



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

March 2025

Volume 50, Issue 3

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 10, 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, March 7, 2025

Contact Judi Thompson with questions: 832-368-6848

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

March—Camp Hope / Camp SHiEld



NWFRW proudly welcomes speakers for March representing Camp Hope and Camp SHiEld. Camp Hope opened in 2012 with the mission to relieve the effects of combat and trauma on male veterans,

suffering with PTSD, and their family members. There is no cost for participants. **David Maulsby is the Executive Director for Camp Hope.** Beginning in 2009, Mr. Maulsby began the mission of the PTSD Foundation of America by walking the streets of Houston finding homeless vets. He is an ordained minister, bringing his strong faith and steady leadership to serve and support our country's veterans and their families. **His message centers on what Camp Hope is accomplishing and how the involvement of NWFRW makes a difference.**

Camp SHiEld serves women veterans. The number of women veterans in the U.S.A. is currently around 2 million: an all-time high and a number that continues to grow. **Camp SHiEld is a resource created BY women veterans FOR women veterans and addresses emotional, social, and physical wounds.** They strive to develop and celebrate the personal and professional successes of women veterans and their families. **Maggie Peterson is Founder of After Military Service currently focused as Camp SHiEld.** Ms. Peterson is a 10-year Air Force veteran whose focus after military service has been Post Traumatic Growth. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems and an MBA with a specialization in Finance, along with many certifications. **She will share updates on Camp SHiEld and what the organization offers.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Lauren Lothringer*

While the focus remains on Harris County, it's important to keep a pulse on what is happening nationally. A recent **national survey** out of Virginia completed Feb 4 - 5, 2025, by 1,500 likely 2026 General Election voters, outlined some key takeaways now that President Trump has taken office. **Top Issues:** inflation and the economy (32%) are now the main concern by a country mile. Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration appears to have lowered concerns from 21% to 17% in just a month. **Democrats in the Dumps:** only 40% of voters have a favorable image of Democrats in Washington compared to 54% who hold an unfavorable view of the caucuses led by Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries. Favorability of congressional Republicans is split at 47% favorable, 48% unfavorable. **COVID for Sure from a Lab:** two-thirds agree that COVID-19 more likely originated from a Chinese lab leak than natural causes. Only 17% agree with Anthony Fauci and Democratic Leadership that the virus arose from natural causes.



TRUMP'S WINS: Merit vs. DEI: two-thirds (64%) believe government should hire based on merit and experience instead of racial and gender identity, including 55% of Hispanics and 41% of Democrats who say merit should take sole precedence. 28% say both should be considered, while only 3% believe racial and gender identity should be the only factor for hiring. **Illegal Immigration Crackdown:** 53% support Trump's actions on stopping illegal immigration and bolstering border security. 55% oppose sanctuary cities that refuse to assist law enforcement and/or harbor criminal aliens. **DOGE Time:** 46% of folks support Elon Musk's efforts to reduce government bloat and spending, including 44% of swing voters and 41 percent of Independents.

MIXED REVIEWS: Birthright Citizenship: 45% support children of illegal immigrants gaining automatic citizenship while 41% oppose it. **Tariffs on Mexico and Canada:** more people support tariffs on Mexico (43%) than Canada (39%).

Looking ahead on the state level, the Texas Federation of Republican Women's Legislative Day is scheduled for March 20-21, 2025, at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center in Austin. This event offers an excellent opportunity to engage with legislators and discuss policies impacting our communities. NWFRW—Stay informed and engaged!

*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

Tracine Gibson

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

Marti Schwind

Immediate Past President

Nancy Radcliffe

Call to Order. President Lauren Lothringer called the NWFRW General Meeting to order at approximately 11:30 AM on Monday, Feb 10, 2025.

Invocation was provided by 1st VP Marcia Fitzpatrick for Chaplain Tracie Anderson.

Pledges to the American and Texas Flags were led by former Harris County Judge and State Senator Jon Lindsay.

