



NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN

# Potpourri

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

[www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org](http://www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org)  
[info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org](mailto:info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org)

TFRW Region 17, Senate District 7

September, 2024

Volume 49, Issue 8

## NEXT MEETING

**Monday, September 9, 2024**

**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, Sept. 6, 2024

**Lunch \$32.00, or \$5.00 for beverages and meeting only.**

**Walk-ins and late reservations \$37.00**

**Make checks payable to "Shirley Acres."**

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

### 1<sup>ST</sup> VP/PROGRAMS *Marcia Fitzpatrick*

One dynamite speaker that *can WIN come November:* Please welcome **Dan Simons**, candidate for Harris County District Attorney. Having grown up in extreme poverty, Dan found himself homeless many times in his childhood and had no choice but to live in cars or tents to survive. When he was twelve, seeking some sense of stability so that he could graduate high school, he made the tough decision to move in with a family he met at the Salvation Army. Through sheer determination and hard work, he graduated in the top of his class and became the first person in his family to graduate from high school.



After graduating from high school in 1996, he decided to serve his country by joining the United States Air Force. In 2005, he moved back to Texas with the goal to further his education and become a lawyer. He graduated from Sam Houston State University in 2008, at the top of his class and then attended the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, graduating Magna Cum Laude in December of 2011. Mr. Simons received his Masters in Tax Law from the University of Houston in 2013. Serving in the Harris County district attorney's office, as a Misdemeanor Chief in Criminal Court No. 14, he reduced the docket by over 200 cases in less than four months. In early 2017, he left the DA's Office to work in private practice and has his own law firm.

Mr. Simon's unique background makes him an ideal candidate for the position of Harris County District Attorney. His mission for change is to restore public safety and trust; ensure business owners receive equal protection under the law; keep violent criminals behind bars; no more wrongful convictions; develop and maintain excellent relationships with police; ensure victims receive the respect, justice and protection they deserve, and to correct mistakes rather than hiding them. **COME HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY! Turning Harris County RED!**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Nancy Radcliffe*

Have you developed a **PLAN for VOTING** in the November 5th election? Early voting begins on **Monday, October 21st**. "Banking your vote" by voting early is encouraged by many candidates. Just be certain you know where to vote and the hours and dates that the voting centers are open. A useful source for information is [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com).



Secondly, set a personal goal to contact a **minimum of ten people** in your network and encourage them to vote for Republican candidates. Target Independent voters who you know. Remember elections are won by those who show up and vote!

*Let's work to keep Texas RED and turn Harris County RED!*

Response to the Poll Watcher/Election Integrity training hosted by NWFRW on September 7th has been robust. If you have not yet made a reservation and want to attend, the deadline is September 1st. Reserve your place by sending an email to: [info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org](mailto:info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org). **Even if you are not able to be a poll watcher, it is important to be informed!**

Elections do have consequences, and every vote matters! While Presidential or other national elections draw significant focus, state and local elections typically get less attention but are of equal importance to quality of life. A Portland State University study found that nationally fewer than 15% of eligible voters turn out to vote for local elections. **Be certain you vote all the way down the ballot!**

*"The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished."*

**President Ronald Reagan**

**September is NWFRW annual Dictionary Project Drive. Please support this educational endeavor!**

**VOTE!**

**UNITE!**

**Soar in '24!**



## NWFRW BOARD 2024 OFFICERS

### President

Nancy Radcliffe

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Programs

Marcia Fitzpatrick

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Membership

Kathy Mason

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, August 12, 2024

Merry Keith

**President Nancy Radcliffe** called the NWFRW General Meeting to order on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 11:32 AM, and welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**Chaplain Cindy Eschenburg** gave the invocation. Precinct 4 Harris County Constable Mark Herman led the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP Political Activities, Lauren Lothringer** welcomed and introduced the elected officials, candidates, and military veterans.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs, Marcia Fitzpatrick** introduced the speaker, former Commissioner Steve Radack, who is the Republican candidate for the office of Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector.

### LUNCH

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes from the NWFRW June 10, 2024, general meeting were approved as printed in the *Potpourri* and will be filed with the secretary.

