



Technical Women's Organization 2022 Hall of Fame Winner



Vera D. Fortman

Vera joined the Technical Women's Organization in 2005. She served as the TWO Central Region Representative 2007 - 2009, some of her accomplishments included Marketing Day for member recruitment, Adopted a family for Thanksgiving and Christmas, CFC cookout for donations and numerous back to school supply drives for United Way and a couple of Elementary Schools. She also worked with the 2006 TWO Conference Committee. When she moved to Fort Worth, TX in 2009, she continued striving forward working with the Technical Women's Organization. She later ran for Southwest Regional Director in 2010 and began to work as she was known to do. Her accomplishments as the Southwest Region Director include Marketing Day for recruitment, Brown Bag luncheons with speakers and she was instrumental in assisting the Southwest Regional Administrator in organizing a meeting for all eight employee associations to work together. She organized a Meet and Greet Event with the President of TWO. At this event 15 people joined the Technical Women's Organization. She would put up displays in the lobby of the Southwest Regional Office for Women's History Month and TWO join Training Conferences. She came up with several themes for the training conference. She was later asked

by several members of TWO to run for President of the organization in 2013. She ran and won, becoming the first African American Woman to ever be President of the Technical Women's Organization. A survey was sent out to the membership before the election to find out some of the concerns of the members. After winning the election Vera went to work addressing the issues that were pointed out in the survey. To address one issue from the survey, she started the Quarterly Membership Meeting, where members received updates on what was going on in the organization and got to ask questions. These update meetings were done every other quarter. The remaining quarterly meetings were used for the membership to hear from FAA Executives and ask them questions. She continued the Brown Bag Luncheons by having speakers and training at the luncheon events. She got approval to have the events available for all members viewing and participation. She next started working on improving Women's History Month by having informational displays in the lobby. In 2017 she stepped it up by having the first Women History Month program theme "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business". The guest speakers were Betsy Price, Mayor of Fort Worth, TX and Kelly Anderson, Executive Director Dallas Fort Worth Federal Executive Board. In 2018, she went back to focusing on training each week of March in honor of Women's History Month. In 2019, It was time to have another program the theme "Our History is our Strength" Women's Suffrage "The 19th Amendment. Everyone was asking to wear something white with a guest enactment of Fanny Lou Hamer (Civil Rights Crusader) portrayed by Sandra Campbell. Vera spent a lot of time working on outreach programs and recruitment for the FAA. She was in elementary, middle and high schools talking to the students about her aviation career with the FAA and getting other members involved in doing the same. She did career fairs promoting jobs with the FAA. She partnered with a high school teacher at Dunbar High School to bring aviation to his high school students. She also worked on several committees, conference, marketing, finance and recruitment. She also held other positions within the organization, Vice-President, and Treasurer. She also was instrumental in the website redesign and continue to work with the web developer on the website to this day. She was very motivated in helping the FAA hire more women and minorities.

Family, Friends and giving back to the community is very important to her.