



# Representing "11" Counties of Federated Republican Women Clubs

February 2017

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Greater Houston Council's first meeting of 2017 was a huge success. We enjoyed a large attendance while we honored our Member Club Presidents and presented our annual Nuts N' Bolts Leadership/Workshop. Some of the comments I received said how happy they were to have had many of their club members present to learn so much about running their clubs. Thank you so much to Jan Ott, the Chair of Nuts N' Bolts and her entire committee; Pearl Maggio, Kay Buchko, Barbara Buxton, Cynthia England, Cindy Siegel, Sherry Peterson, Debbie Roan, and Judy Parada. In addition, the Executive Board of GHC worked with them to provide a truly exceptional educational experience for everyone attending.

Congratulations to our newest Member Club, RW of Yoakum Area serving the counties of Lavaca, Gonzales, and Dewitt. They attended our Nuts N' Bolts presentation and joined that day. Cheryl Thompson-Draper is the club President. How happy we are to have you as one of our Council members as we look forward to your input and helping you achieve your goals. Welcome to Greater Houston Council, ladies!

Here we are just two and one half weeks since the inauguration and our new leader is moving fast establishing his cabinet and signing Executive Orders. Republicans should hold together for this rough ride to support him and each other...when you are tempted to criticize President Trump...just remember what the alternative could have been and how grateful we are to have our new President to look out for our interests.

Work is progressing on our 55<sup>th</sup> year celebration of GHC on October 6, 2017 and we want to hear from you of your interest in helping with this event. We will be announcing our speaker soon.

Our next meeting will be somewhat different but full of information to prepare everyone for TFRW's Legislation Day. We will host a panel discussion of former legislators to answer questions on 'Strategies for Influencing your Elected Officials'. What is the best way to have your opinion heard? This meeting is March 21, 2017 at 9:30.m.

Keep up the good work Republicans!

*Cheryl Dalton*

President, Greater Houston Council

## **2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT** - Cheryl Dalton, Village RW

**1ST VP PROGRAMS** - Bobbi Robinson, Village RW

**2ND VP MEMBERSHIP** - Janet Hoffan, Galveston RW

**3rd VP SPECIAL EVENT** - Diane Sloan, Village RW

**4th VP FINANCE** - Chris Parker, Kingwood RW

**RECORDING SECRETARY** - Joy Gregory, CyFair Republican Women

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY** - Karen McCarter, Fort Bend RW

**TREASURER** - Cindy Siegel, Magic Circle RW

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT** - Barbara Tague, Tomball

### **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**BYLAWS/PARLIAMENTARIAN** - Pearl Maggio, Montgomery County RW

**CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES** - Debbie Guitian Roan, Bay Area RW

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** - Marie Maggio, Golden Triangle RW

**LEGISLATION** - Wendi Lojo, Ft. Bend RW

**LIAISON TO COUNTY CHAIRS** - Denise Truncale, Golden Triangle, RW

**NEWSLETTER** - Alice Melancon, Montgomery County RW

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**HISTORIAN** Gina Thompson

**HOSPITALITY** - Edie Holland, Bay Area RW

**HOSPITALITY ASS'T** - Givvie Searcy, San Jacinto RW

**SPEAKER'S BUREAU** - Janie Branham, Kingwood RW

### **PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES**

**ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT** - Sarah Von Dran, West Pearland RW

**CHAPLAIN** - Sophia Mafrige, Magic Circle

**GOTV** - Cindy Bennett Smith, Northwest Forest RW

**PARLIAMENTARIAN/BYLAWS** - Pearl Maggio, Montgomery County RW

**TFRW LIAISON** - Tina Gibson, Ft. Bend RW

**WEBSITE** - Lynne Skinner, Magic Circle

**WEBMASTER** - Adam Cunningham, West Pearland

**SOCIAL MEDIA** - Terry Leavitt-Chavez, Magic Circle

### **HONORARY EX-OFFICIO**

**TFRW President** - Theresa Kosmoski, Village RW

**TFRW PAST PRESIDENT** - Carolyn Hodges, Village RW

# MINUTES



## Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

### Minutes from General Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017

President Cheryl Dalton called the January General Meeting to order at 9:30 am. Chaplain Sophia Mafrige gave the invocation and led the pledges to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag.

Cheryl Dalton asked all clubs to send club information to Alice Melancon, Newsletter Editor, at [alme-lancon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alme-lancon@sbcglobal.net) so she could include information and pictures in the GHC Newsletter.

