



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 2025

Volume 50, Issue 1

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 13, 2025

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 10, 2025. *See the new contact for reservations on Page 3.*

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 2025 dues, see Kathy Crosby, 2nd VP/Membership at the membership table.

1ST VP/PROGRAMS *Marcia Fitzpatrick*

Let's start 2025 off with a bang!

Following an exciting run-off election in June of 2024, the Honorable Kyle Scott was elected to the Harris Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. NWFRW is delighted to welcome him as the guest speaker for the January 13th General Meeting. He has been elected to the property appraisal board of the nation's fourth largest county to bring accountability, transparency, and integrity to the appraisal and protest process. Come hear what he is accomplishing after six months in this new position. He will also share the challenges of serving on this board and answer questions of interest to members and guests. Previously, all nine members of HCAD were appointed by local taxing entities. Elected officials have slightly more power because two of the three elected members can veto any appointment to the Appraisal Review Board, a committee that reviews appeals of property valuations. The Honorable Kyle Scott won the HCAD, director at-large, Place 2 seat with 26,880 votes, or 57.21% of votes, compared to his opponent Melissa Noriega's 20,106 votes, or 42.79%. NWFRW members were proud to work on his campaign to assist him in being elected and attended his swearing-in ceremony.



Bring a guest and learn about important issues that impact YOU and your taxes. It's a hot topic!

Looking forward to a great year. We still have much work to do. Wishing everyone a happy 2025!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lauren Lothringer

As the club embarks on a new year, it is exciting to step into the role of President of Northwest Forest Republican Women. Accepting this position with deep gratitude and an unwavering commitment, working together NWFRW can continue to champion the values that unite the Republican Party: freedom, prosperity, and opportunity. **Our club is more than a monthly gathering place — it is a dynamic force that influences policy, supports local Republican candidates, and is a beacon of principled leadership.** In the year ahead, the pledge is to foster a spirit of unity, collaboration, and strength, working together to engage new members, mentor emerging leaders, and amplify a collective voice on the issues that matter most during the 89th legislative session. This work is vital, and each member plays a crucial role in shared success.



This coming year, there will be ongoing and new opportunities for education, advocacy, and outreach. NWFRW will host dynamic guest speakers, organize events, and strengthen bonds through fellowship and shared purpose. The club's legacy, 50 strong years, is built on action, and each member is called on to continue being bold advocates for the principles Republican women hold dear. Let us be a source of inspiration for the next generation of women leaders. Together, challenges will be faced with courage, and victories will be celebrated, always focused on the goal of leaving our communities stronger than we found them. **Let's seize this moment to reaffirm NWFRW's mission and rededicate ourselves to the cause.**

Keeping Freedom Alive
THRIVE IN '25!

**NWFRW BOARD 2025 OFFICERS****President**

Lauren Lothringer

1st Vice President Programs

Marcia Fitzpatrick

2nd Vice President Membership

Kathy Crosby

3rd Vice President Political Activities

Anna Vierling

Secretary

Susan Thompson

Treasurer

Lisa Migl

PAC Treasurer

Gaynell Lira

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**Americanism/Caring for America**

Ana Carson, Merry Keith

Awards

Gay Garrett

Bylaws

Carolyn Rogers

Chaplain

Tracie Anderson

Historian

LaDonna MacDonald

Hospitality

Mary Ann Vandermark

Legislative

Dana Khan

Liaison to Council

Dana Hines

Alternate to Council

TBD

Newsletter

Katie Radcliffe

Parliamentarian

Tracine Gibson

Publicity

Sierra Johannessen

Reservations

Judi Thompson

Scholarship

Paula Georgina, Judy Gordon

Voter Registration

Shirley Kitchens, Barbara Young

Website and Social Media

Heidi Furlong, Nicole Peters

Yearbook/Directory

TBD, Marti Schwind

Immediate Past President

Nancy Radcliffe

President Nancy Radcliffe called the NWFRW General Meeting to order at 11:30 AM on Monday, December 9, 2024 at Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090. **Chaplain Cindy Eschenburg** gave the invocation and led the pledges to the American flag and the Texas flag.

President Nancy Radcliffe welcomed everyone, then thanked the women who worked so hard to put the “Christmas Extravaganza” together with fabulous decorations, great entertainment, and surprise Santa! She also thanked the membership for their hard work during the past two years in getting Republican candidates elected and celebrating 50 years together as a club.

3rd VP Political Activities Lauren Lothringer welcomed the elected officials, their representatives, other Republican women organization guests, and military veterans.

1st VP Programs Marcia Fitzpatrick introduced the entertainment for the “Christmas Extravaganza,” singer/pianist Ben Miller. She also recognized the special Santa visiting our club, candidate for Harris County District Attorney, Mr. Dan Simons.

LUNCH

Minutes from the November 11, 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.

