NORTHWEST FOREST REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Potpourri

An Award-Winning Federated Club
Houston ~ North Harris County
Founded June 1974

www.northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org
info@northwestforestrepublicanwomen.org

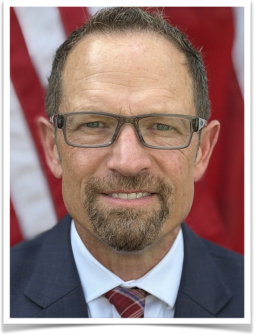
TFRW Region 17, Senate District 7

November 2026 **Volume 51, Issue 10**

NEXT MEETING
Monday, November 9, 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. Nov. 6, 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*



Mark your calendars for November 9th! NWFRW will welcome the Honorable Jason Isaac, Founder & CEO, of the American Energy Institute as guest speaker for our General Meeting. Mr. Issac is also a former four-term Texas State Representative. He will be speaking about energy reality vs. energy rhetoric and the future reality of our grid.

The Honorable Jason Isaac has appeared live on Fox News, Fox Business, CNN, and other national news shows, and his commentaries have been published in *Fox Business*, *The Hill*, *The Washington Examiner*, *The Daily Caller*, and other publications. Prior to starting the American Energy Institute, Isaac, a fourth-generation native Texan, was elected four times as the State Representative for Hays and Blanco counties in the Texas Hill Country. He served on the Energy Resources and Environmental Regulation committees, among others. During his eight years of service, he successfully passed legislation to reduce taxes, strengthen election integrity, improve public education, preserve Second Amendment rights, protect local groundwater, and protect private property rights**. He was repeatedly honored for his commitment to limited government and proved to be an effective leader, excelling at both advocating for conservative principles and working to find responsible solutions for the future of the Lone Star State.**

Come hear about this important and very timely topic from a true expert on the subject! Invite a guest to join you on November 9th.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — *Lauren Lothringer Maywald*



By the time you are reading this, we will be halfway through early voting, and the message is simple: Republicans must get out and VOTE! This election is a numbers game. There are more Republicans in the state of Texas than Democrats, but that advantage only matters if we show up at the polls. History shows just how consequential midterm elections can be: in 18 of the last 20 midterm elections since 1946, the party holding the White House has lost seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The two exceptions were 1998, when President Bill Clinton's Democrats gained five House seats, and 2002, when President George W. Bush's Republicans gained eight. **Let's make the 2026 midterms historical – grab a friend and get to the polls!**

Regardless of the outcome of this election, we must remember that the future of our country rests in hands far bigger than our own. Our faith calls us to remain steadfast, trust in God's greater plan, and continue serving with purpose and conviction. For generations, Republican women have worked tirelessly to protect our values, strengthen our communities, and shape the future of our nation. That legacy does not begin or end with any single election. **We will preserve the foundation those women built, carry their work forward, and remain committed to the principles of faith, family, and freedom for generations to come. Let's finish strong, turn out the vote, and do our part to keep Texas red. Make your plan, encourage someone else to vote, and let's show up in numbers!**

We are excited to welcome former State Representative Jason Isaac as the November speaker. His presentation will offer an opportunity to learn more about the energy landscape in Texas, the policy debates shaping our state, and the importance of reliable and affordable energy for Texans. **We look forward to an engaging and informative discussion on November 9th. Hope to see you there!**

The Nominating Committee for NWFRW presented the following recommended slate of Executive Officers for 2027:

President – Susan Thompson
1st VP Programs – Tracine Gibson
2nd VP Membership – Heather Patrick
3rd VP Political Activities – Marcia Fitzpatrick
Secretary – Judi Thompson
Treasurer – Amy Uribe
PAC Treasurer – Gaynell Lira

The 2027 Executive Officers will be elected and installed at the November 9, 2026, general 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: October 12, 2026 — *Susan Thompson*

Call to Order. President Lauren Lothringer Maywald called the NWFRW General Meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 12, 2026.
Invocation. On behalf of Chaplain Tracie Anderson, Susan Thompson delivered the invocation, and Klein ISD Board Member Nicole Peters led the Pledges to the American and Texas Flags.
Welcome. 3rd VP Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick welcomed members and guests, introduced elected officials, candidates, and their representatives. She also recognized military veterans and members of other clubs.
Meeting Program. 1st VP Programs Tracine Gibson introduced Steve Toth, currently serving as Texas State Representative for House District 15 and the Republican nominee for U.S. Congressional District 2. He encouraged members to stay involved in local elections and school district matters. He also stressed the importance of every Republican voting in the midterm elections.