**Treasurer, Lisa Migl** gave the Treasurer's Report, and it will be filed with the minutes

**PAC Treasurer, Gaynell Lira** gave the PAC Treasurer's Report, and it will be filed with the minutes.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs, Marcia Fitzpatrick** reported that the speaker for September's meeting will be another Republican candidate for County office, Mr. Dan Simons. He is the current candidate for Harris County District Attorney, one of the most powerful elected positions in the county.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership, Kathy Mason** reported that we are *still* the largest Federated Republican Women's organization in the Great State of Texas for 2024! She recognized the many guests at the meeting and welcomed them to join the club. There are now 251+ primary members and 56 associate members. Annual membership for primary is \$45, and for associates, it is \$30. Addendums to the Directory were given out at this meeting, and there are still some name badges that need to be picked up at the membership table.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP Political Activities, Lauren Lothringer** reported that Republican yard signs are available at this meeting. Each member gets one free yard sign and may pay \$5.00 for a second one. Guests may buy a yard sign for \$5.00. Our club will be having three "Postcard Parties" at the George H.W. Bush Community Center beginning with August 21<sup>st</sup> to help get Republican judges elected in Harris County. An email will be sent with a link for signing up for one, two, or all three parties to help send out these postcards. The other dates are September 10<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>. The email will also have information on helping phone bank for the Senator Ted Cruz campaign from 10AM-2PM at Sandlewood Manor, 22402 Holly Creek Trail, Tomball, TX 77377.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Greater Houston Council Liaison, Dana Hines** reported that there will be a "Get Out the Vote" Rally at Mendenhall Community Center on August 27, 2024, from 9:30 AM-1:00 PM. It's free to attend, but one must register for it online by August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Let Dana know if you want to carpool. Also, Greater Houston Council is holding a "Take Flight 2024 Gala" fundraiser on September 7, 2024, at the Lonestar Flight Museum. Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene will be the guest speaker. More information can be found in the August newsletter or on the Greater Houston Council's website. Contact Nancy Radcliffe or Dana Hines, if interested in attending.

**Harris County Joint Judicial Campaign, Former Judge Michael Landrum** spoke about the need to get Republican judges elected. Cases are piling up in Democratic judges' courts because they are not doing their jobs or showing up for work.

### NO OLD BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

**Nominating Committee:** As per club bylaws, nominations were made from the floor for seven members to serve on the nominating committee to present a slate of names for the 2025 NWFRW Executive Officers at the October meeting. Lisa Migl moved to approve the names for the nominating committee. Kathleen Slaydon-Huston seconded the motion. The membership voted and unanimously approved the following members: Tracie Anderson, Cindy Eschenburg, Marcia Fitzpatrick, Gaynell Lira, LaDonna MacDonald, Kathy Mason, and Jan Pacey. The nominating committee will elect a chair from within the group.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NWFRW Board Meeting** – Monday, August 19, 2024, 6:30 PM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Drive, Room #141, Spring, TX 77379

**NWFRW Meet 'N Greet for New Members** – Monday, August 26, 2024, 7:00 PM, Thistle Draftshop, 5210 FM 2920, Suite 100, Spring, TX 77388

**Greater Houston Council** – Tuesday, August 27, 2024, GOTV Rally, 9:30 AM-1:00 PM, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055

**NWFRW Poll Watcher/Election Integrity Training** – Saturday, September 7, 2024, 10:00 AM, Harris County MUD #24 Building, 17035 Deer Creek Drive, Spring, TX 77379

**Greater Houston Council** – Saturday, September 7, 2024, "Take Flight 2024" Gala, 6:00PM, Lone Star Flight Museum, 11551 Aerospace Avenue, Houston, TX 77034

**NWFRW General Meeting** – Monday, September 9, 2024, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

**President Nancy Radcliffe** ended the meeting by saying, "Every election is determined by who shows up. Let's make sure the right people show."