Welcome. 3rd VP Political Activities **Anna Vierling** greeted, then introduced newly elected officials and their representatives, and welcomed all military veterans, guests, and members of other clubs.

Meeting Program. 1st VP Programs **Marcia Fitzpatrick** introduced Republican Party of Texas Vice Chairwoman, D'rinda Randall, elected to this position at the RPT Convention in May 2024. Ms. Randall provided background on her becoming a precinct chair and encouraged membership to consider serving in this important capacity (see www.texasgop.org for more information).

LUNCH

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the NWFRW January 13, 2025, 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 Programs Marcia Fitzpatrick announced that representatives from Camp Hope and Camp SHiEld will be the featured speakers at the general meeting on March 10, 2025.

2nd VP Membership Kathy Crosby announced that the club has 217 primary members which means we will retain our super jumbo status for 2025. She acknowledged guests present and requested they submit their membership application by March 1 to be included in the 2025 directory. Ms. Lothringer reminded current members, if they have not done so, to please also renew prior to March 1.

3rd VP Political Activities Anna Vierling reminded members that the deadline for the Nuts & Bolts training is February 11. On February 19, U.S. Representative Wesley Hunt will deliver a legislative priority address which is open to the public. Members are also invited to attend the investiture for Dan Simons on February 21 as Judge of the 496 th Criminal District Court. Additional details for both events are provided below. Ms. Vierling commented that in the race for Harris County Judge in 2020 between DeSean Jones and Tami Pierce, it was found that nearly 1,500 ballots were inappropriately counted and a new special election was ordered for May 3, 2025. The decision to hold a special election is under appeal by DeShawn Jones; updates will be provided. Ms. Vierling closed by reminding members to submit their volunteer hours.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship Judy Gordon announced that applications for the Priscilla Petty Scholarship (\$1,500) are being accepted until March 31. The form is available on the NWFRW website or through a link in the Potpourri. If you are recommending someone for consideration, please complete and sign the Recommendation section of the application before providing the form to the student. To be eligible, the student must be a 2025 graduating high school senior with plans to attend a four-year accredited college. **Yearbook Marti Schwind** reminded members to purchase or solicit the purchase of ads prior to March 1. She noted that she is currently contacting those who placed ads last year. The cost of a full-page ad remains \$125; the ads offset the cost of printing the directory.

Legislative Dana Kahn provided information about the TFRW Legislative Day, Thursday-Friday, March 20-21 in Austin, Texas. The event is \$90 and will begin with a dinner on Thursday night, and includes breakfast, training sessions, a working lunch, and a visit to the Capital on Friday. Grab a fellow member and sign up (see the link in the Potpourri). Contact Dana by phone or email if you would like to attend and potentially carpool.

Voter Registration Shirley Kitchens announced that she is seeking assistance for registering voters. Contact Barbara Young or Shirley to get trained.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Lothringer announced that Karen Donelson, Pat Fass, and Melissa Knox agreed to serve on the Internal Review Committee for purposes of reviewing the NWFRW's 2024 financial records.

NO NEW BUSINESS**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NWFRW Board Meeting – Monday, February 17, 6:30 PM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77379

Greater Houston Council Nuts & Bolts Workshop – Friday, February 18, 8:30 AM, Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055

Congressman Wesley Hunt Legislative Priority Address - Wednesday, February 19, 5:00 PM, Sam Houston Race Park (South Entrance), 7575 N Sam Houston Pkwy W, Houston TX 77064

Investiture for Dan Simons – Friday, February 23, 3:00 PM, Harris County Civil Ceremonial Courtroom, 201 Caroline Street, Houston, TX 77002

NWFRW General Meeting – Monday, March 10, 2025, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

TFRW Legislative Day – Thursday-Friday, March 20-21, 2025, AT&T Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 University Avenue, Austin, TX 78705

Priscilla Petty Scholarship Deadline – March 31, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

President Lauren Lothringer adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:45 PM.

