



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

September 2026

Volume 51, Issue 8

NEXT MEETING Monday, September 14, 2026

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. Sept. 11, 2026

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 2027 dues, see Kathy Crosby, 2nd VP/Membership at the membership table.

1ST VP/PROGRAMS

Tracine Gibson



NWFRW proudly welcomes Texas Senator Mayes Middleton as the guest speaker for the September 14th general meeting. He has represented Texas Senate District 11, comprised of portions of Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris County since January 2023. Prior to this, he served as the Texas House of Representative for District 23 from 2019-2023. While serving in the House and Senate, Senator Middleton has championed border security and law enforcement. He has authored and passed the Save Women's Sports Act, prohibiting men from unfairly competing in women's

collegiate sports, as well as the strongest ban on COVID vaccine mandates in the country. In a runoff election following the 2026 Primary, Senator Middleton won the Republican nomination for Texas Attorney General and will be running against the Democratic nominee in November.

Senator Middleton earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Texas at Austin, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas Law School, and has practiced law since 2008. He is President of Middleton Oil Company, an independent oil and gas company and runs ranching, cattle, and farming operations. He and his wife, Macy, have four children and support numerous local community organizations and faith-based charities throughout the Galveston-Houston region. He also donates his entire state salary to local charities.

Mark your calendars for September 14th! Make your reservations and bring your friends and neighbors to this important meeting to become better informed about the Republican candidate for Texas Attorney General and how your vote can help keep Texas RED.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lauren Lothringer Maywald



Northwest Forest Republican Women is excited to kick off an active and impactful fall season! The club has an outstanding lineup of speakers and, more importantly, numerous opportunities for our members to get involved and make a difference as we look ahead to the November general election.

With the November midterm election quickly approaching and early voting only weeks away, now is the time to turn our attention to action. Several campaign opportunities have been emailed out for members who want to get involved, and the club will continue to keep members apprised as new opportunities arise. GOTV efforts will be vital to winning this November!

NWFRW is especially excited to co-host a fundraiser benefitting the Joint Judicial Campaign, alongside the Harris County Republican Party on September 1, featuring U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and former Congressman Ted Poe. Hopefully, many of you have purchased your tickets for this special event.

The general meeting on September 14th will focus on "The Dictionary Project," an important way the club gives back to the community. Please read "The Dictionary Project" article in this newsletter, and come prepared to donate to this worthy cause.

There is a lot happening this fall, and NWFRW hopes you will make plans to be part of it. The Republican candidates need our involvement, and this is an important opportunity to make a difference. We look forward to seeing you at our September 14th meeting to hear from The Honorable Mayes Middleton, Republican candidate for Texas Attorney General, and throughout the exciting months ahead!

*Our Momentum Sticks
Stand Strong in '26!*



NWFRW BOARD 2026 OFFICERS

President

Lauren Lothringer Maywald

1st Vice President Programs

Tracine Gibson (interim)

2nd Vice President Membership

Kathy Crosby

3rd Vice President Political Activities

Marcia Fitzpatrick

Secretary

Susan Thompson

Treasurer

Amy Uribe

PAC Treasurer

Gaynell Lira

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Americanism/Caring for America

Sarah Disbro, Merry Keith

Awards

Nancy Baines

Bylaws

Carolyn Rogers

Chaplain

Tracie Anderson

Historian

Linda Connell

Hospitality

Mary Ann Vandermark

Legislative

Pat Fass

Liaison to Council

Dana Khan

Alternate to Council

Tracine Gibson

Newsletter

Katie Radcliffe

Parliamentarian

Nancy Radcliffe (interim)

Publicity

Sierra Johannessen

Reservations

Judi Thompson

Scholarship

LaDonna MacDonald, Nicole Peters

Voter Registration

Gay Garrett, Barbara Young

Website and Social Media

Heidi Furlong

Yearbook/Directory

Ana Carson

Immediate Past President

Nancy Radcliffe

MINUTES: August 10, 2026

Susan Thompson

Call to Order. On behalf of President Lauren Lothringer Maywald, 3rd VP Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick called the NWFRW General Meeting to order at approximately 11:30 AM on Monday, August 10, 2026. She announced that due to Paige Harr's resignation, Tracine Gibson will serve as 1st VP Programs, and Nancy Radcliffe will serve as Parliamentarian, through the end of 2026.

Invocation was delivered by Susan Thompson on behalf of Chaplain Tracie Anderson, and the Pledges to the American and Texas Flags were led by Judge Laryssa Korduba.

Welcome. 3rd VP Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick greeted, then introduced elected officials and their representatives, and welcomed all military veterans and members of other clubs.

Meeting Program. 1st VP Programs Tracine Gibson introduced Jon Bonck, Republican nominee for the 38th Texas Congressional District. He shared the importance of Getting-Out-the-Vote for Republicans and voting down the ballot for all positions.

LUNCH

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the NWFRW June 8, 2026, General Meeting were approved as printed in the *Potpourri* and will be filed with the secretary.