LUNCH

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the NWFRW September 14, 2026 General Meeting, as printed in the *Potpourri*, were approved and will be filed with the Secretary.
Treasurer Amy Uribe presented the Treasurer's Report, and it will be filed with the minutes.
PAC Treasurer Gaynell Lira presented the PAC Treasurer's Report, and it will be filed with the minutes.
1st VP Programs Tracine Gibson announced that the proposed slate of 2027 Executive Officers will be presented for election at the November 9, 2026, General Meeting. She encouraged members to watch the newsletter for more details about the November program.
2nd VP Membership Kathy Crosby announced that NWFRW is accepting 2027 membership renewals and new member applications. Membership forms are available online and at the membership desk during the meeting.
3rd VP Political Activities Marcia Fitzpatrick encouraged members to:

- ☑ Vote early (October 19 through October 30) because… life happens;
- ☑ Vote for principles, not personalities;
- ☑ Vote in all judicial races;
- ☑ Vote for all additional items applicable to their addresses, including school board races; and
- ☑ Vote the ENTIRE ballot.

She also encouraged members to display "Vote Republican" yard signs, which are still available, record volunteer hours, and use the Abbott Impact App to support get-out-the-vote efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dictionary Project. Sue Kikis encouraged donations 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, but donations of any amount are welcome.
Greater Houston Council. Tracine Gibson reminded members that NWFRW membership also includes membership in the Greater Houston Council (www.ghcfrwpac.org) and the Texas and National Federation of Republican Women.
Nominating Committee. On behalf of the Nominating Committee Chair LaDonna MacDonald, Kathy Mason presented the following recommended slate of Executive Officers for 2027:

- ☆ **President** – Susan Thompson
- ☆ **1st VP Programs** – Tracine Gibson
- ☆ **2nd VP Membership** – Heather Patrick
- ☆ **3rd VP Political Activities** – Marcia Fitzpatrick
- ☆ **Secretary** – Judi Thompson
- ☆ **Treasurer** – Amy Uribe
- ☆ **PAC Treasurer** – Gaynell Lira

The 2027 Executive Officers will be elected and installed at the November 9, 2026, general meeting.
Wreaths Across America. Pam Hughes provided an overview of changes to Wreaths Across America and referred members to the November newsletter for additional information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harris County Judge Candidate Debate – October 12, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Turquoise Event Center, 9301 W. Bellfort St., Houston, TX 77031
EARLY VOTING PERIOD – October 19 – 30, 2026
NWFRW Board Meeting – October 19, 2026, 6:30 p.m., GHWB Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77379
Election Day – November 3, 2026
NWFRW General Meeting – November 9, 2026, 11:30 a.m., Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Rd., Houston, TX 77090
Greater Houston Council General Meeting – November 17, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX 77055

ADJOURNMENT

President Maywald adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:50 p.m.

2ND VP/MEMBERSHIP — *Kathy Crosby*

Membership renewals are happening NOW, and at the November 9th meeting, NWFRW will continue accepting 2027 membership forms. The club is off to a great start building membership for the new year. Renewing members and NEW members have the option to pay by cash, check, or credit card, which includes a nominal fee. **And… Yes, all members MUST complete a membership form.**

New members will start receiving all NWFRW communication immediately, and you will also become a member of the state and national federated Republican women's organizations (TFRW and NFRW). The cost for primary membership is $45, and $30 for an associate membership, which includes women who are primary members in another federated club or enlightened gentlemen. Name badges are also available to be purchased for $10.

Let's keep the club status and membership growing. Please bring a guest to the November meeting, and invite them to join. Remember our membership motto is "Come a Guest, Leave a Member."

Finally, stop by the membership table if you have not picked up your 2026 Directory, Addendum and/or name badges. Questions? Call 713-501-1105, or email kathyvcrosby@gmail.com.

"Come a Guest, Leave a Member!"

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

November is a special month for giving thanks for all of the blessings we have received throughout the year. Let's also show our gratitude to the Veterans at Camp Hope for their selfless service by generously donating the following urgently needed items at our November 9th General Meeting:

Groceries: Apple Juice (64 oz or larger), Black Bean cans, Cereal, Cranberry Juice, Strawberry & Grape Jelly, Orange Juice, Pasta (Assorted), Sugar Packets (Individual), Tomato Products #10 cans;

Classroom & Office Supplies: Clipboards, Manila Folders, Postage Stamps;

Clothing (New Clothes Only) & Personal Hygiene: Body Wash, Deodorant, Loofahs (Mesh), Men's Short Sleeve White T-Shirts (All Sizes);

Facilities: 13-Gallon Trash Bags, Dish Soap, Disposable Plates, Pillows, Plastic-ware, Sponges;

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

Please Note: Camp Hope is having a CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE for the Veterans' children! If you would like to donate a toy, please bring it to the November 9th meeting. Donated toys must be NEW and UNWRAPPED and can be for infants-to-teenagers. **This will be the only meeting where toys for Camp Hope are collected**. Thank you!