### ADJOURNMENT

**President Nancy Radcliffe** adjourned the meeting at 12:59 PM.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> VP/MEMBERSHIP

*Kathy Mason*

A BIG thanks to all of you for inviting many guests to our meetings. Currently we have 260 primary members and 58 associate members. Keep the membership growing and bring a guest to the September meeting. Our membership motto is "Come a Guest, Leave a Member." According to TFRW rules, in October we will start renewing members for 2025; checks need to be dated NOVEMBER 1, 2024. Also, we will accept new members for 2025, but those checks must be dated January 1, 2025. As a result of this information, we encourage September guests interested in becoming a member to come back as a guest and join at the October meeting. The cost is \$45 for a 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 available to be purchased for \$10. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at 713-502-6194 or email me at [kathleen.mason@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathleen.mason@sbcglobal.net).

REMINDER: Come by the membership table to pick up your addendum to the 2024 Directory.

With the upcoming 2024 election and early voting starting on Monday, October 21, I encourage all of you to choose a neighbor, friend or family member, who is unable to drive, and take them to vote early. Working together, we can make a difference and turn this country red!

**UNITE! Soar in '24!**

## AMERICANISM/ CARING FOR AMERICA

*Tracie Anderson*  
*Ana Carson*

**A huge note of gratitude to all who donated to Camp Hope at our last meeting.** The residents were excited to help unload the many bags of necessities we were able to deliver. Those recovering at Camp Hope have already sacrificed so much, and their hearts for service were on full display after hurricane Beryl. Commissioner Tom Ramsey recently praised them at Harris County Commissioners Court and noted that Camp Hope residents were out doing cleanup and providing assistance to our community. It's an honor for our club to be able to thank them with our continued support!

**Urgent Needs: sandwich bags, men's athletic shirts/shorts (M, L, XL, 2XL), dental plackers, trash bags, twin sheet sets, backpacks, batteries (9V/AAA), and Spartan mosquito repellent. \*\*Remember items should be new and unopened. Checks can be made out directly to Camp Hope and are tax-deductible. Thank you!**



## 3<sup>RD</sup> VP/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

*Lauren Lothringer*

As we approach Labor Day, thank you to NWFRW members for your hard work! It has been a busy summer, and you continue to prove why NWFRW is the best club in the great state of Texas! Let's keep that momentum strong as we head into the fall with many, many more opportunities. **It's a P-A-R-T-Y! A Postcard Party specifically.** We kicked off our postcard party series on Wednesday, August 21st benefiting the Harris County Joint Judicial Campaign with great success and have two more opportunities for our members to help elect Republican Judges! Please RSVP by emailing [info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org](mailto:info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org).

- **Postcard Party #2: Tuesday, September 10th from 10am - 12pm**
- **Postcard Party #3: Tuesday, September 24th from 10am - 12pm**

NWFRW launched "**VOTE REPUBLICAN**" yard signs at our August meeting and will continue to have them available in September and October. Each member (primary and associate) receives *one* complimentary and any additional signs are \$5/each. Guests are also welcome to pay for signs.

We are targeting a new date of **Tuesday, October 8th** to head to Commissioners Court to show support of Commissioner Tom Ramsey who continues to provide shining examples of leadership and decorum. Carpool will be an option, and we should plan to arrive by 9am with a start time of 10am. Please email [info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org](mailto:info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org) to RSVP.

Lastly and most exciting ... **NORTHWEST HOUSTON IS GETTING A GOP SATELLITE OFFICE!** The grand opening is scheduled for **Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**, and we will send a separate email with more details. The office will be located at 13100 Wortham Center Dr. Houston, TX 77065, Suite D.

## THE DICTIONARY PROJECT

*Sue Kikis*

### DICTIONARIES HELP PROMOTE EDUCATION

By donating to The Dictionary Project we have the opportunity to help students in Title 1 schools become good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners. Anyone interested in financially sponsoring this project, please see Sue Kikis at our September meeting. **If you are unable to attend and want to donate, please call or email Sue at 281-379-6366 or [suekikis@gmail.com](mailto:suekikis@gmail.com) or mail your check to Sue Kikis, 20323 Evergreen Springs Lane, Spring, TX 77379.** Donations are tax-deductible and checks should be made to "The Dictionary Project". The books cost \$96 for a box of 24 and any amount is appreciated.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends we distributed four thousand and fifty-six dictionaries to third grade students in Klein and Spring ISD Title 1 schools the last school year. Mary French, Executive Director of The Dictionary Project, donated thirteen boxes of dictionaries so we could give them to the last three Spring schools.