On behalf of Treasurer Amy Uribe, Gaynell Lira 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 Tracine Gibson announced that at the September 14, 2026, General Meeting, the speaker will be Mayes Middleton, a seventh generation Texan, member of the Texas Senate for the 11th District, former member of the Texas House of Representatives for the 23rd District, and the Republican candidate for Texas Attorney General.

On behalf of 2nd VP Membership Kathy Crosby, Secretary Susan Thompson announced that a Meet & Greet will be held on August 24, 2026, at The Thistle Draftshop for new members and members who would like to introduce potential members to the organization. Additional event information is included in the *Potpourri*. The August directory addendum is now available.

3rd VP Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick emphasized the need to vote in the November 3rd midterm election and for voters to be certain to vote the entire ballot; she also recommended voting early and encouraging family and friends to vote. The Northwest Harris County Republican Grassroots Center is now open at 13100 Wortham Center Dr, Suite 155, Houston, TX 77065. "Vote Republican" yard signs will be available at the September 14th meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alternate Liaison to Greater Houston Council Tracine Gibson announced that the Greater Houston Council will meet on September 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. See Announcements below. The meeting is open to all NWFRW members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

As per club bylaws, **Marcia Fitzpatrick** asked for floor nominations and approval for members to serve on the Nominating Committee for the selection of Executive Officers of NWFRW for 2027. **Based on member nominations, the 2027 Nominating Committee will be comprised of: Marcia Fitzpatrick, LaDonna MacDonald, Kathy Mason, Jan Pacey, Nancy Radcliffe, Georgan Reitmeier, and Barbara Young.** The nominating committee will share the recommended slate of 2027 Executive Officers at the October general meeting.

Coleton Emr, District Field Director for Texans for Greg Abbott, encouraged members to participate in the Abbott Impact Initiative designed to turn out voters and "Keep Texas Red." The app can be downloaded to your phone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Meet & Greet – August 24, 2026, 7:00 PM, Thistle Draftshop, 5210 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388

NWFRW General Meeting – September 14, 2026, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Rd, Houston, TX 77090

Greater Houston Council General Meeting – September 15, 2026, 9:30 AM, Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd, Houston, TX 77055

NWFRW Board Meeting – September 21, 2026; 6:30 PM GHWB Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379

ADJOURNMENT

3rd VP Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:50 PM.

2ND VP/MEMBERSHIP**Kathy Crosby**

It's an exciting time for the club as 2027 quickly approaches! In October, NWFRW will start renewing members for 2027; checks need to be dated November 1, 2026. Also, the club will accept new members for 2027, but those checks must be dated January 1, 2027. 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. (Please note that the 2027 membership form is included with this newsletter.) The cost is \$45 for primary membership and \$30 for an associate membership, which includes women who are primary members in another federated club and enlightened gentlemen. Name badges are available for \$10. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call 713-501-1105 or email me at kathyvcrosby@gmail.com.

THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BRING FRIENDS AS GUESTS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN NWFRW FOR 2027!

"Come a Guest, Leave a Member!"

**AMERICANISM /
CARING FOR AMERICA**
**Sarah Disbro
Merry Keith**

Members of Northwest Forest Republican Women really showed their generous spirit in August! Thank you for your donations to Camp Hope totaling \$572.91, as well as monetary donations of \$500.00! Your kindness goes a long way for the veterans.

Besides taking donations to Camp Hope, the Americanism/Caring for America Committee donated three books to the Barbara Bush Library in NWFRW's name. The decision was made by the board to donate books celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States. These books will remain at the library for public use and have a label in the front of each book recognizing the club's donation. The titles are: *America: 250 Years, 250 Stories: A Year-by-Year History of the United States*, *America at 250: Inspiring Stories From Every Year of United States History*, and *250 Years of America: One Fact for Every Year since 1776*.

Urgently needed items at Camp Hope are:

Groceries: cans of black beans, cereal, cranberry juice, strawberry & grape jelly, pasta, sugar packets, #10 cans of tomato products; **Office Supplies:** postage stamps, steno/legal pads; **Personal Hygiene:** body lotion, body wash, boxer briefs (XL & XXL), mouthwash, Q-Tips, twin XL sheet sets; **Facilities:** air filters (all sizes), disposable plates, Lysol cleaner, Clorox cleaner, storage bins, Windex, 13 gallon trash bags, 55 gallon trash bags; **Vitamins & Medications:** fish oil, magnesium, Melatonin 10mg, Metamucil, Pepto Bismol pills, Sennosides, Smooth Move tea, Super B-Complex, Zinc, Zyrtec, Vitamin D3; **Gift Cards:** HEB or Kroger, Home Depot or Lowe's, Target or Walmart

Camp Hope will also take slightly worn, CLEAN men's clothes for donations. Tax-deductible checks or cash are greatly appreciated as well. Amazon website's wish list for Camp Hope is always available. It is updated daily. Thank you!

