can give them a V-chip so that they can control that television set when they're not around to watch their children every day.

The government can also do something else. It can pass strong regulations and laws to try to protect teenagers from the powerful tobacco industry and do what we can to limit and eliminate teenagers and young people from smoking.

You know, every time you hear that the government shouldn't be involved in something, you can just bet somebody's being paid to say that. And that is no truer than when you look at the tobacco industry, which for years has said: "First of all, tobacco doesn't cause any problems that anybody needs to be too concerned about. And, well, if it does, than that's too bad, but adults reserve the right to do that. And, well, Joe Camel wasn't totally aimed at children." And then you have a survey that shows that Joe Camel is more recognizable than Mickey Mouse by children under 10.

So we know we have to do something to reign in the tobacco industry. That is just another example of how we, together, in our own homes, taking personal responsibility but banding together through the political process, can cherish children and strengthen families, so that they can do the job they must do.

The second challenge is to throw open the doors of learning to all children, and to reform our education system so that it works for all children. Anyone who's ever taught, and I would imagine that there are many of you in this audience, knows how difficult it is to teach under any circumstances. Well, it is harder today than it's ever been. It's harder because so many of

the problems that the school has to tend to are not the school's problems. They come in the door, and they're there, and they must be dealt with. It's harder because when you've got three-year-olds being able to operate a remote control device so they never have to do anything, they can sit there and be passively entertained, then when they get in a classroom where they have to work and where they have to deal with frustration, is it any wonder that they are mentally clicking off those teachers trying to help them learn what they need to learn?

So, we need to recognize that education today is a real challenge, but it is the most important public challenge for this country to face. And we know what we can do to make it better.

The President has said that everything needs to be considered. Today, at the school that Tipper and I visited, I saw parents in the school working with teachers. I loved seeing that, because if we don't reconnect homes and schools, we will never get the education that our children deserve to have. It reminded me of when I was growing up and my father used to say, "You get in trouble in school, you get in trouble at home." There was this united front between the parents and the teachers. We didn't like it much, but it actually helped to structure our lives, because we knew what we were up against, didn't we? And we had to behave, because if we didn't, somebody sure was going to find out about it.

Well, now we have to reassert adult authority, and parents have to be part of that. That's why the President has been advocating uniforms, and I saw uniforms in the school I visited today and I talked with the children and I talked with the teachers. Now, does everybody like uniforms? No. But do we now have positive evidence that uniforms, particularly in inner city schools, helps decrease violence, helps children behave better, helps protect children from gang violence, and eliminates a lot of the consumer pressure that kids feel. They can start worrying about how to add and subtract instead of what they're going to wear to school tomorrow.

And we need to do some other things. Every school in this country should be hooked up to the Internet by the year 2000, and the President and the Vice President are working on that. And why in the world, when we know we face all these global challenges, would some people in Congress want to cut back and even eliminate college aid for lots of deserving students who need that kind of financial assistance? If anything, we need to expand student loan and work study and scholarship programs so that every deserving student who is willing to work can have a shot at college.



The third challenge speaks directly to the survival of the American Dream. That is, the economic challenge that we all face today. And we know it's out there. My goodness, we read the headlines about downsizing and layoffs. We see the economic security in our own families, among our friends. We know that many people are working harder and feeling like they're not getting ahead.

Every American family that is willing to work must be given the opportunity to feel that they are making a contribution and enhancing their family's prosperity. That means we need, as the President has advocated, a new G.I. Bill for American workers, so that Americans who lose their jobs in downsizing will receive vouchers to pay for the retraining they need to become employable again.

It also means that the people who are struggling to support themselves and their children on \$4.25 an hour, the people who work in our day care centers, our nursing homes, our restaurants, all at jobs that may not be prestigious in some people's eyes, but my goodness are they essential. Think of what we would do without the people who are doing the work for which we pay a minimum wage. It is time to raise the minimum wage and reward work in this country.

And I would also say that economic security goes in hand in hand with health security. And we must, we must protect Medicare and Medicaid and reaffirm our commitment to society's weakest members. We now have, at least in our country, a guarantee that when you reach 65, you will have your health care needs met. We can't say that for 43 million working Americans who are uninsured. And we should be able to. That is why the bill currently pending in the Senate called the Kassebaum-Kennedy Bill that would guarantee workers when they moved jobs, they could take their insurance with them, and would eliminate preexisting conditions as a prohibition on insurance, should be passed.