Treasurer, Cindy Siegel presented the Treasurer's report. GHC bank balance was \$ 13,777.00 as of December 31, 2016. Cindy presented

and explained the 2017 Budget . Debbie Roan made a motion that GHC accept the 2017 Budget as presented by Cindy. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The 2017 Budget was approved.

President Cheryl Dalton presided over the Recognition and Honoring of Greater Houston Council Club Presidents. Each Club President was presented with a United States Flag, a GHC Pin and a Red Rose. First VP/Programs, Bobbi Robinson and Third VP/Special Events, Diane Sloan assisted in the presentations.

The business meeting was turned over to Jan Ott, TFRW Deputy President, Region II and her committee to present NUTS and BOLTS Training Session at 9:55am.

Submitted by,

Joy Gregory

Recording Secretary



# COUNCIL NEWS



**GREATER HOUSTON COUNCIL OF FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

# **CELEBRATES 55 YEARS**

**Of**

**REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTIVISM**

**As members of your local clubs, you are members of Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women, Texas Federation of Republican Women, and the National Federation of Republican Women.**

**WE ARE ONE TEAM, ONE VOICE**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**FRIDAY**

**October 6, 2017**

**LUNCH**

**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON**

**All member clubs will join in this celebration and are encouraged to decorate their Clubs' tables.**

**Committees are being formed now: contact Diane Sloan, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP of Events at 281-948-1683 or**

**ladysloano@aol.com to volunteer for this fun and informative event! We need everyone involved.**

**Clubs: Please consider some type of sponsorship in your budget.**



**“The Election is over...Now what do I do?”**



**Join Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women**

**March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am**

**Trini Mendenhall Center**

**1414 Wirt Road**

## **Strategies for Influencing Your Elected Officials**

**Come hear a panel of elected and prior elected officials discuss how to successfully influence Public Policy and advocate for the Republican platform or a cause dear to your heart. Learn about “what works and what doesn’t” and how to be effective in Austin at TFRW’s Legislative Day on April 6<sup>th</sup>. (For more information go to: <http://www.tfrw.org/2017-legislative-day/>.)**

*Open to any Federated Republican Women’s Club member.*

# COUNCIL NEWS

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**Wendi Lojo**

The Texas Legislature convened in the 85<sup>th</sup> legislative session beginning on January 10, 2017. The legislative session will last for 140 days with the last day on May 29, 2017 or sine die. The legislature only meets once every two years, so they have a lot of work to do in a short 140 days. Budget forecasts indicate that the legislature will face a budget shortfall which guarantees a difficult session as there are many weighty issues for the legislature to address. Both Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, and Speaker of the House Joe Straus have recently released their priority issues. While there is no guarantee these issues will be addressed, it is likely that we will see action on at least some of these. The following is a list of priority issues from Lt. Governor Patrick and Speaker Straus:

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

- balanced budget proposal,
- property tax reform,
- school choice,
- sanctuary cities,
- photo voter ID,
- women's privacy act,
- inappropriate teacher-student relationships,
- fetal tissue/partial birth abortion,
- spending cap,
- hailstorm lawsuit reform.

Speaker Joe Straus

- public and higher education,
- protecting children from abuse,
- mental health,
- cybersecurity,
- encouraging entrepreneurship,
- identify faith-based groups that could help provide additional foster care homes.

## HOSPITALITY

**Edie Holland**

Thank you to San Jacinto RW, Tomball RW, and Northwest Forest RW for all the delicious and wonderful snacks they provided for the January 17 meeting. Everyone enjoyed all the wonderful snacks.

We do need some clubs to volunteer to help with hospitality for this year. If your club did not volunteer last year, please do so this year.

## MEMORABILIA NEEDED

**Alice Melancon**

During 2017, the Council will be celebrating its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary and would like to make the celebration a special one. We will have a 55<sup>th</sup> celebration honoring our past presidents and would like to display Council and political memorabilia of the past 55 years. If you have something special that you think should be displayed, please contact Alice Melancon at [almelancon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almelancon@sbcglobal.net) with Greater Houston Council in the subject line. Tell me a little about what you think we could use and I will get back to you. Please include your phone number in the email. (Attaching a photo of the item might prove to be helpful.)

