



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

October 2025

Volume 50, Issue 9

NEXT MEETING Monday, October 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, Fri, Oct 10, 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



NWFRW proudly welcomes Melissa Conway, the Co-Founder and Managing Director of the Texas Election Network (TEN), as the speaker for the October 13th meeting. The political landscape in Texas is evolving, and safeguarding elections is integral to preserving Texas values in the Lone Star State. Inspired to effect change, Ms. Conway answered the call to make a difference.

With more than 25 years of grassroots leadership, she has influenced key opinion leaders, advanced legislative priorities, and executed political, public relations, and policy strategies at the local, state, and national levels.

In August 2021, the RNC tapped Melissa as Texas Election Integrity State Director, making her one of the first in the nation to lead the GOP's election-integrity initiative. Today Melissa is involved in mobilizing citizens and equipping counties statewide with practical tools, training, and accountability - ensuring the true voice of Texans is heard at the ballot box. Be sure to check out the Texas Election Network website and sign up to receive the newsletter at www.texaselectionnetwork.org. Registration is also available to watch the TEN Talks on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 9:00 AM.

Make your reservation today and bring a guest to hear this timely and important information! **The November 4th elections will be here in a month, and it's time to prepare for 2026. Let's work hard to keep Texas RED and turn Harris County RED.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lauren Lothringer

In the wake of the heartbreaking tragedy surrounding Charlie Kirk, NWFRW is reminded once again of the fragility of life and the strength of shared values. Moments like this shake one deeply, not because we are unaccustomed to adversity, but because they touch the heart of the Republican movement... a sense of community, purpose, and unwavering faith. **As NWFRW members stand shoulder-to-shoulder in times of sorrow with resolve, let us not forget the importance of getting Republicans elected to office, helping women become engaged by finding their political voices, and making a positive difference in the community.** NWFRW can best honor the memory of those lost and the example of leaders who inspire by renewing the commitment to serve, to lead with grace, and to shine as beacons of hope. There is much work to do!



It is not too late to register for the TFRW 35th Biennial Convention in San Antonio October 23rd – October 25th. Registration is currently \$250 until September 30th and then will increase to \$325 until closing on October 10th. The club appreciates members who have already registered and will be representing NWFRW as delegates. **The Dictionary Project is well underway, and such an important contribution to the community.** Please see Sue Kikis to donate, so dictionaries with details about our government can be placed in the hands of students who may not own a book. **NWFRW membership renewal for 2026 begins at the October meeting.** Be sure and complete your form and pay at the membership table or mail in your form to Kathy Crosby. Invite your friends to visit and join, as preparations begin for the important 2026 elections. **Lastly, remember to make a plan and VOTE on November 4th.** NWFRW voices matter!

Together, NWFRW will continue to be a steadfast force for Republican principles and values. Thank you for being part of this special organization!

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

MINUTES, August 11, 2025

Susan Thompson

Call to Order. President Lauren Lothringer called the NWFRW General Meeting to order at approximately 11:30 AM on Monday, September 8, 2025, and shared the sad news of the passing of former member Nelda Napp.

Invocation and the Pledge to the American Flag was lead by Cindy Eschenburg, and the Pledge to the Texas Flag was delivered by Judge Lincoln Goodwin, both on behalf of Chaplain Tracie Anderson.

Welcome. 3rd VP Anna Vierling greeted, then introduced newly elected officials, their representatives and candidates for office. She also welcomed all military veterans and members of other Republican clubs.

Meeting Program. 1st VP Programs Marcia Fitzpatrick introduced the speaker, the Honorable Sam Harless, Texas House Representative for the 126th District since January 2019 and 2025 recipient of the Effective Conservative Award. Representative Harless provided key highlights of the 89th Legislative regular and special sessions, including his support of bills related to the renovation of the George R. Brown Convention Center, first responder pensions, law enforcement pay parity, property tax relief and border security, to name a few. He concluded by announcing that he would not seek re-election when his current term concludes at the end of 2026.

LUNCH

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the NWFRW August 11, 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 reminded members of the off-cycle election on November 4, 2025, which will include 17 state propositions as well as school board trustee and water board elections. At the meeting on October 13th, Melissa Conway, Co-founder and Managing Director of Texas Election Network (TEN) will be the speaker. TEN sponsors TEN TALKS on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 9:00 am. For more information, visit texaselectionnetwork.org.

