



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 2026

Volume 51, Issue 9

NEXT MEETING Monday, October 12, 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. Oct. 9, 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 Steve Toth, Texas State Representative, District 15, as guest speaker for the October 12th General Meeting. Representative Toth has consistently been ranked as one of the most conservative legislators in the Texas House while delivering real wins for the State. His landmark legislation banning both Critical Race Theory and the social transitioning of children in Texas is being used as a model in states across the nation. He also secured

billions in funding for border security initiatives as a member of the Appropriations Committee. During his tenure serving his constituents in the Texas House, Representative Toth has earned his reputation as a bold champion for Republican causes. He and his wife, Babette, have been happily married for over 40 years and are proud parents and grandparents. His motivation for service is to work for a better future for all.

In the March primary, he was elected as the Republican nominee for Texas Congressional District 2. He promises to fight for family, faith, and freedom as the cornerstones of America. He will face the Democratic opponent in the midterm elections on November 3rd.

Mark your calendars for October 12th! Make your reservations, and bring your friends and neighbors to learn more about the Republican candidates on the November ballot in Harris County and hear from Representative Steve Toth. **You don't want to miss this important opportunity as the midterm elections are coming soon!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lauren Lothringer Maywald

The November election is coming down to the wire, and recent polling is sounding an alarm for Republicans: Democrats are leading in a number of closely watched battleground races across the country. But national headlines are only part of the story...



Here in Harris County, voters will be deciding races that directly impact the community. With early voting beginning Monday, October 19, there is no time to sit on the sidelines. Harris County voters have yet another chance to choose common sense for the county with many important down ballot races. From county judge, to civil and criminal judges, all the way to HCAD (Harris Central Appraisal District) Board of Directors – bring a friend (or 5) to cast your vote for the Republican candidate!

Campaign opportunities are being shared with members, and the club will continue to keep you informed as additional opportunities arise. Whether you can volunteer on a campaign, help with voter outreach, participate in GOTV efforts, or simply make sure your friends and neighbors have a plan to vote, every effort matters in the final weeks of an election.



There is a lot happening this October! Make plans to join us for an informative lunch meeting with Representative Steve Toth and fellow Northwest Forest Republican Women. As we enter the final stretch of the election season, we look forward to coming together as a club, staying informed, and making the most of the opportunities ahead.

We'll see you at our October meeting!

*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: September 14, 2026

Susan Thompson

Call to Order. On behalf of President Lauren Lothringer Maywald, 1st VP Programs Tracine Gibson called the NWFRW General Meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 2026.

Invocation. On behalf of Chaplain Tracie Anderson, Cindy Eschenburg delivered the invocation and **State Representative Sam Harless, HD 126**, led the **Pledges to the American and Texas Flags**.

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

Meeting Program. 1st VP Programs Tracine Gibson introduced The Honorable Mayes Middleton, a seventh-generation Texan, member of the Texas Senate representing the 11th District, former member of the Texas House of Representatives for the 23rd District, and candidate for Texas Attorney General. Senator Middleton discussed the stakes in the upcoming election, the influence of out-of-state support for Democratic candidates, and his planned approach to addressing the responsibilities of the Office of Attorney General.

LUNCH

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the NWFRW August 10, 2026, General Meeting, were approved as printed in the *Potpourri*, and will be filed with the Secretary.

Treasurer Amy Uribe presented the Treasurer's Report, and it will be filed with the minutes.

On behalf of PAC Treasurer Gaynell Lira, Treasurer Amy Uribe presented the PAC Treasurer's Report, and it will be filed with the minutes.

1st VP Programs Tracine Gibson announced that the October 12, 2026, General Meeting speaker will be The Honorable Steve Toth, Republican nominee for Congressional District 2.

On behalf of 2nd VP Membership Kathy Crosby, Susan Thompson announced that NWFRW will begin accepting 2027 membership renewals and new member forms at the October meeting. The membership fees remain unchanged: \$45 for new and renewing members; \$30 for associate members (gentlemen and members of another Federated Republican Women organization). Renewing members and associates should post-date checks on or after November 1, 2026, and new member checks should be post-dated on or after January 1, 2027. Membership forms will be available online and at the membership desk during the October meeting.

3rd VP Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick emphasized the importance of voting in the November 3rd election and encouraged voters to complete the *entire* ballot; she also recommended voting early and encouraging family and friends to vote. The Northwest Harris County Republican Grassroots Center is open at 13100 Wortham Center Drive, Suite 155, Houston, TX 77065. "Vote Republican" yard signs are available at the meeting today, and members were encouraged to take home and display the sign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

On behalf of Sue Kikis, Voter Registration Co-Chair Gay Garrett encouraged members to donate to "The Dictionary Project," which provides comprehensive dictionaries to third-grade students in Title 1 schools in the Klein and Spring school districts. A box of dictionaries is \$108, although any amount is appreciated. She also noted that Constitution Day is September 17th.

