



NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Potpourri

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

www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org
info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org

TFRW Region 17, Senate District 7

January 2024

Volume 49, Issue 1

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 8, 2024

The Honorable Wayne Christian

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, January 5, 2024**

Lunch \$25, or \$5 for beverages and meeting only.

Walk-ins and late reservations \$30

Make checks payable to "Shirley Acres."

To pay 2024 dues, see Kathy Mason, 2nd VP/Membership
at the membership table.

1ST VP/PROGRAMS

Tracine Gibson

On January 8, 2024, NWFRW welcomes The Honorable Wayne Christian, elected in November 2016 as our 50th Texas Railroad Commissioner. Entering 2024, the Railroad Commission of Texas will celebrate 133 years of serving Texans! As the state's oldest regulatory agency, RRC has had a critical role in protecting the interests of the public. The Railroad Commission of Texas is the state agency with primary regulatory jurisdiction over the oil and natural gas industry, pipeline transporters, natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline industry, natural gas utilities, the LP-gas industry, critical natural gas infrastructure, and coal and uranium surface mining operations. Interestingly, since 2005, the Railroad Commission of Texas no longer has any jurisdiction or authority over railroads in Texas.



As we begin 2024, questions Commissioner Christian will address: **Are we using our resources wisely? How are our energy choices impacting the environment? Can we count on the electrical grid as we move into the winter months?**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Nancy Radcliffe*

Happy New Year to each one of you! 2024 is going to be a busy and focused year for NWFRW. As we work together to get Republicans elected, remember **your vote is your voice**. Make sure your voice is heard during the primary election in March and in the general election in November. Voting is at the foundation of our democracy, and voting determines the future of our community, state, and nation. All one must do is look around at the failed policies of the Democrats at all levels of government.



It's not enough to just get ourselves to the polls for these elections. We must commit to ensuring people in our networks vote as well. In addition, we need to assist in getting more voters registered to vote and to the polls. **NWFRW will be involved in putting "service before self" by hosting voter registration drives and "Get Out the Vote" initiatives. We want you to be involved.**

Please remember that per TFRW and NWFRW by-laws, as a Republican women's club, we may not endorse one Republican over another in a primary or run-off election between two candidates. Of course, what you do as an individual away from our NWFRW meetings and events is up to your own discretion. Above all else, let's agree to our motto:

UNITE!
SOAR IN '24!



NWFRW BOARD 2024 OFFICERS

President

Nancy Radcliffe

1st Vice President Programs

Marcia Fitzpatrick

2nd Vice President Membership

Kathy Mason

3rd Vice President Political Activities

Lauren Lothringer

Secretary

Merry Keith

Treasurer

Lisa Migl

PAC Treasurer

Gaynell Lira

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Americanism/Caring for America

Tracie Anderson, Ana Carson

Awards

Gay Garrett

Bylaws

LaDonna MacDonald

Chaplain

Cindy Eschenburg

Historian

Mary Ann Vandermark

Hospitality

Mary Ellen Cox

Legislative

Dana Khan

Liaison to Council

Dana Hines

Alternate to Council

Tracine Gibson

Newsletter

Judy Aswad

Parliamentarian

Sue Kikis

Publicity

Kathy Crosby

Reservations

Elaine Kisseberth

Scholarship

Paula Georgina, Barbara Young

Voter Registration

Shirley Kitchens, Donna Rubli

Website and Social Media

Linda LeCroy, Nicole Peters

Yearbook/Directory

Jo Konen, Marti Schwind

Immediate Past President

Sylvia Manley

MINUTES, December 11, 2023

Secretary Merry Keith

President Nancy Radcliffe called the NWFRW General Meeting to order on Monday, December 11, 2023, 11:33 AM, at Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, Texas.

Chaplain Cindy Eschenburg gave the invocation and led the pledges to the United States flag and the Texas flag.

President Nancy Radcliffe welcomed everyone to the last NWFRW General Meeting of 2023. She recognized the 2023 Board of Directors and thanked them for their service this year, mentioning how much work they've done and how much the club will need others from the membership to help during this important 2024 election year.

3rd VP Political Activities/Marcia Fitzpatrick introduced and welcomed elected officials, candidates, and veterans to the meeting.