2ND VP/MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Crosby

NWFRW has reached super jumbo status for 2025! Thank you to members who brought a guest and everyone who renewed at the previous meetings. Super jumbo status assists NWFRW in making a difference at the local, state, and national levels. The club numbers are currently 215 primary members and 33 associate members. **Way to go!**

Attached at the bottom of the *Potpourri* newsletter is the 2025 membership form. The cost is \$45 to join for primary membership and \$30 for an associate membership. Associate members are women who are primary members in another federated club or enlightened gentlemen. 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. Questions? Contact Kathy 713.501.1105 or kathyvcrosby@gmail.com.

The 2025 Directory will be available for pick up at the March meeting. Also, if you have ordered a name badge, they should be ready as well for pick up at the March meeting. See you on March 10th. *“Come a guest; leave a member!”*

AMERICANISM/CARING FOR AMERICA

Ana Carson, Merry Keith

Thank you for your donations to Camp Hope in January and February! **March is our Camp Hope meeting month, so PLEASE make a special effort to bring items to this meeting to show your support for our veterans who fought to protect our freedom.** Checks written to Camp Hope are gratefully accepted and may be placed in the red box on the Camp Hope table. They are tax deductible.

Urgently needed items include: binders (1” & 2”), Mucinex DM, spiral notebooks, copy paper, postage stamps, and erasers.

Also, sugar, apple juice, flour, can vegetables (10oz.), toilet paper, paper towels, toilet bowl cleaner, spray bathroom cleaner, bar soap, ankle socks, and shower shoes (all men’s sizes). **Just as a reminder, all items should be new and unopened.**

A special note of appreciation to members who donated to Wreaths Across America in November and December. Thanks to your generosity, an additional \$382.94 was donated to Camp Hope through this program. NWFRW members are the best! Thank you.

3RD VP/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES *Anna Vierling*

March is here, and with it comes new opportunities to stay informed and involved in the political process! You are encouraged to be engaged as NWFRW gears up for a busy year ahead.

One important event to keep in mind is **Legislative Day later this month**. This is a fantastic opportunity for conservative women across Texas to visit the Capitol, hear directly from our state leaders, and make an impact on the issues that matter most. Dana Kahn NWFRW Legislative Chair will be making announcements and updates at the March meeting on TFRW Legislative Day!

In the meantime, use this month to stay connected—whether that’s reaching out to elected officials, staying updated on legislative developments, or encouraging others to get involved. Every effort counts in making a difference for our conservative values. **Remember to record your volunteer hours on the sheets provided at the meeting tables on March 10th. These hours are reported to TFRW quarterly.**

Thank you NWFRW. See you at Legislative Day. Wear **red!**... the red coats are coming.

SCHOLARSHIP

Paula Georgina, Judy Gordon

The March 31st deadline for the \$1500 Priscilla Petty Scholarship is quickly approaching. Applicants must be a graduating senior female who will be attending a four-year university next fall and must be nominated by a club member. The link to the application is below and is also available on the NWFRW website. *Since a portion of the application is your recommendation, we suggest that you complete that portion before giving the form to the student as they will not be able to submit it without that.* If you have given someone an application, please be sure the student’s name and contact information has been sent to either Paula Georgiana or Judy Gordon, so that we can follow up with them. This is an excellent opportunity to offer financial assistance to a deserving young woman, so we are hoping to get many excellent applicants. **If you have any questions or need any assistance with this process, just reach out to either Paula 713.557.3673 or Judy 281.728.5234 and we will be happy to help.**

<https://www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org/scholarship-application-nwfrw-2025-revised/>

PHOTOS FROM FEBRUARY MEETING



Northwest Forest Republican Women members are encouraged to attend the TFRW Legislative Day in Austin on Thursday and Friday, March 20-21. See the flyer in this *Potpourri* newsletter for additional information.

TAD Talks is back! Former RNC National Committeewoman Toni Anne Dashiell will host a weekly Zoom series every Friday at 7 AM, bringing you the latest updates and inside scoop on the 89th legislative session. Each week she will be joined by special guests to break down what's happening under the dome in Austin with elected officials and insiders. Click here to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/61573133134301> or click here to follow on TAD Talks Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/TAD-Talks/61573133134301/>.