2nd VP Membership Kathy Crosby reported that a new member "Meet & Greet" was held on August 25th. New memberships and membership renewals for 2026 will be accepted beginning in October. Membership dues are \$45 and for associate members, \$30. Members were reminded to pick up badges, if you have not done so.

3rd VP Political Activities Anna Vierling discussed the role of a Precinct Chair in Texas, an elected position with an important front-line responsibility leading up to and during elections. Ms. Vierling also announced the following key dates:

- September 9 through December 8, 2025 – Precinct Chair filing period
- November 4, 2025 – Joint General and Special Election. Click harrisvotes.com to find general ballot information and links to the 17 proposed Constitutional Amendments and to Harris County elections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Liaison to Counsel Dana Hines reported that the Greater Houston Counsel Garden Party was held on August 26, 2025, and NWFRW was well represented with two tables of attendees. The next Greater Houston Council meeting will be held on September 16, 2025, and will feature State Senator Joan Huffman, District 17.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Susi Kikis reported on the Dictionary Project. "A Student's Dictionary" is provided to 3rd grade students in Spring and Klein Title 1 schools. The grade level targeted is based on most students transitioning from learning to read into reading to learn. She also discussed the additional valuable information included in the dictionary. Donations are being accepted; checks should be made payable to "The Dictionary Project" and are tax deductible.

Pam Hughes discussed Wreaths Across America, and a sponsorship form was included at each table. Checks should be made payable to "Wreaths Across America – Houston".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NWFRW Board Meeting – September 15, 2025, 6:00 PM, GHWB Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77379

GHC Meeting – September 16, 2025, 9:30 AM, Trini Mendenhall, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX 77055

NFRW Convention – September 25-28, 2025, Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819

NWFRW General Meeting – October 13, 2025, 11:00 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Rd., Houston, TX 77090

The Texas Federation of Republican Women 2025 35th Biennial Convention – October 23-25, 2025, Grand Hyatt San Antonio Riverwalk; registration available at tfrw.org

ADJOURNMENT

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

2ND VP/MEMBERSHIP***Kathy Crosby***

According to the TFRW rules, NWFRW can start taking membership renewals for 2026 at the October meeting. **If you pay by check, please have it dated November 1, 2025. Membership forms for new members are also accepted in October, but those checks must be dated January 1, 2026.** New members will start receiving all NWFRW communication immediately, but it will be January before becoming a state or national member of the federated Republican organizations.

The cost is \$45 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. If you have any questions, call 713-501-1105 or email kathyvcrosby@gmail.com. **A 2026 Membership Form is included with this newsletter. Please download, print, complete, and bring it with you October 13th.**

The "Meet & Greet," which was a special evening event for new members who have joined in 2025, was a BIG success. It was held on Monday, August 25th at Thistle Draftshop. Approximately 20 people attended, and the club received positive feedback about how much people enjoyed the event. Special thanks is extended to TFRW board member and Woman of Distinction, Ronnye Cowell, for being the guest speaker.

Let's keep the membership growing for 2026, and bring a guest to the October meeting.

"Come a Guest, Leave a Member!"

**AMERICANISM/
CARING FOR AMERICA*****Ana Carson
Merry Keith***

A special thank you goes out to NWFRW member, Sarah Disbro, for delivering the donations to Camp Hope in September! As always, donations are always greatly needed and appreciated. Please note the list below for items to bring to the General Meeting on October 13th. Also, there is a Wish List on Amazon located by going to PTSDUSA.org and scanning the QR code, or call (832) 912-4429 for further information.

Urgently needed items include: Crest Pro-Health Advanced Mouthwash, Alcohol Free; Windex glass cleaner, spray bottle; Bounce dryer sheets, 240 count; McKesson disposable razors for men (100 count); Gatorade instant powder – 2 ½ gallon grape; Nestle Coffee Creamer, French vanilla, liquid singles; Hanes boxer briefs pack, sizes L and M; Angel Soft toilet paper, 48 mega rolls; and Clorox Splash-Less Bleach, regular.

Please remember checks made out to Camp Hope are tax-deductible and beneficial to the organization. Thank you for your continued generosity!