**3rd VP/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES****Marcia Fitzpatrick**

The August guest speaker, Jon Bonck, stressed the importance of "Getting-Out-the-Vote" and voting all the way down the ballot in order to stop the Socialist/Communist Democrats wave. **VOTE!** Early voting is Oct. 19th-30th. The midterm election is Nov. 3rd. Do not wait until Nov. 3rd...because life happens. VOTE the entire ballot...Harris County candidates/Judges need your vote. Register to vote by Oct. 5th.

See information below for NWFRW VOTER REGISTRATION venues. "VOTE REPUBLICAN" yard signs will be available at the September 14th meeting. One free sign will be given per member, and if you want additional signs, they will be available for \$5.00 each. One free sign will be given per member, and if you want additional signs, they will be available for \$5.00 each. If you have a sign from previous years, be sure to display it.

Coleton Emr, District Field Director from Texans for Greg Abbott, shared information on the Abbott Impact project at the general meeting in August. It's an App for download on your phone that allows contact with Republicans and Independents via phone calls and text messaging. For more information, go to: abbottimpact.org/app

The NW Harris County Republican Grassroots headquarters is now open. The hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday-Saturday. It is located at 13100 Wortham Center Drive, #245. They have yard signs, campaign literature, and push cards.

Remember Republicans who don't vote...elect Democrats. Not voting is not a protest...It is a surrender!

VOTER REGISTRATION
Gay Garrett / Barbara Young

NWFRW continues to host Voter Registration events to help Get-Out-the-Vote! 🇺🇸 UPCOMING DATES:

Sept. 1, 2026 @ Faithbridge Church: 55+ Monthly Lunch

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

18000 Stuebner Airline Rd, Spring, TX 77379

Sept. 3, 2026 @ Pegasus Preserve of Vintage Park

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

14221 Vintage Preserve Pkwy., Houston, TX 77070

Sept. 13, 2026 @ Paradigm Brewing Company (Pending)

Time: TBD

2130 Persimmon Ln., Tomball, TX 77375

Sept. 17, 2026 @ Valley Ranch Grill & Barbecue

Time: 6:30 PM

22548 Texas 249 Access Rd, Houston, TX 77070

DICTIONARY PROJECT**Sue Kikis**

"The Dictionary Project" assists students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. **Last year, thanks to NWFRW members and friends, the club was able to give all the third grade students in Klein ISD Title 1 schools and all the Spring ISD third grade students dictionaries.**

Those of you interested in financially supporting this very worthy project, please see Gay Garrett at the September 14th meeting or send a check to Sue Kikis at 20323 Evergreen Springs Ln, Spring, TX, 77379. Donations are tax-deductible and checks can be made payable to "The Dictionary Project". The books cost \$108 for a box of 24 books, and any donation is appreciated.

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.**

Texas legislative committees continue interim hearings ahead of the 90th Regular Session, set to begin January 12, 2027. Interim charges are formal study assignments issued by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick to Senate committees and by House Speaker Dustin Burrows to House committees. These directives identify specific issues for research, public testimony, and recommendations that will shape legislation in the coming session.

House committees meeting in mid-August are reviewing higher education enrollment trends and workforce alignment, transportation infrastructure, general aviation, pensions, agriculture, data center growth and related transmission needs, public health, natural resources, and governmental oversight. Senate committees have examined natural resources, homeland and border security, drone threats, and land ports of entry. Additional Senate charges released in late July focus on protections for minors using online gaming platforms and improvements to family court processes.

The Texas Education Freedom Accounts program continues to expand. As of mid-August, more than 118,000 students hold active awards, including nearly 15,000 recently issued to Tier 3 applicants.

Initial funding for approximately 73,000 accounts began July 1. Private school students receive payments in installments, while homeschool students receive the full \$2,000 award. More than 20,700 recipients have opted out, with most previously enrolled in public schools; those funds are being reallocated to families on the waitlist. The TEFA Marketplace remains available for approved educational purchases.

The Republican Party of Texas held its state convention June 11th–13th, in Houston, where delegates elected new party leadership and adopted legislative priorities for the 90th Session, including election security, property tax elimination, border enforcement, grid reliability, and child protection.

Committee reports expected later this year will guide bill drafting. Ongoing hearings continue to collect input on education choice, infrastructure, border security, and fiscal policy ahead of the January 2027 session.

PICTURE GALLERY

August 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.

September 1: NWFRW & HCRP Joint Judicial Campaign and Candidates Fundraiser Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Coronado Club, 919 Milam Street, Suite #500, Houston, TX 77002

September 11: Meeting Reservation Deadline, 9:00 AM, Lunch Reservations link [HERE](#)

September 14: NWFRW General Meeting, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

September 21: NWFRW Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379

NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN 2027 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

🇺🇸 🇺🇸 BE A PART OF HISTORY 🇺🇸 🇺🇸

The first-ever Republican Midterm Convention is coming to Dallas this September.

You can sign up for the ticket lottery NOW: <https://gopconvention.com/ticket-request/>