1st VP Marcia Fitzpatrick reported that the speaker for the January 13, 2025, General Meeting will be Mr. Kyle Scott. He was elected to the Harris Central Appraisal District Board of Directors in June of 2024. The holiday spirit attire contests winners were also announced.

2nd VP Membership Kathy Mason reported that NWFRW is off to a great start with membership numbers for 2025. To date there are 103 primary and 14 associate members who have renewed. There have been 19 new primary and 2 new associate members added, bringing the total membership for 2025 to 138. Kathy had the guests stand to be recognized. She reminded new members that they will receive NWFRW communication right away, and state/national communications will begin in January. Annual membership is \$45, while associate membership is \$30. New members need to post-date their checks to January 1, 2025. There will be two evening Meet & Greets for new members at Thistle Draftshop in 2025. The first one will be on January 27th. New members will be receiving invitations at the beginning of January. She encouraged current members to continue inviting prospective members to a meeting.

3rd VP Political Activities Lauren Lothringer reported that there will be a Legislative Day in March. More information will follow as it gets closer. Former Judge Michael Landrum’s November 2024 winning race was overturned after the inclusion of the mail-in ballots. He will not contest the outcome.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wreaths Across America - President Nancy Radcliffe, for Pam Hughes, reported that NWFRW sold over \$1,000 in wreaths. A portion of that amount will go to Camp Hope.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**NEW BUSINESS**

President Nancy Radcliffe presented Lauren Lothringer with a gavel and pin as the new president of Northwest Forest Republican Women for 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NWFRW 2025 Board Retreat – Thursday, December 12, 2024, 8:30 AM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, Room #141, 6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379

NWFRW General Meeting – Monday, January 13, 2025, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

NWFRW Board Meeting – Monday, January 20, 2025, 6:30 PM, MUD #24 Building, 17035 Deer Creek, Spring, TX 77379

NWFRW New Member Meet-and-Greet, 7:00 PM, Thistle Draftshop, 5210 FM 2920, Suite 100, Spring, TX 77388.

ADJOURNMENT

President Nancy Radcliffe adjourned the meeting at 12:49 PM.

Keeping Freedom Alive
THRIVE IN '25!

2ND VP/MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Crosby

A joyous welcome to the New Year 2025! My name is Kathy Crosby, and it's exciting to be the new 2nd VP/Membership chair. Heartfelt gratitude to Kathy Mason who served in this position the past two years. Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership, and we welcome those who are new to this club. As most of you know, NWFRW is working hard to get back to super jumbo status, because this recognition helps us make a big difference at the local, state, and national levels. The goal is to reach over 200 members by March, so bring a friend in January and encourage them to leave as a member! A blank membership form is included at the bottom of 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. There is a credit card option available at the meeting to pay your membership as well, and this will include a nominal fee. **If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at 713-501-1105 or email me at kathycrosby@gmail.com.**

AMERICANISM/ CARING FOR AMERICA

*Ana Carson
Merry Keith*

Thank you for your continued support of the military veterans at Camp Hope. They depend on donations and contributions from groups like NWFRW for their daily needs while in residence at Camp Hope, and they are very grateful for the support. You may give in several ways: 1) continue to bring in-kind donations to our monthly general meeting(s); 2) go to Camp Hope's website (PTSDUSA.org) and scan the QR code or use the link to their Amazon wish list, which will take you to their list. (Please enter "Northwest Forest Republican Women" in the notes section); and/or 3) write a check payable to Camp Hope – these are accepted and are tax-deductible.

Urgent Needs: Jelly, peanut butter, breakfast cereal, granola, 10-12oz. disposable bowls, pastas, flour, noodles (any kind), twin XL sheet sets, pillows, bar soap holders, ankle socks (all men sizes), men's briefs (M, L, XL, 2XL), tennis shoes (sizes 8-12), toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex (rectangular box), postage stamps, copy paper, Tylenol, Excedrin Migraine medication, Melatonin 10mg, Glucosamine Chondroitin. Remember that items should be new and unopened. Thank you!

3RD VP/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Anna Vierling

As the new year begins, there will be much excitement as the Texas legislature meets later this month!

Campaigning for the Texas House Speaker position has begun, after House Speaker Dade Phalen from Beaumont stepped down in early December. Both David Cook of Mansfield and Dustin Burrows of Lubbock are jockeying for votes.

Voting within the legislature will happen in January when the full house convenes. The winner will need 76 of the 150 votes. Why is the speaker's power significant? Because the speaker essentially controls the flow of legislation.

The links to a few bills proposed by Representative Sam Harless (HD 126) and Representative Valoree Swanson (HD150) are below:

[HB 1327](#) - HARLESS

[HB 477](#) - SWANSON

[HB 789](#) - SWANSON

Stay tuned for details on the club's trip to the Capitol for Legislative Day on March 21! Make plans to attend now.

