



Dodie Londen Program is a Once in a Lifetime Opportunity

As many of you know, I am currently enrolled in the Dodie Londen Excellence in Public Service Series. I am so grateful to have been able to participate in this awesome and life-changing opportunity. Sadly, my time with the program will be coming to an end in May, but that means a new opportunity will be available for a lucky member of TMRW!

What or who is Dodie Londen? Dodie was the first and ONLY woman to serve as the Chair of the Arizona Republican Party. She worked tirelessly to not only unite Republicans in Arizona but throughout the country. The program was started, in her honor, to provide the tools and knowledge in preparing Republican women for political involvement. In my class, three members are running for office: state Senate, state Representative, and County Recorder. Other members are getting involved with specific campaigns, becoming Precinct leaders, and working with their friends and neighbors to be more involved in the political process.

My journey started in September of last year when I competed for one of 12 spots in the program. Starting in October, we have met on a monthly basis at various locations throughout the state. Our final meeting will be in May where we will spend four days in Washington D.C.!

We have learned about everything from communications and public relations, to campaigning, to the inner workings at the state Capitol, to the role that perception plays towards women in office. We have had amazing speakers including campaign professionals, public relations firms, business liaisons, gubernatorial department heads, lobbyists, national party leaders, and a great number of men and women currently serving in office from a local school board President to the Governor.

I mentioned earlier that this experience has been a life-altering one. Some of you may know that I am fairly new to Republican Party activities, having registered in 2009 after years of being an Independent. I have since jumped in with both feet and I have become a sponge for all the knowledge and experience that is present around our state. My current involvement includes serving as President of TMRW, Vice President of Programs for the 1200 Club, volunteering on party campaigns, and hoping soon to serve as a Precinct Committeeman.

This experience has not only opened my eyes to the workings of the GOP and our elected officials, but also to *my* growth as a woman amongst other committed, intelligent, hard-working women. I am finding my political voice that I have kept dormant for several years and it feels pretty good! I have also been finding more courage to participate and offer my opinion in discussions, which has not been an easy thing for me for a long time. The women and men involved in presenting the program have been EXTREMELY supportive to all of us as individuals; they have helped us find our strengths and our talents that we can in turn contribute to the political scene.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012-2013 year and I would be more than happy to champion any of you wishing to embark on this incredible journey of leadership. I hope to have the opportunity to pass along this experience and even mentor a future applicant as Zanetta Boughan and Jane Strain have done for me.

Thank you and hope to see you at a future alumni event!

Karla Rothrock, President (2012-2013)
Thunder Mountain Republican Women