



# Coming Full Circle

By Kimberly Fletcher, President, Homemakers for America Inc.

In 2004 I founded Homemakers for America in a living room in a small town in Ohio with 26 women. My goals were simple, give voice and value to the Homemakers of America, promote America's history and heritage, and teach women how to be actively involved as citizens without sacrificing their families. In the years since our founding I have learned so many things and met so many amazing people but I must admit, I was quite surprised at where the experiences of the last few years have led me as now I find myself coming full circle.

I started Homemakers for America out of a deep concern for our country and the direction we are headed—a concern I am sure many of us feel. In the beginning I was convinced that the best way to fix all our problems was to give women a platform where they could voice their values. I just knew that once the media realized there were millions of women in America who had something to say they would want to know what it was. And when our elected leaders realized that all these women had an opinion on legislative matters they would surely vote the way we wanted. What I learned however, was that the media had no desire to hear anything we had to say and our elected officials didn't seem to think we were smart enough to have an opinion on anything.

I then decided the problem was the media. Our elected officials were listening to the media and the media was obviously biased and not listening to us. So, I started a campaign to get an evening news program on the Fox affiliate stations like the other major networks had. Surely, I thought, if there was a Fox News evening news program on local Fox stations across the country it would provide competition to the biased network media and allow more people in America access to "real" news. Six months into that campaign, after collecting thousands of signatures on petitions and getting the attention of executives at Fox News (including Roger Ailes himself), I found myself on the phone with the Affiliate Relations executive in Hollywood, California. He informed me that no amount of signatures would ever be enough to convince the Fox Network to do this. Six months and over five thousand signatures later I concluded that trying to solve our problems through the media was a grand waste of time and concluded public policy was the answer. So began focusing my efforts on effecting public policy.

I participated in several Family Lobby Days and even organized some of my own. I collaborated with groups and individuals who were introducing policy as well as speaking out against bad policy. I testified before our state legislature on numerous bills for and against, wrote letters and made phone calls to my members of Congress, and even went to Washington to visit them in person since that is where they always seemed to be.

After all my efforts I found that it was nearly impossible to get any kind of meeting with my congressman or Senators. The state legislators put on a good act on Lobby Day. We got a few smiles, pats on the head and our children went home with coloring books as souvenirs. The bills I testified for were almost always dead on arrival and the ones I testified against, well, the legislators flat out told me they were going to pass them anyway.

That is when I concluded the real problem in America was that the wrong people were in office and we needed better people serving at all levels of government. So, I got involved in elections. I volunteered on campaigns; I registered voters, and passed out voter information throughout our neighborhood and at the polls on Election Day. We won some elections and lost others and all in all it was a very good experience but it also taught me a valuable lesson—it doesn't matter how good a candidate is, or how much he respects the Constitution if the voters don't value either. And that is when it hit me, that is when I realized that the place where I have the greatest impact on our nation is the place where I have always been—at home.

The more I thought about it the more I realized that I was spending all my efforts trying to fix what I thought was the problem when in reality they were only symptoms of it. The problem isn't with Congress, the media, or even government, the problem, is that Liberty is homegrown and not enough people are growing it.

We have outsourced our training in liberty and virtue. For decades now we have counted on the schools, churches, media, and community to influence our children for good. Is it working? Are you happy with the results? Liberty doesn't begin in Congress, it begins at home. Everything outside the home is a *resource* for the family not a *replacement* for it. Winston Churchill said, "There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues of human society, are created, strengthened and maintained." I know this to be true.

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We cannot preserve liberty and change the course of our nation if we don't start with our own hearts and in our own homes. We are raising the future leaders, reporters, entertainers, teachers, policy makers, and voters in our homes today. How can we expect liberty and virtue to prevail if we don't start there?



That is the truth that has brought me full circle.

There are already so many groups and organizations out there to help support Americans in all those other areas. The Liberty movement has provided a wealth of support and resources, but the one place that was lacking was the place that matters most; where liberty begins—in the home.

So we at HomeMakers for America have completely redirected our focus dedicating all our efforts to that place where we, as women, have the greatest impact; where our voice has the highest value; and where our intrinsic influence can literally change the course of our nation and preserve liberty for generations to come. And with your help, will continue to grow and flourish; because while we know that elections, public policy and an active citizenry are all vitally important in preserving liberty, we know, from our own experience, that the place it all begins is in the home!