



TFRW Region 17, Senate District 7

NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Potpourri

An Award-Winning Federated Club
Houston ~ North Harris County
Founded June 1974

www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org
info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org

March, 2023

Volume 48, Issue 3

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 13, 2023
The Honorable Jacquie Baly

Place: Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, 77090
Time: 11:30 a.m. Call to Order, Lunch, Business meeting, 1:00 p.m. Adjournment

Reservations: click [HERE](#)

by **9:00 AM, Friday, March 10th.**

Lunch \$25, or \$5 for beverages and meeting only.
Walk-ins and late reservations \$30

Make checks payable to "Shirley Acres."

To pay 2023 dues, see Kathy Mason, 2nd VP/Membership at the membership table.

1ST VP/Programs

Tracine Gibson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Nancy Radcliffe*

Have you considered why you are a Republican? What makes you align with our party's platform and vision? I think it's important to be able to articulate reasons without just condemning the other side or pointing out what they do wrong. I challenge each of you to think about this question and tell someone in the next few days WHY you are a proud Republican and additionally why you belong to Northwest Forest Republican Women. One of my reasons for belonging to this organization is because of the training opportunities available to grow and learn about all things political at the national, state, and local level. As I mentioned at the February meeting, you have received a registration flyer to attend the "Original" Nuts 'N Bolts training being offered by Greater Houston Council on March 28, 2023. I encourage each of you to consider attending. It's only \$20, which includes both training and lunch. What a deal!



Lastly, speaking of training, five of us traveled to Austin on Friday, February 3, to attend the Texas Federation of Republican Women Legislative Day. While there were challenges with weather and scheduling as the House was not in session, we still had an eventful day of workshops and hearing from various speakers. One of the highlights was our luncheon speaker, The Honorable Jane Nelson. Having been appointed the 115th Texas Secretary of State by Governor Greg Abbott on January 5, 2023, Secretary Nelson is a businesswoman and former teacher who served two terms on the State Board of Education and 30 years as a State Senator representing North Texas. She was the first woman in Texas legislative history to chair a standing budget-writing committee and served as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee for four sessions, among other vital positions. I encourage you to read about her and the knowledge and skills she brings to her new position. I look forward to seeing you on March 13 as we celebrate CAMP HOPE Day. Please remember your monetary and item donations. Thank you!



For our March meeting, we invite you to join us as we welcome The Honorable Jacquie Baly. If you have seen or heard Baly on various television and radio stations, including FOX, KTRH, and KSEV, you know she is a very busy political analyst, and we are happy to have her speak at our meeting.

The Honorable Jacquie Baly is President of BalyProjects, a local consulting firm specializing in planning and public affairs. Additionally, she serves as an adviser to Governor Greg Abbott on Higher Education initiatives; serves as the Harris County Commissioners Court appointee on the newly created board dealing with economic development and business opportunities for women; and teaches as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston, where she has taught public policy for over 15 years.

Baly participates in many activities to support Republican causes. She is currently a Republican Party Precinct Chair and a Fort Bend Republican Women's PAC member. A native of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, she holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration. She is the proud mother of Raphael, a collegiate athlete pursuing his MBA at Boston College. Her younger son Alex recently graduated from Harvard University with high honors in neuroscience and is on the pre-med track.

BEST WE CAN BE IN '23!



**NWFRW BOARD 2023
OFFICERS**

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Nancy Radcliffe

1st Vice President Programs

Tracine Gibson

2nd Vice President Membership

Kathy Mason

3rd Vice President Political Activities

Marcia Fitzpatrick

Secretary

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Cindy Eschenburg

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Mary Ann Vandermark

Hospitality

Mary Ellen Cox

Legislative

Shirley Kitchens

Liaison to Council

Dana Khan

Alternate to Council

Ana Carson

Newsletter

Judy Aswad

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Publicity

Kathy Crosby

Reservations

Elaine Kisseberth

Scholarship

Susan Langenheim, Barbara Young

Voter Registration

Donna Rubli

Website and Social Media

Linda LeCroy

Yearbook/Directory

Rene D'Alessandro, Jo Konen

Immediate Past President

Sylvia Manley

MINUTES, February 13, 2023

Secretary Merry Keith

President Nancy Radcliffe called the NWFRW General Meeting to order on Monday, February 13, 11:31 AM, at Shirley Acres.