1st VP Programs Tracine Gibson announced that The Texas Youth Summit will be held October 9-10, 2026, in The Woodlands. Admission is open to ages 12 and older, including parents and guests. The code "RepublicanWoman" may be used for a discount.

Representatives from Orlando Sanchez and Abbott Impact were on hand to assist members with downloading and using the Abbott Impact app, which facilitates communication within the local community regarding the upcoming election.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Voter Registration Deadline – October 5, 2026

NWFRW General Meeting – October 12, 2026, 11:30 a.m., Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

Early Voting Period – October 19 – 30, 2026

Election Day – November 3, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

1st VP Programs Tracine Gibson adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:55 PM.

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN NWFRW FOR 2027! The club will start taking membership renewals for 2027 at the October meeting. If you pay by check, please have it dated November 1, 2026. We will also accept membership forms for new members in October, but those checks must be dated January 1, 2027. **New members will start receiving all NWFRW communication immediately, but it will be January before you will become 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, don't hesitate to call 713-501-1105 or email me at kathyvcrosby@gmail.com. Let's keep the membership growing, and bring a guest to the October meeting. **Remember our membership motto is "Come a Guest, Leave a Member."**

****Please note that credit card payments will NOT be accepted until November.**

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

Thank you to NWFRW members who continue to be so generous to the veterans at Camp Hope! Please know how much your donations are appreciated.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS AT CAMP HOPE ARE:

Grocery: 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!**

The most important MIDTERM ELECTIONS are quickly approaching! These election are not personality contests. They are a choice between two very different futures: Socialism/Communism vs Capitalism! YOUR VOTE IS CRITICAL!

Early voting will be October 19th - October 30th. **You can vote at any early voting site in Harris County.** Be sure to make a plan to take a friend (or friends) to the polls, and vote early because... life happens. **Election Day is November 3rd. EVERY Republican must vote.** There is no sitting this election out! Texas must stay **RED**, and we need to turn Harris County **RED**. Voting is your SUPER POWER! **Be sure to vote the entire ballot, including for judges, county officials, school boards, water boards, and others. Don't be an Undervoter!**

VOTE REPUBLICAN signs will be available, again, at the October 12th General Meeting. If you haven't gotten yours yet,



please be sure to pick one up. Each member may receive one with no charge. If you want additional signs, they are \$5.00 each. **Be sure to display them proudly!**

The NW Harris County Republican Grassroots Headquarters is open. The hours are 10:00 AM -5:00 PM on Monday - Saturday. It is located at 13100 Wortham Center Dr #245. Yard signs, campaign literature, and push cards are available there.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

DICTIONARY PROJECT

Sue Kikis

Thank you to NWFRW members who donated to "The Dictionary Project" at the September meeting. The third grade is when students transition from learning to "read" and start reading to "learn". Providing them with a personal dictionary is something that can be done to help educate and make a difference in a child's life.

All of you interested in financially supporting this very worthy project, please see Sue Kikis at our October meeting or send a check to her at 20323 Evergreen Springs Lane, Spring, TX, 77379. Donations are tax-deductible, and checks should be payable to "The Dictionary Project." The books cost \$108 for a box of 24 books, and any donation will be 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. NWFRW is proud to support "The Dictionary Project" as a way to make a difference in the community and beyond.**

Texas legislative committees continue interim hearings as lawmakers prepare for the 90th Regular Session, which convenes 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 issues for research, public testimony, and recommendations that will shape next year's legislation.

The Legislative Budget Board is the Legislature's budget staff. It reviews how state agencies spend money and helps write the two-year state budget. Board hearings are now underway for the next budget cycle, covering fiscal years 2028 and 2029. At these meetings, agencies explain what they want to spend and why. Lawmakers and Board Staff use that information when they draft the budget that will be adopted in 2027. The current two-year budget, approved in 2025, totals about \$338 billion. **Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, and Speaker Burrows have directed most agencies to cut their base spending requests by 3 percent, while protecting public school formula funding and Education Freedom Accounts.**

The Texas Education Freedom Accounts program remains a central policy focus. More than 118,000 students hold active awards for the 2026–27 school year, with more than 109,000 already funded. Additional awards continue to be issued from the waitlist. The Comptroller's office has requested more than \$2 billion for the program in the next budget cycle. Private school participants receive installment payments, while homeschool students receive \$2,000 awards. The TEFA Marketplace remains open for approved educational purchases.

The Republican Party of Texas adopted legislative priorities at its June 11–13, 2026, convention in Houston, including election security, property tax relief, border enforcement, grid reliability, and child protection. **All 150 House seats and multiple Senate districts will be on the November 3rd ballot as Republicans defend the current 88–62 House majority. Committee reports due later this fall will guide bill drafting. Pre-filing for the 90th Session begins November 9, 2026.**

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 5: Last Day to Register to VOTE!

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

October 12: NWFRW General Meeting, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090

October 19: NWFRW Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379

October 19–30: EARLY VOTING!

November 3: MIDTERM ELECTIONS! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

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**

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