One month into the 89th legislative session, Speaker Dustin Burrows released assignments for 30 House committees and 12 subcommittees on Feb. 13. All bills must be considered in a committee before reaching the floor of either chamber. All committee chairmanships are held by Republicans this session. House lawmakers adopted a set of rules January 23rd that state only members of the majority Republican party could chair standing committees and vice chairs could only be from the minority Democratic party. After last year's elections, House Republicans increased their ranks by two members, to a total of 88 of the chamber's 150 seats. Democrats chaired eight of the 34 standing House committees last session, and that number has been reduced to zero. The new House rules expand the power of vice chairs by allowing them to request witnesses and hearings on bills or topics. Additionally, the speaker can refer bills to subcommittees.

Two women will chair standing House committees this session: Reps. Lacey Hull, Houston, and Angie Chen Button, Garland. Women make up about 1/3 of the 150-member House. In the 31-member Senate, three of the chamber's eight women lead committees.

It only took the Texas Senate 22 days from the start of the legislative session to introduce, debate, and pass its priority school voucher bill. Many NWFRW members are closely following this legislation. You may click on the links below to learn more about priority bills:

SB 2 - Establishment of education savings account/school choice: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/02/11/texas-public-schools-education-legislation-2025/>

SB 4 - Increase in homestead exemptions/property tax cuts: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/02/11/texas-senate-committee-property-tax-cut/>

SB 6 - Electricity planning/infrastructure: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/02/13/texas-power-grid-ercot-energy-forecast/>

HB 3 - School safety: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/02/10/school-safety-armed-guard-texas-legislature/>

Throughout the legislative session, you can follow the status of bills and committee information at these links: <https://legiscan.com/TX/legislation/2025> and <https://capitol.texas.gov/>.

Congratulations to the following Texas State Representatives on their Chair and Committee Assignments for the 89th Legislative Session!

Representative Sam Harless, HD 126

- Corrections Committee, Chair
- House Administration Committee, Member
- Licensing & Administrative Procedures Committee, Member

Representative Tom Oliverson, HD 130

- Appropriations Committee, Member
- Environmental Regulation, Member
- Redistricting, Member

Representative Valoree Swanson, HD 150

- Elections Committee, Member
- Human Services, Member

Thank you for your hard work!

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

March 10: NWFRW General Meeting, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

March 17: NWFRW Board Meeting, 6:30PM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379

March 20 – 21: TFRW Legislative Day, AT&T Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 University Avenue, Austin, TX 78705

March 31: Priscilla Petty Scholarship Deadline

**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



PLEASE JOIN NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN

TO ATTEND



TFRW Legislative Day
Thursday-Friday, March 20th – 21st, 2025
AT&T Hotel & Conference Center
1900 University Avenue
Austin, TX 78705

Thursday night, March 20th

Legislative Dinner with our State Representatives and Senators
Keynote Speaker (to be announced soon!)

Friday, March 21st

Breakfast/Training Sessions/Working Lunch

How to effectively communicate with your legislators, how to testify on a bill, how to use Texas Legislature online, and presentations on important issues facing this legislative session and Texas.

Following lunch, we will head to the Capital to use what you have learned to talk to our Representatives.

Tickets are \$90 and include Thursday night dinner + Friday breakfast and lunch. Tickets may be purchased here: <https://secure.anedot.com/tfrw/events/2025legislativeday>. You may attend all three meals or lunch only, but the cost will still be \$90.

Hotel rooms are \$274/night at the AT&T Hotel & Conference Center. Hotel rooms may be booked here: <https://book.passkey.com/gt/219630556?gtid=855748463c2610ee18f75beebb1f9995>

Please contact Dana Khan if you would like to attend TFRW's Legislative Day. We will carpool, departing on Thursday morning and returning Friday evening. 713-594-4106 or danak007@gmail.com. For anyone wanting to join us at the Capitol on Friday, the expectation to arrive at the Capitol is approximately 1:30 PM. More details to follow.