Chaplain Cindy Eschenburg gave the invocation. The Honorable Lincoln Goodwin led the pledges. President Nancy Radcliffe introduced and welcomed visiting Republican Women's Clubs:

Memorial West, CyFair, Heart of Tomball, and The Texas Tea Party. She mentioned the upcoming "Original Nuts 'N Bolts" training on March 28, 2023, sponsored by the Greater Houston Council.

3rd VP/Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick introduced and welcomed the elected officials/representatives.

1st VP/Programs Tracine Gibson introduced the speaker, The Honorable Jack Cagle. He worked with and served the residents of Harris County for over 30 years as an attorney, an elected judge, and as our Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner.

LUNCH

Minutes from the NWFRW January 9, 2023, General Meeting were approved as printed in the *Potpourri*.

Treasurer Stephany Jackson gave the Treasurer's Report and it is filed with the minutes.

PAC Treasurer Gaynell Lira gave the PAC Treasurer's Report and it is filed with the minutes.

1st VP/Programs Tracine Gibson announced that the speaker for the March 13, 2023 General Meeting will be The Honorable Jacquie Baly who has been on various television and radio stations, including FOX, KTRH, and KSEV. She is President of BalyProjects, a local consulting firm specializing in planning and public affairs. The Honorable Jaquie Baly has worked with Governor Abbott, serves as the Harris County Commissioners Court appointee, and teaches as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston, where she has taught public policy for over 15 years.

2nd VP/Membership Kathy Mason announced that our "herd is growing"! We have 184 primary and 20 associate members as of this meeting. Kathy greeted the many guests that were at the meeting, and reminded members to pick up their badges.

3rd VP/Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick reported that we prepared over 7,000 postcards for The Honorable Jack Cagle's re-election. It was a disappointment that we could not visit the House on February 2nd, but several members drove to Austin on February 3rd to attend the TFRW Legislative Workshops and luncheon. They heard from some of the Freshman Legislators and Senator John Cornyn and got to view a mock hearing. The 88th Session of the Texas Legislature is underway. The last day to file a bill is March 10th. The Session ends on May 29th. Pick a bill and follow it; be sure to let your State Representatives and State Senator know your opinion by calling or emailing their offices. She reminded members that Commissioners Court is every Tuesday. You can attend in person or via Zoom. It's important to keep up with what is happening in Harris County. Please keep track of your volunteer hours and report them at each meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jo Konen/Yearbook Directory reported the advertising deadline for the 2023 Yearbook/Directory is March 1, 2023. There are still ads needed to pay for the cost of the printing of 275 Yearbooks, which is over \$1,000. Anyone interested in making a phone call or two, your help would be greatly appreciated. She has the specification sheets and information needed to place an ad. As always, we will get this done together!

Pam Hughes reported that 48,510 wreaths were put out for Wreaths Across America. The money that our club collected will go to Camp Hope. She presented a check to Nancy Radcliffe for \$535 for Camp Hope.

Susan Langenheim/Scholarship reported that three applications have been given out for the Priscilla Petty Scholarship since January. If anyone knows a senior girl who is interested in applying, the applications are on the NWFRW's website and are due by March 31, 2023.

Tom Nobis/SDC 7 Committee Representative reported that all committee assignments have been completed. There are eight Democratic chairs in the House as opposed to the previous thirteen. Governor Abbott's State Address is this week. March 3rd and March 4th are the quarterly meetings in Austin. You can watch them by attending in Austin or watching online. There was no unfinished business or new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 20, 2023, 7:00PM, NWFRW Board Meeting, Huntwick Clubhouse

March 13, 2023, 11:30AM, NWFRW General Meeting, Shirley Acres – **Camp Hope Day**

March 20, 2023, 7:00PM, NWFRW Board Meeting, Huntwick Clubhouse

March 28, 2023, Greater Houston Council "Original" Nuts 'N Bolts training, Trini Mendenhall Center

President Nancy Radcliffe adjourned the General Meeting at 1:03PM.