It is just, it is just bewildering to me how in the richest nation in the world, we have not yet figured out how to guarantee a minimum of health care coverage to every American at an affordable price, and there are some people who are talking about a plan that would in a few years take it away from the older Americans who now have that guarantee. Let's preserve and protect Medicare and Medicaid and work on ways to extend health care coverage to every American.

The fourth challenge is to reclaim our neighborhoods from crime, gangs, and drugs. And we are making some progress on that. Thanks to mayors like the mayors you have, thanks to prosecuting attorneys like the prosecuting attorney you have, thanks to community policing, thanks to the entire society saying "We are fed up with this," the President was able to pass a crime

bill that has made a big difference. Thanks to that crime bill and thanks to the Brady Bill, we now are seeing a decrease in crime in many sectors. Not as fast as it should be, not as broad as it needs to be, and in fact, it needs to go much further. But because of the Brady Bill, which was bitterly opposed by the gun lobby, 41,000 felons and mentally ill people already have been prevented from buying guns. And I say that already shows that that bill was a success.

We are seeing more police put on the streets in communities. We know that if we build up communities, we cut down crime. Last Thursday, I visited a YouthBuild site as part of AmeriCorps in South Philly. And I met with the young people who were there, and every single one of them said they had such pride because they were not only learning how to build houses and making them available to neighbors, but they were getting their education as well. And they said when they went back to their neighborhoods and they walked by the kids on the corner who were standing there, they felt sorry because there weren't enough opportunities for those young men and women also to feel the sense of pride and accomplishment that the YouthBuild members did. So we not only need to say "no" to drugs and gangs and crime and guns on the street, we need to say "yes" to young people and give them something positive to do so that they can make a good contribution to our country.

The fifth challenge is to protect the environment. That is so important. If you go back 20 years, you can see pictures of lakes and rivers in this part of the country that were so polluted you couldn't look at them. Some were so bad they were on fire. Do you remember that? There were some cities in our country where literally you could not breathe the air. We've made a tremendous amount of progress, but we have a ways to go. The achievements that have been made were bipartisan achievements. We cannot allow this current Congress to permit lobbyists or polluters to write loopholes into our environmental laws. We have to stand vigilantly on behalf of the environment and make sure we protect it so that we can pass it on to our next generation.

The sixth challenge is that the United States must meet its responsibilities as a leader, as the leader in the fight for freedom and peace around the world. We cannot become isolationist just because we have won the Cold War. We have to remain active and involved. Now is that easy to do? Of course not. (Is it fraught with peril? Of course it is.)

But what is our choice? Both as a practical matter, if we expect other countries to help us fight against terrorism, multinational drug cartels, the spread of ethnic and religious and tribal violence, then we have to be willing to share part of

the responsibility. That's how it works. If we want others to help us, we have to be there to help them.

And as a moral matter, how can we stand by and let atrocities such as we witnessed for years in Bosnia go unnoticed and unaccounted for? Leadership is always a burden, and it's no different if it's an individual exercising it, or a nation. But the United States has always stood up against those who would oppress, those who would exercise authority against others for no good cause. And we have to continue doing that. We cannot build a wall around this country. There is no way we can pull up the gangplanks and say: "Forget it, 21st century. We're not coming." If we expect to compete economically, if we expect to our ideas of democracy and the free market to triumph, then we have to be engaged and we have to lead. So long as this President is president, we will continue to lead and be engaged and not give in to the forces of isolationism.

And finally, the seventh challenge is that we have to reform our political system. There is no doubt that we have to reform campaign finance, that we have to continue to work against the influence of lobbyists and other interests. But you know, political reform goes beyond what we actually can get done in Congress or a state legislature. It really starts with each one of us. How active will we be? Your being here tonight suggests that you're willing to be active. Some of you have a long history of political activism, others I would bet are here really for the first time at a political event. All of you, though, have a stake in political reform and in the political process.

I would ask you to do just a couple of things. Make it your point to talk to 10 people in the next three or four months about what's happening in politics. Talk about this event, talk about what you read in the paper. Engage your friends and neighbors, co-workers, and colleagues. Try to reach out, particularly to other women to make them understand what you see, which is the relationship between your own life and what goes on in Washington or any state capital in the country. Make that part of how you will be politically active.

Secondly, educate yourself on all of these issues so that you feel comfortable talking about them. And you are willing to talk with people who disagree with you, in an effort to bring about a dialogue. Especially today, when we seem to have more yelling than talking, it is very important that all of us be willing to be part of a civil discourse about what happens in the United States. That means being willing to have a conversation with people who don't see things the same way you do. That means maybe even picking up the phone, calling a talk show, or writing a letter to the editor, or writing a letter to your representative, letting your views and voices be heard.