SCHOLARSHIP

Paula Georgina, Judy Gordon

NWFRW is excited to announce that it is once again time to begin the application process for the winner of the Priscilla Petty Scholarship. The amount of the scholarship is \$1,500. Applicants must be a graduating senior female who will be attending a 4-year university in the fall of 2025 and must be nominated by one of our *primary members*. If you know someone who would be a good candidate, please reach out to her, and if she is interested in applying, you will need to provide her with an application. Since a portion of the application is your recommendation, please complete that portion before giving the application to the student. **The deadline is March 31, 2025, so all forms should be received by either Paula Georgina or Judy Gordon on or before that date.** The link to the application is below and can be found on the NWFRW website. If you have any questions concerning the application process, reach out to Paula or Judy.

<https://www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Scholarship-Application-NWFRW-2025-1-REVISED.pdf>

Please Note the New Contact for Luncheon Reservations:

Judi Thompson

judithompson2000@yahoo.com

832-368-6848

When you make a luncheon reservation, a green confirmation should pop up on your screen. Prior to the reservation's deadline, you should also receive a confirmation email from Judi Thompson. If you don't receive the email, please contact Judi. Thank you!

Lawmakers have already filed more than 2,220 bills since the first filing day on November 12th, setting the 89th Texas Legislative session up to be a remarkably busy one! The Texas Federation of Republican Women announced that their focus during this legislative session will be school choice, energy, infrastructure issues, and setting good policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI). **Northwest Forest Republican Women looks forward to attending TFRW LEGISLATIVE DAY in Austin on Friday, March 21, 2025. SAVE THE DATE and watch for details in next month's newsletter. You will find expanded descriptions of the TFRW priorities here:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RXqvaOSa9hazDqxezvV7MUbKfze5mDYT/view>

In preparation for the session, legislators met recently to vote for the Speaker of the House. The official vote for the House speaker is one of the first orders of business when the House convenes in January. Any member can run; however, the winner needs 76 votes from the 150 members to secure the position. Self-imposed rules of the Texas House Republican Caucus require members to participate in the vote prior to January, as well as select the Republican nominee in the legislative session.

In preparation for the session, the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning & Policy have also held hearings on each agency's strategic plan and Legislative Appropriations Request. Based on the hearings, the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning & Policy separately prepare budget recommendations to be presented to the Legislature at the beginning of the legislative session.

Throughout the legislative session, you may look up bills that have been introduced/filed, as well as follow the status of bills, by clicking this link: <https://legiscan.com/TX/legislation/2025>

*Resources:

<https://lrl.texas.gov/legis/budget.cfm?phase=3>

<https://www.texastribune.org/2024/11/07/2025-legislative-session-preview/>

<https://www.texastribune.org/2024/12/13/texas-speaker-dustin-burrows/>

<https://www.texastribune.org/2024/12/16/dustin-burrows-texas-house-speaker/>

PHOTOS FROM THE DECEMBER 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.

January 10: Reservation Deadline, 9:00 AM, Lunch Reservations link [HERE](#)

January 13: NWFRW General Meeting, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

January 20: NWFRW Board Meeting, 6:30PM, MUD #24 Building 17035 Deer Creek, Spring, TX 77379

January 27: New Member Meet-and-Greet, 7:00 PM, Thistle Draftshop, 5210 FM 2920, Suite 100, Spring, TX 77388

**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 Crosby, 2nd Vice President Membership

2 Oak Hollow Circle, Cypress, TX 77429

Political Advertising paid for by Northwest Forest Republican Women PAC

The “Original” Nuts ‘N Bolts 2025 Registration Form

Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women will be holding their “Original” Nuts ‘N Bolts training workshop and recognition of Club Presidents on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center at 1414 Wirt Road, Houston TX 77055. Check in begins at 8:30 am and the program will begin at 9:15 am. Coffee, Snacks and Lunch is included.

Deadline for Registration: February 11, 2025.

1. REGISTRATION

Please fill out and email this form to Amy Byers at ajbyers1348@aol.com or mail to Amy at 4851 W. Fork Blvd., Conroe TX 77304

2. PAYMENT

Mail a \$30 check, made out to GHCFRW to:
Amy Byers, 4851 W. Fork Blvd., Conroe TX 77304
OR

Make a Credit Card payment for \$32:
Scan the QR code or visit: <https://bit.ly/3ObM18W>



Name (please print): _____

Primary Club: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Occupation (required): _____

Please circle one topic in each session:

Session 1 options

10:15-10:45:

Presidents
Newsletter
Hospitality

Session 2 options

11:00-11:30:

Looking at Legislative Day
Membership
PAC Treasurer

Session 3 options

12:30-1:00:

Merchandising Made Easy
Awards & Your Club
Programs

Session 4 options

1:15-1:45:

Having a Healthy Board
Community Engagement
Fundraising