3rd VP/POLITICAL ACTIVITIES — *Marcia Fitzpatrick*

VOTE! MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! VOTE!

EARLY VOTING is under way! The last day to VOTE EARLY is October 30th. Please do not wait until Election Day on November 3rd to cast your ballot, because….life happens. It is imperative to get **EVERY Republican** out to vote. This is not the election to stay at home. Every vote counts! Texas must stay **RED,** and Harris County needs to turn **RED**. Vote the entire ballot from top to bottom. It is a lengthy ballot with over 100 candidates. **Don't be an "undervoter."**

Remember to vote for all the Republican Judges. Harris Central Appraisal District is a non-partisan race, however; Republicans running are Beverly Barrett, Claudio Gutierrez and Ericka McCrutcheon. Depending on where you live, there may be elections for School Board Trustees and Water Board Directors on the ballot. Do your homework, and make a plan. Ballots can be found at www.harrisvotes.com. **All of the candidates depend on you to do your part and VOTE!**

The importance of this election cannot be stressed enough. Socialism/Communism vs Capitalism is on the ballot. This election is not a personality contest. It is a choice between **two very different** futures. Again, you have until October 30th to cast your ballot early, with Election Day being on November 3rd. **Let's get out the Republican vote, and we will win!**

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA — *Pam Hughes*

Northwest Forest Republican Women is proud to participate in Wreaths Across America. What does it mean to sponsor a wreath?

Sponsoring a Veteran's wreath is a personal gift of gratitude and remembrance for an individual who served this country so that we can be free. As Veterans Day approaches on November 11th, what a wonderful way to show appreciation for those who have served our country!

For $17.00, a wreath will be placed on one of the 80,000+ graves at Houston National Cemetery, and $5 will be donated to Camp Hope. Wreaths will be distributed on December 14. Bring your checks to the November 9th meeting made out to Wreaths Across America, and give to Pam Hughes. You can also call Pam at 713-726-1213 or email pamkangaroo@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!



LEGISLATIVE — *Pat Fass*

Texas lawmakers continue interim work ahead of the 90th Regular Session, which begins January 12, 2027. No regular session is scheduled for 2026. Interim charges issued by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dustin Burrows direct committees to study issues and prepare recommendations**. Recent hearings include the Senate Education Committee's October sessions on declining enrollment, teacher pay, educator misconduct, four-day school weeks, parental rights, student discipline, and implementation of the Texas Education Freedom Accounts program.** Other committees have reviewed insurance, public health, natural resources, energy, and business regulation. Committee reports are due later this fall and will guide bill drafting. Pre-filing for the 90th Session opens Nov. 9, 2026.

The Texas Education Freedom Accounts program, created by Senate Bill 2 in 2025, is in its first year of operation for the 2026–27 school year. More than 274,000 applications were received. **More than 116,000 students are participating, with roughly 95,000 to 106,000, remaining on the waitlist.** Private school students receive $10,474 annually, students with disabilities may receive up to $30,000, and homeschool students receive $2,000. The Comptroller's office has requested a substantial increase in funding for the next biennium to address demand. The program is funded separately from public school appropriations.

The Legislative Budget Board is reviewing agency requests for the 2028–29 budget that the 90th Legislature will adopt. Most agencies were directed in July to reduce base spending requests by 3 percent, with public school formula funding and Education Freedom Accounts protected. The current 2026–27 budget totals approximately $338 billion in all funds.

These activities position lawmakers and voters to shape conservative policy for the January 2027 session.

PICTURE GALLERY — *October 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 30: EARLY VOTING ENDS! VOTE!
November 3: ELECTION DAY! VOTE!
November 6: Meeting Reservation Deadline, 9:00 AM, Lunch Reservations link HERE
November 9: NWFRW General Meeting, 11:30 AM, Shirley Acres, 217 Woerner Road, Houston, TX 77090
November 16: NWFRW Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, George H.W. Bush Community Center, 6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379
November 26: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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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