1st VP Programs/Tracine Gibson introduced the special guests of the "Christmas Extravaganza," Santa and Mrs. Claus! Many members took advantage of having their pictures taken with them. Tracine also introduced a special group providing the entertainment, The Christmas Carolers, who brightened our spirits while singing many popular Christmas songs.

LUNCH

The Minutes from the November 13, 2023 NWFRW General Meeting were approved as printed in the *Potpourri* and will be filed with the secretary.

Treasurer Stephany Jackson gave the Treasurer's Report. It will be filed with the Minutes.

PAC Treasurer Gaynell Lira gave the PAC Treasurer's Report. It will be filed with the Minutes.

1st VP Programs/Tracine Gibson reported that the speaker for the January 8, 2024, NWFRW General Meeting will be The Honorable Wayne Christian, who was elected the 50th Texas Railroad Commissioner in November 2016. Celebrating 133 years of serving Texans in 2024, the Railroad Commission of Texas has had a critical role in protecting the interests of the public. President Nancy Radcliffe added that the February General Meeting will host a special forum for the candidates for Harris County Sheriff. The four candidates plan to attend.

2nd VP Membership/Kathy Mason reported that our club is on track for 2024. The total membership as of December 11th is 156. There were 67 new members who joined in 2023! Kathy welcomed the guests and encouraged them to join the club. NWFRW communication begins right away after joining and you can make a reservation to attend the meetings. The annual primary membership is \$45, and associate membership is \$30 (for men, along with women who are primary members of other federated clubs). Renewing members may pay with cash, check, or credit card (with a nominal fee). Signs at the membership table indicate the credit card totals. New members may pay with cash or check.

Our club will host two evening Meet & Greets for new members and their guests at the Thistle Draftshop in 2024. The first one will be January 29th. New members will be receiving an invitation at the beginning of January. Please keep inviting guests to attend.

3rd VP Political Activities/Marcia Fitzpatrick reported that in 2023 there were many ways to get involved to help candidates get elected: distribute and display yard signs, get out the vote telling friends and neighbors, postcard parties, calling on behalf of candidates, and a judicial candidate petition signing. She gave a huge thank you to all who participated. Dates to remember: Early Voting for the Primary begins February 20th, with Election Day on March 5th.

Make sure your voter registration is up to date, as well as members of your family, and children in college.

Be sure to log in your volunteer hours at each meeting. Guidelines for counting hours are on page 7 of the Directory.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SD7 Committee Chairman/Tom Nobis reported on the SREC Quarterly meeting held December 1-2. He spoke about the National Convention next summer with 161 delegates representing our clubs. He announced that the National Convention is slated to be held in Houston in 2028.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Merry Keith made a motion on behalf of the Board of Directors for Northwest Forest Republican Women to increase the amount of the Priscilla Petty Scholarship to \$1,500, effective for 2024. President Nancy Radcliffe noted that a second was not required and asked for discussion. No discussion was offered. President Nancy Radcliffe called for a vote on the motion. The result of the vote was a unanimous "yes" from the NWFRW membership. The motion was passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NWFRW General Meeting - January 8, 2024, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Rd., Houston, Texas

NWFRW Board Meeting - January 15, 2024, 6:30 PM, HC MUD #24 Building, 17035 Deer Creek Drive, Spring, TX

ADJOURNMENT

President Nancy Radcliffe recognized all those who worked to set up everything for the "Christmas Extravaganza" and thanked them for their help. She adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.

2ND VP/MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Mason

Happy New Year 2024! I'm excited to continue fulfilling the membership responsibilities as 2nd VP. We are off to a great start with our membership numbers, and I truly appreciate those of you who have already renewed or joined as first-time members. **Now it's time for a BIG push to get our membership numbers over 220 by March to maintain our status as a super jumbo size organization.** This assists us in making a difference at our local, state, and national levels. A blank membership form is included with the newsletter. The cost is \$45 to join as a primary member 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 January meeting. New in 2024, it is possible while at a meeting to pay your membership with a credit card. This will include a nominal fee. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at 713-502-6194 or email me at kathleen.mason@sbcglobal.net.

As we begin 2024, I encourage each of you to bring a guest or two to our January meeting and introduce them to this wonderful and informative Republican organization. Our membership motto is "Come a Guest, Leave a Member." Each of us can make a difference with perseverance, determination, and drive while working as a team.