BEST WE CAN BE IN '23!

2ND VP/MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Mason

We reached the magic number to maintain our super jumbo size status!! This assists us in making a difference at our local, state and national levels. Thank you to the wonderful members who brought a guest to the February meeting; that made the difference in reaching our initial membership goal. At this point, there are 202 primary members and 34 associate members. Also, the 2023 Directory should be available at the March meeting. The 2023 membership form is attached to the email with the March newsletter. The cost is \$45 to join for primary membership and \$30 for an associate membership which includes women who are primary members in another federated club or an enlightened gentleman. Name badges are also available to be purchased for \$10. Please complete the entire membership form, attach a signed check and return it in an envelope as soon as possible or bring it to the March meeting. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at 713-502-6194 or email me at kathleen.mason@sbcglobal.net. Our membership motto is "Come a Guest, Leave a Member." See you at our March meeting, and let's keep the momentum going.

BEST WE CAN BE IN '23!

3RD VP/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Marcia Fitzpatrick

It was great to hear from former Commissioner Jack Cagle at our February meeting. Please be reminded that it is important we keep abreast of the items brought to Commissioners Court and support the lone Republican Commissioner Tom Ramsey. The Harris County Commissioners Court is in session every Tuesday; you can attend in person or watch via Zoom. This is an off-election year, but there will be several items on the ballot in both May and November. Now would be a good time to make sure your family's voter registration is up to date (i.e., change of address or name change). **Remember Republicans who stay home or don't vote..... elect Democrats!** The 88th Texas Legislature is in full swing with the last day to file a bill being March 10th. You are encouraged to follow a bill that interests you, and let your opinion be known through contacting your State Representative or State Senator by calling and emailing their offices. When Republican women work together, we win!

RESERVATIONS HOSPITALITY

Thank you to everyone who is making their monthly luncheon reservations by the 9:00 am deadline on the Friday before our Monday meetings. It is important that we give our venue, Shirley Acres, an accurate count. They must purchase the correct amount of food to prepare, since they are not a restaurant. When making your reservations, you should receive two confirmations. After you hit the "Submit" link, a green screen will appear immediately that says:

AMERICANISM

Jennie Kahanek

It's that time again- CAMP HOPE DAY on Monday, March 13. We are blessed to be able to share our bountiful resources with others in need. NWFRW members have such giving and caring hearts, and I look forward to what a great day we will have. We are fortunate that our speaker at the end of the meeting will once again be Zach Alexander. For those of you who were present, no doubt you remember Zach from last year and will be looking forward to hearing from him again. BRING YOUR CHECKBOOKS!!! Let's support Camp Hope and the wonderful work they are doing with our Veterans. The following is a list of the most needed items at this time: *candy, sliced bread, cases of bottled water, powdered or fresh eggs, butter, backpacks, running shoes (sizes 12, 13 and 14), hoodie jackets, multi-purpose cleaner, dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent, floor cleaner, glass cleaner with spray bottle, bleach, paper plates and plastic utensils, plastic zipper bags (Ziploc-all sizes), dish soap (non-detergent), toilet paper, trash bags (13-55 gallon only), hangers, micro-plush blankets, alarm clocks, packing tape, postage stamps, 3/5 subject notebooks, batteries (9 volt), mops and mop heads, plastic totes (large), Mucinex, expectorant, or ibuprofen.*

A most sincere thank you to all our members.