This dictionary also contains the Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, biographies of all US Presidents, some third-grade math and science, and much more. In Title 1 schools, this may be the first book owned by the child and may be the only book in the home.



Several NWFRW members have inquired about the Biden administration’s recent ruling regarding Title IX. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was signed into law more than 50 years ago; however, on April 19, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education released its final rule to revise Title IX to include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” as protected classes. In May 2024, Governor Greg Abbott instructed the Texas Education Agency to ignore President Biden’s illegal dictate of Title IX, and the following week he instructed every public college and university in the State of Texas to do the same. Governor Abbott further stated that he signed laws to ensure the safety of our students on campus and provide a process for adjudicating reports of sexual harassment and sexual assault with adequate due process for all parties involved, as well as laws to protect the integrity of women’s sports by prohibiting men from competing against female athletes – and he will not let President Biden erase the advancements Texas has made.

In June 2024, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Department of Education for issuing guidance that unlawfully extended Title IX to include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” as protected classes. This would have forced Texas schools and universities to allow biological males to use women’s restrooms, locker rooms, and other sex-specific spaces. Any Texas school refusing to follow the mandate risked losing federal education funding. Also in June, a federal district court judge ruled that the Biden Administration’s attempt to “rewrite Title IX in a way that shockingly transforms American education” was unlawful and vacated the rule.

Now, the judge has expanded the ruling - in addition to the injunction Attorney General Ken Paxton secured - stopping another rule promulgated by the DOE that would redefine Title IX to include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity,” which prevents enforcement of that rule while the case continues. This is a major win for protecting Texas and its students from any future attempt by the federal government to impose its unlawful interpretation of Title IX that puts women and girls at risk. Governor Abbott concluded his letter to the TEA and Texas universities and colleges by saying Texas will fight to protect those laws, to protect Texas women, and to deny the President’s abuse of authority.

\*Resources:

- [https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/Texas\\_Regents\\_Title\\_IX.pdf](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/Texas_Regents_Title_IX.pdf)
- <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/attorney-general-ken-paxton-secures-expanded-injunction-against-bidens-harmful-title-ix-rewrite#:~:text=Texas%20Attorney%20General%20Ken%20Paxton,%E2%80%9D%20or%20%E2%80%9Cgender%20identity.%E2%80%9D>
- <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/t9-final-rule-summary.pdf>
- <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-final-title-ix-regulations-providing-vital-protections-against-sex-discrimination>
- <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-signs-vital-save-womens-sports-act>

**PHOTOS FROM THE AUGUST GENERAL MEETING**



Visit [www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org](http://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.*

September 6, Reservation Deadline, 9:00 AM, Lunch reservations link [HERE](#)  
 September 7<sup>th</sup>, Poll Watcher/Election Integrity Training 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, HC MUD #24 Building, 17035 Deer Creek Drive, Spring, Texas 77379  
 September 9, NWFRW General Meeting, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090  
 September 16, NWFRW Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Dr. Room #141, Spring, TX 7

**NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN  
2025 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Membership  
8807 Kennet Valley Road, Spring, TX 77379**

*Political Advertising paid for by Northwest Forest Republican Women PAC*





HOSTED BY NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN

# POLL WATCHER AND ELECTION INTEGRITY TRAINING

**Training Conducted by Lucy Gassiot Trainer,  
State Republican Executive  
Committeewoman, SD 25.**

WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 - 10:00 AM - 12:00

WHERE: HC MUD #24 BUILDING, LOCATED AT 17035 DEER  
CREEK DRIVE, SPRING, TEXAS 77379.

COST: FREE

SPOUSES, FRIENDS, AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!  
ALL MUST REGISTER!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 1  
[:INFO@NORTHWESTFORESTREPUBLICANWOMEN.ORG](mailto:INFO@NORTHWESTFORESTREPUBLICANWOMEN.ORG)