And finally, it means thinking about your role in all the institutions in which you are a part. Because all of us, and I speak for myself as well, can do a better job being a better citizen. We can be involved in our own neighborhoods. We can reach out to the people down the block or upstairs. We could offer to babysit for a few hours for that single mother who just seems like she doesn't have any time for herself. We can buy groceries for that older woman who may be all alone. We can say "Thank you" to the people who clean our offices and serve us our food. We can look at them with the same respect we expect from them. We can honestly begin to treat others as we would want to be treated.

I don't believe that, that any law or any government program, or even any election, will do all that we need to do to meet our challenges in this country. Those are important. Re-electing this President and Vice-President are essential for what happens in America, but just as important are the millions and millions of decisions each of us makes every day. How much responsibility are we willing to take for each other? Will we mentor or tutor a young person. Will we complain about a television show we find particularly offensive? Will we go in and ask the employers we work for whether they would consider family-friendly policies that would enable parents to be both good workers and good parents?

There's a lot of work to be done in our country, but we have survived and thrived for more than two centuries because at every critical turning point, a majority of the people made the right decision. They made a decision not only for the leadership they chose, but for their own willingness to become involved, to be an example, to stand up for what they believe. We have never been afraid as Americans to take on unfamiliar challenges. As descendants of immigrants and pioneers and adventurers, we have been willing to go where others were afraid to venture.

Well, now we face another time in our country's history. And yes, the election of '96 will be written in the history books, and it will determine whether we go forward with optimism, with a positive attitude, with hopefulness, or whether we give in to our worst fears. I believe, because I believe in America, that we're going to choose hope and optimism. And I also believe that more and more of us, women and men, will choose to stand up and be heard and even, more importantly, to act on behalf of our deeply held values and beliefs. That is what I know will happen in '96, and that's why I thank you for being part of making this great change occur.

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**PRESIDENT CLINTON IS MEETING AMERICA'S CHALLENGES:  
A REPORT ON THE SUCCESS OF THE  
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT  
May 1, 1996**

*"The law guarantees the right of up to twelve weeks of unpaid leave per year when it's urgently needed at home to care for a newborn child, or an ill family member. This bill will strengthen our families, and I believe it will strengthen our businesses and our economy as well."* - President Clinton, signing ceremony, February 5, 1993

**Strengthening America's families, achieving economic security.** Today's report shows that the Family and Medical Leave Act, which was the first bill President Clinton signed into law, has been a tremendous success in helping America's families find security in today's economy. By allowing working Americans to take leave of up to twelve weeks to care for sick relatives or new children without fear of losing their jobs, the FMLA provides the peace of mind that Americans will never have to choose between work and their family's health again.

**A clear report.** The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 established the bi-partisan Commission on Leave to study the impact of the Act. Their comprehensive, national survey concludes that the FMLA is helping families without causing significant hardship to most businesses.

- \* **Helping our families cope with serious illness.** Almost 80 percent of leave is taken to care for a seriously ill child, spouse or parent, or for one's own serious health condition.
- \* **Easy to administer.** More than nine out of ten employers find it "very" or "somewhat easy" to administer the FMLA.
- \* **Not costly to business.** For 89.2 to 98.5 percent of worksites, complying with the FMLA entails either little or no costs.
- \* **Helping America's businesses.** The vast majority of leave-takers (84 percent) return to their same employer, leading some businesses to testify that the new law has helped them reduce employee turnover, enhance productivity and improve the morale of their workforce.
- \* **A significant effect.** More than half of America's workers are eligible to take leave under the FMLA, and more than one in six of all employees have taken leave for a reason covered by the Act.

**Helping Americans meet our challenges.** The Family and Medical Leave Act takes a significant step with its signature features of guaranteed job protection and maintenance of health benefits. The Act is helping a larger cross-section of working Americans meet their medical and family caregiving needs while still maintaining their jobs and economic security, achieving the workable balance the President, and the nation, intended.