3rd VP/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES Anna Vierling

The November 4, 2025, General and Special Elections are quickly approaching! Early Vote Centers will be open from Monday, October 20th – Friday, October 31st (Mon – Sat: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm; Sun: 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm). Vote Centers will accept voters from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm on Election Day. **Go to harrisvotes.com to find out what is on your specific ballot. There are also 17 statewide propositions that will appear on the November ballot. Click on the following link to read about them: texastribune.org/2025/09/22/texas-statewide-propositions-november-ballot-election/**

Additional upcoming dates to note:

- Sept 9 – Dec 8, 2025: Precinct Chair Filing Period
- Nov 8 – Dec 8, 2025: Candidate Filing for March 2026 Primary Elections
- Join the Harris County Republican Party for a full-day **Campaign Bootcamp** designed to equip grassroots leaders, activists, and volunteers with the tools needed to win in 2025–2026. You do not have to be a candidate to attend.

Date: Saturday, October 11 **Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: 1233 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027

Register today: [Click here to register](#)

Let's stay engaged and make sure we share these important dates with our friends, neighbors, and community!

DICTIONARY PROJECT***Sue Kikis***

Former First Lady Barbara Bush said, "If more people could read, write, and comprehend, we could be much closer to solving so many other problems our country faces today." NWFRW can help make this possible by donating to The Dictionary Project and giving dictionaries to third grade students in Klein and Spring Title 1 schools. **Thanks to the generous donations collected at the September meeting and from friends, 65 boxes of books have been ordered.** More books are needed to give to all third graders in these Title 1 schools.

Anyone interested is financially sponsoring this very worthy project, please see Sue Kikis at the October meeting or send a check to 20323 Evergreen Springs Lane, Spring, TX, 77379. Donations are tax-deductible, and checks should be made payable to The Dictionary Project. The books cost \$96 for a box of 24, and any donation is appreciated. Anyone willing to help distribute dictionaries, please contact Sue Kikis at 281-379-6366 or suekikis@gmail.com. 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.

The second special session of the 89th legislature concluded on Sept. 4. With the unpassed legislation and recent Executive actions, it is still possible that Governor Abbott will call a third special session.

PASSED LEGISLATION:

- Congressional redistricting: House Bill 4 redrew the state's congressional maps. The new maps are expected to increase the number of Republican-held districts in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Youth camp safety: Following deadly floods in July 2025, Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1 updated safety regulations for youth camps, requiring updated emergency plans and stronger safety standards for camps in flood-prone areas.
- K-12 assessments: The Legislature approved an overhaul of K-12 assessments, replacing STAAR with three shorter tests administered across the school year to provide faster feedback and reduce testing pressure.
- Women's health and safety:
 - House Bill 7 (Woman and Child Protection Act): Prohibits the distribution of "abortion-inducing" drugs, including through mail or from out-of-state. It also allows individuals to sue anyone who provides or creates these drugs.
 - Senate Bill 8 (Texas Women's Privacy Act): Requires sex-segregated facilities, such as bathrooms, in government buildings to be used according to the biological sex designated at birth. This bill bans transgender individuals from using facilities that align with their gender identity.

UNRESOLVED LEGISLATION:

- THC regulation: The Senate passed its version of Senate Bill 6, but the House's version stalled. After the session ended, Governor Abbott issued an executive order on Sept. 10 to call state agencies to regulate THC products and restrict people under the age of 21 from purchasing them.
- Expansion of property tax cuts: Negotiations over local spending limits and related property tax measures broke down late in the session, leaving the package unresolved.
- Taxpayer-funded lobbying ban did not make it across the finish line.

WHAT BILLS ARE ENROLLED, but not signed by Governor Abbott?

When a bill is enrolled, both the Texas House and Senate have passed identical versions of the legislation. There are 16 bills enrolled from this special session. Governor Abbott has until Sept. 24 to either sign or veto these bills. If he does not take action on a bill, it will automatically go into law.

RESOURCES:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/>
<https://www.texastribune.org/>
<https://gov.texas.gov>
<https://www.jdsupra.com>

PICTURE GALLERY

September 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.

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

October 11: HCRP Campaign Bootcamp, 9:00 AM, 1233 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027

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

October 20: NWFRW Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379

October 23-25: TFRW 35th Biennial Convention, Grand Hyatt, 600 E. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205

NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN 2026 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 _____ Notary Public _____

Computer Skills: (Please list specifics) _____

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