UNITE!
SOAR in '24!

3RD VP/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Marcia Fitzpatrick

It has been my privilege to serve as 3rd VP Political Activities of NWFRW for the past two years. There were many ways to get involved: distribution and displaying of yard signs, get-out-the-vote initiatives, postcard parties, phone calling on behalf of candidates, and the judicial candidates petition signing. A huge thank you to all who participated! We will have more opportunities to get involved in the coming year; stay tuned. When Republican women work, we win.

Early voting begins on February 20th with Primary Election Day on March 5th. We need to elect the best Republicans to win in November. **Republicans who don't vote...elect Democrats!**

Be sure your voter registration is up to date, as well as those in your family. Check for changes of address and children away at college.

Hope you are enjoying this wonderful season with your family and friends. See you in January 2024 ready to work to get Republicans elected.

Unite!
Soar in '24!

CHAPLAIN

Cindy Eschenburg

Have you ever thought about the importance of starting our Northwest Forest Republican Women meetings with prayer? So often, even during prayer, we are all busy thinking about the activities that need to be done to prepare for the events of the day. This may be the most important reason to pray at our meetings - to stop and acknowledge the importance of God. Prayer in America has a long history; even the founding fathers knew that it was key. President George Washington declared, October 3, 1789: "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his will... and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress, by their joint committee, request me to 'recommend to the People of the United States a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayers to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God.'" Since that time, The House of Representatives begins each legislative day with a prayer. When we meet together, as those before us, we all come with different opinions, with various agendas of importance, both political and personal. We come with distractions; the world seems out of control. The challenge is this: how do we stop and converse with God? When we start our meeting with prayer, it is an opportunity to set God and his wisdom and guidance as our priority. We also bring a sense of unity to our organization. Let us all pray as we begin a new year that NWFRW will act with wisdom, grace, and discernment in the important election year of 2024.

Priscilla Petty Scholarship Update

On December 11, 2023, the membership of NWFRW voted to increase the amount for the Priscilla Petty Scholarship to \$1,500, effective in 2024. Be watching for an updated scholarship form and additional information soon. This annual scholarship is awarded to a female graduating from a Texas high school who has been recommended by a primary member of NWFRW. The applicant must be accepted into an accredited bachelor's degree program at a college or university in the United States. Start thinking about who you can nominate for 2024. The applications will be due March 31.



Texas Empowered to Arrest Immigrants. On Monday, December 18th, Governor Abbott flew to the Brownsville border for a signing ceremony of recent immigration legislation passed to de-escalate the thousands of illegal immigrants crossing the border each day. Joining him were Senator Charles Perry, Lubbock; Joan Huffman, Houston; and Pete Flores, Burnett County. Senator Perry's Bill 4 will make it a state misdemeanor to illegally cross the border between ports of entry from Mexico into Texas. This bill will allow police to arrest those who do not have proper documentation. In turn, judges will be required to order the illegal immigrant(s) returned to Mexico. Although it is already illegal under federal law to cross the border between ports of entry, any prosecuted illegal immigrant is released through the courts under the Biden Administration as a violation of "migrant's civil rights." Under federal law, legal and illegal immigrants have up to a year to apply for asylum. Another conflict may arise in the process of their return across the border. The data from the fiscal year 2023 shows that about 83% of the one million immigrants stopped by the Border Patrol were not Mexican citizens. Most are from Central and South America, Asia, Eastern European countries, and even Canada. According to Senator Perry, lawmakers should focus on getting the Biden Administration's attention. To do that, "Texas must approve legislation that would allow police to start catching people and placing them in detention camps."

In conjunction with SB 4, Senator Joan Huffman sponsored SB 3 which would allow Abbott to use \$1.5 billion to build additional barriers along the 1,200 miles of the Texas-Mexican border. Part of this money will be used to give grants which would support municipal governments' increased costs when enforcing SB 4. Additionally, this bill allows \$40 million to pay for state troopers to patrol Colony Ridge, a growing community northwest of Houston. This controversial community has become a "magnet for illegal immigrants." According to Republican leaders, the developers flout state and local laws and target undocumented people in a growing Spanish-language community. They defend advertising that tells potential buyers they don't need a Social Security number to buy "dirt" (Texas land with paved roads and utilities). In other words, they do not have to be a United States citizen. Where little law enforcement exists, officials say the development is overrun by crime.