# May

1996

1996

| SUNDAY                                                         | MONDAY                  | TUESDAY                                                                                                       | WEDNESDAY                                                                  | THURSDAY                        | FRIDAY                  | SATURDAY                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                |                         |                                                                                                               | 1                                                                          | 2                               | 3 CLUW EXEC. BOARD MTG. | 4                                                       |
| 5 NATL. BREAST CANCER COALITION CONFERENCE -- DC               | 6 NBCC CONFERENCE -- DC | 7 NBCC CONFERENCE -- DC<br>DNC GALAS<br>HRC COFFEE-- 1PM/3:30- C/G<br>AAWARE FUNDRAISER-- w/ HRC -- DC 6:30PM | 8 POTUS COFFEE (WOMEN)<br>MEG COFFEE -- 10:30; 1 pm at C/G'96<br>DNC GALAS | 9                               | 10                      | 11 RUN/WALK AGAINST BREAST CANCER -- LA (20,000 PEOPLE) |
| 12 MOTHERS DAY                                                 | 13                      | 14 WLF EXEC. BD. DINNER -- HRC                                                                                | 15 WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FUND "PARTY OF YOUR CHOICE" -- DC                      | 16 9 to 5 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | 17 9 to 5 CONFERENCE    | 18 9 to 5 CONFERENCE                                    |
| 19 9 to 5 CONFERENCE                                           | 20                      | 21                                                                                                            | 22 WLF EVENT -- MEG -- SEATTLE                                             | 23                              | 24                      | 25                                                      |
| 26 2D ANNIVERSARY -- FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO CLINIC ENTRANCES ACT | 27                      | 28                                                                                                            | 29 WLF EVENT -NYC W/ HRC & MEG                                             | 30                              | 31                      |                                                         |

# June

1996

1996

| SUNDAY                  | MONDAY                                                                                                         | TUESDAY             | WEDNESDAY                                                                  | THURSDAY                  | FRIDAY                                              | SATURDAY                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30                      |                                                                                                                |                     |                                                                            |                           |                                                     | NATIONAL DAY OF<br>COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN<br>-- DC/LINCOLN MEMORIAL 1                                          |
| 2                       | 3                                                                                                              | 4                   | WOMEN'S INFO. NETWORK- DC<br>RECEPTION & DINNER PARTIES 5                  | 6                         | COORDINATED CAMPAIGN<br>TRAINING -- DC 7            | LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-<br>NAT'L MTG. , CHICAGO, IL 8<br><br>COORDINATED CAMPAIGN<br>TRAINING                  |
| 9                       | WIS. & MICH RATIFY 19TH A<br>(1919)<br><br>WLF EVENTS -- HRC --<br>CINCINNATI (LUNCH) AND<br>DETROIT (EVENING) | 10                  | WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FUND, MTG.<br>OF WOMEN GUBERNATORIAL<br>CANDIDATES-- NY 1 | POTUS COFFEE -- WOMEN 12  | 13                                                  | FLAG DAY 14<br><br>ANA CONVENTION -- DC 15                                                                     |
| FATHERS DAY 16          | IL RATIFIES 19TH (1919)                                                                                        | 17                  | SOCIETY FOR THE ADV. OF<br>WOMEN'S HEALTH -- MEG AWARD 8<br>-- DC          | 19                        | 20                                                  | EMILY'S LIST MAJORITY<br>COUNCIL CONFERENCE -- DC 21                                                           |
| ANA CONVENTION -- DC    | ANA CONVENTION -- DC                                                                                           | ANA CONVENTION --DC | ANA CONVENTION -- DC                                                       |                           |                                                     | PTA CONVENTION --DC 22<br><br>AM. ASSOC. OF UNIVERSITY<br>WOMEN-CONF. OF STATE<br>PRES.--DC                    |
| PTA CONVENTION -- DC 23 | PA RATIFIES 19TH A (1919)<br><br>PTA CONVENTION -- DC<br><br>AAUW STATE PRES -- DC                             | 24                  | MA RATIFIES 19TH A (1919)<br><br>PTA CONVENTION -- DC 25                   | NWPC STEERING MTG-- DC 26 | NAT'L WOMEN'S POL. CAUCUS-<br>STEERING MTG. --DC 27 | TX RATIFIES 19TH A (1919) 28<br><br>NOW ANNUAL CONFERENCE--<br>LAS VEGAS, NV<br><br>NWPC STEERING MTG -- DC 29 |

# July

1996

1996

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                      | TUESDAY                     | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                                   | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                          |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
|        | 1 IA RATIFIES 19TH A (1919) | 2 MO RATIFIES 19TH A (1919) | 3         | 4                                          | 5      | 6                                 |
| 7      | 8                           | 9                           | 10        | 11                                         | 12     | 13                                |
| 14     | 15                          | 16                          | 17        | 18 148TH ANNIV. OF SENECA FALLS CONVENTION | 19     | 20 MONT & AZ RATIFY 19TH A (1919) |
| 21     | 22                          | 23                          | 24        | 25                                         | 26     | 27                                |
| 28     | 29                          | 30                          | 31        |                                            |        |                                   |