SCHOLARSHIP

*Susan Langenheim
Barbara Young*

Currently, we have distributed three applications for the 2023 Priscilla Petty Scholarship. This \$1,000 will be awarded to a female graduating from a Texas high school, who has been recommended by a primary member of NWFRW. As members of our organization, please think about your network of friends and associates, having daughters, granddaughters or nieces who could benefit from receiving this scholarship to help with university expenses. The applicant must be accepted into an accredited bachelor's degree program at a college or university in the United States. You still have time to pick up the application for a young lady who is interested in applying for the scholarship and return to Susan Langenheim or Barbara Young, no later than March 31, 2023. We look forward to honoring our recipient at the May luncheon meeting. Please feel free to ask either one of us if you need an application or have questions. You can also print an application off from our website, www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org. Thank you!

*Elaine Kisseberth
Mary Ellen Cox*

**HELLO, RESERVATION CONFIRMED.
THANK YOU NWFRW HOUSTON, TX**

You will also receive an email within 24 hours that confirms your reservation. As you are checking into Shirley Acres, the tables are divided by alphabetical groupings. Please check in according to your last name. If you have a guest with you, that person can check in at your same table. Again, we thank you for helping us make the reservations and check-in processes go as smoothly as possible. We LOVE our members and want the procedures to go well for all of you.

LEGISLATIVE

Shirley Kitchens

The Stakes Are High! – Texas was first established in 1821 led by Stephen F. Austin as the first and largest Anglo-American settlement in Mexican Texas. These brave pioneers were willing to risk life and family for the promise of freedom and a new opportunity. Texas was unique with its wealth of oil, gas, minerals, rich farmland, and mineral rich water. From those early beginnings, we see a rich heritage of abundant life offerings and a pioneer spirit of hard work and fair government. As our present Governor Greg Abbott relates, the pioneer spirit continues to thrive as Texas leads the nation in job opportunities, manufacturing, and critical businesses. As we look to our leaders for that continued prosperity, it becomes important to set priorities. On Friday, February 16th, Governor Abbott did just that. Since China has created a dominant agenda for control of manufacturing and businesses in general, he has stated that Texans must “embrace” companies which are innovative and “will make Texas more self-reliant to create our own products and to secure the Texas of tomorrow.” Currently, Texas is number one in new jobs (1.9 million), economic development, exports, and is number one for Fortune 500 headquarters.” With a \$2 trillion dollar economy, Texas is now “the ninth-largest economy in the world.”

BUT, to keep Texas competitive for businesses, “our local communities need new economic development tools this session.” That means we must reduce the “gridlock” in our courts by creating “specialized courts” which can have the expertise to deal with complex commercial litigation. Another priority of this session will be to focus on property taxes which are “suffocating” citizens. To that end, the Senate and the House of Representatives have proposed using \$15 billion to cut property taxes. With our booming economy and growing population, our infrastructure in Texas needs to bolster our transportation. The Senate and House of Representatives have worked together and will announce a \$100 billion plan to build and improve roads and transportation in Texas. In addition, after the last severe freeze and bad weather conditions, fourteen bipartisan laws have passed to strengthen the power grid so that no Texan will lose power due to the state grid. As Texas continues to attract residents from all parts, Governor Abbott announced an emergency item to end COVID restrictions forever which will prohibit any government from imposing COVID mask mandates, COVID vaccine mandates, and business or school closures because of COVID. In the future, legislature will convene to access the needs of a declared pandemic.

Pictures from February's General Meeting



Visit www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org for useful information and informative articles
This is not an endorsement by the President, the Campaign Chair, or the Club. It is information for members to be engaged and stay informed.

Pol. Ad. paid for by Northwest Forest RW PAC, Gaynell Lira, PAC Treasurer, 15455 Canterbury Forest, Apt. 314, Tomball, TX 77377

Contributions are not federal tax deductible as charitable contributions. Corporate contributions are not permitted. Solicitations made by federal candidates and officeholders are limited by federal law. The federal candidates and officeholders are soliciting only donations of up to \$2800 from individuals and up to \$5000 from multi-candidate political committees. They are not soliciting donations in any amount from corporations, labor organizations, national banks, federal contractors, or foreign nationals.

March 13 - NWFRW General Meeting Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road,

March 10 - 9:00 a.m. meeting reservation due. Lunch reservations click [HERE](#)