Will Governor Abbott Call a Fifth Special Session? Yet to be determined is whether Governor Abbott will call a fifth special session. After several tries, both the Texas Senate and House have failed to pass an Education Savings Account Bill (formerly known as the school voucher legislation). Vendors stand in wait to see if this bill becomes a reality.

Pictures from December's Christmas Extravaganza



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.

January 5, Reservation Deadline, 9:00 AM, Lunch reservation link [HERE](#)

January 8, NWFRW General Meeting, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

January 15, NWFRW Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, HC MUD #24 Building, 17035 Deer Creek Drive, Spring TX

January 16, Greater Houston Council, 9:30 AM, Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055

January 27, TFRW Leadership Day 2024, 7:30 AM- 4:00 PM, Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center, 1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78628

January 29, NWFRW New Member & Guests Meet & Greet, 7:00-8:30 PM Thistle Draftshop, 5210 FM 2920 Suite 100, Spring, TX 77388



Leadership Day 2024

Uniting Republican Women for Texas

January 27th
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SHERATON AUSTIN GEORGETOWN HOTEL
&
CONFERENCE CENTER
1101 Woodlawn Avenue Georgetown Texas



TEXAS FEDERATION
of
Republican Women

*The purpose of Leadership Day is to
provide training for TFRW members.*

Inspiration and motivation will be provided through our general sessions and informative workshops will provide you with the tools needed to be an effective leader.

Gain insight and inspiration from women across the state
and build relationships that will last a lifetime!

Special focus this year...Getting TFRW members to the RPT Convention!

Strength is in numbers. We need to positively strengthen our party!
“Unity not Uniformity”

Welcome Reception
January 26th

SHERATON AUSTIN GEORGETOWN
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

1101 Woodlawn Avenue Georgetown TX
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Leadership Day
January 27th

SHERATON AUSTIN GEORGETOWN
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

1101 Woodlawn Avenue Georgetown TX
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information visit www.tfrw.org

**NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN
2024 MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL DUES FORM**

MUST BE A REGISTERED VOTER*

OCCUPATION REQUIRED*

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Date _____

Home Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ Subdivision: _____

Registered Voter?* Yes _____ Your Senate District # _____ Birthday *(Month & Day)* _____
*(Must be Registered Voter to join)**

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone:* _____ Occupation:* _____

Email Address:* _____ Spouse's Name: _____
(NWFRW Newsletter and information, including National and State Federations, news is sent to you by email.)

Membership Fees:

Primary \$45 New _____ Renew _____ Check# _____ Cash _____ Credit _____ Badge \$10 _____

Associate \$30 New _____ Renew _____ Check# _____ Cash _____ Credit _____ Badge \$10 _____

(Available to men and to women who are primary members of another Federated Republican Women's club)

NWFRW offers many opportunities to volunteer. Please let us know your interests and your skills:

Please check the following committee(s) on which you may wish to serve:

- ☐ Americanism – Promote Patriotism
- ☐ Historian – Compile a scrapbook for the President's term of office
- ☐ Hospitality – Meet and greet members and/or collect money for luncheon
- ☐ Legislative – Track pending Bills in the Texas Legislature and Congress
- ☐ Membership – Record membership and plan occasional events
- ☐ Phone – Relay information to members
- ☐ Political Activities – Assist with getting Republicans elected to office and informing membership
- ☐ Publicity – Disseminate NWFRW information to the community
- ☐ Scholarship – Annual NWFRW Priscilla Petty \$1,500 Scholarship
- ☐ Voter Registration – Be deputized voter registrar
- ☐ Ways & Means – Help plan and execute a biennial fundraiser

Skills:

Attention to Details _____ Bookkeeping _____ Computer Work _____ *(Please detail programs & proficiency):*

Marketing _____ Organizational Skills _____ Planning _____ Public Speaking _____ Other _____

Signature:* _____ **Member who referred you:** _____

**Required to comply with the Texas Ethics Commission and publication of our members' info in our Directory.*

Please mail this form with your check, payable to "NWFRW PAC" to:

Kathy Mason, 2nd Vice President Membership

8807 Kennet Valley Road, Spring, TX 77379

Political Advertising paid for by Northwest Forest Republican Women PAC