Visit our website  
[www.ghcfrwpac.org](http://www.ghcfrwpac.org)

# CLUB NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

### Marie Maggio

Texas Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton installed the 2017 GTRW officers at the December 4<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting. Officers are: Marie Maggio, President; Denise Truncale, First VP/ Programs; Janet Brown, Second VP/ Membership; Linda Sparkman, Secretary; Cathy Shoemaker, Corresponding Secretary; Gwen Reck Withrow, Treasurer.

Gwen Reck Withrow, GTRW's delegate to the Greater Houston Council, won the TFRW contest naming the most potential cabinet members in the Trump Administration. She will receive free registration for Legislative Day. GTRW longtime member Evangeline George will be one of the honorees at the Save The Children Event. She is a retired educator and an advocate for children.

Our meetings are held the first Monday of the month, 11:30 a.m. at the Elegante Hotel. Reservations may be made on line—come join us!

## REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF YOAKUM AREA

Republican Women of Yoakum Area are making plans for a fundraiser, a Czech Dance, on March 18. The musical group will be The Moravians (they are all Aggies) and for intermission- the Aggie Wrangler Dancers will perform. Ticket price is \$20 per person. We will be holding this at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville Texas from 1-5 pm. (The KCs will be selling liquid refreshments). Tickets will be available very soon.

## KINGWOOD AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN

### Dr. Janie Branham



The Honorable Lincoln Goodwin installed the officers of Kingwood Area Republican Women (KARW) on December 2. Pictured above from left to right are: Dr. Janie Branham, Patricia Morlen, Pamela McEver, Tracy Hobbs, Daniela Sumbrera, and Regina Thompson.

The Kingwood Area Republican Women recently announced new officers who will begin their terms on January 1, 2017. The officers, elected by the membership, makes policy decisions, authorizes rulemaking and oversees the club's operations.

Dr. Janie Branham, a former principal, voter registration chair of Texas Federation of Republican Women, and current Precinct Chair of 659, will serve as President.

Patricia Morlen, a former school teacher, will serve as 1st Vice President for a second term. She serves on the Harris County GOP Ballot Security Committee and is chair of precinct 98.

The club also elected Pamela Mc Ever, a former school teacher, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for a second term. Regina Thompson will be serving as Treasurer for a second term. Regina was previously in education for 41 years. Other elected officers are Tracy Hobson who will serve as Recording Secretary and Daniela Sumbera who was elected as the Corresponding Secretary. Sumbera is in Real Estate and Hobson is currently Judge Laryssa Korduba's Chief of Staff. She is also a member of the Houston Young Republicans and is in her second term as Secretary of the Texas Young Republican Federation.

# CLUB NEWS

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

**Alice Melancon**

The Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Republican Women held their planning meeting for 2017 on Thursday, January 11, 2017. Each officer and board member reported on plans for the year and funds were budgeted for each committee.

Plans were made for a membership social to be held on February 16.

Our January General Meeting featured former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs who spoke about her new book.

Our February 23 speaker will be Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton.



Pictured: Officers for 2017

Left to Right- Heather Pehrson, Treasurer; Anne Miraglia, Corresponding Secretary; Betty Byrd, Recording Secretary; Suzanne Adams, President; Sara Readon, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; and Cheree Page, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

## REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF SJC (San Jacinto County)

**Gayle Booth**

The Republican Women of SJC (San Jacinto County) have elected officers for a 2 Year Term. Gayle Booth will be the incoming President. The officers were installed on January 17th by Judy Parada, SREC Committeewoman for Senate District 3.



Officers, left to right, Kay Capers, Charlene Capers, Tomi Tinsley, Di-  
anne Griffith, President Gayle  
Booth, Past President Kelly  
Wineinger, Sommer Brinkley and  
Senate District 3 SREC Committee-  
woman, Judy Parada. Mary Wilker-  
son, the Program Chair, was not  
present.



## TFRW NEWS



### TFRW Legislative Day

The Texas Legislature is in session - and it is time to register for this year's TFRW Legislative Day! **Legislative Day** ("Lege Day") will be held on **April 6, 2017 in Austin**, at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol. In conjunction with this event TFRW is also holding its biannual **Belles and Boots**, on **Wednesday, April 5**, at Scholz Garten in Austin. All your registration links can be found on the TFRW webpage.

The full schedule will be released as speakers are confirmed. Register before **March 14** when prices will go up!

#### **IMPORTANT:**

On Legislative Day, transportation will be provided between the Sheraton Austin .

Don't forget to wear your **RED JACKETS!** We are looking forward to seeing you in Austin in April!

Michele Samuelson, TFRW VP of Legislation  
Karen Newton, TFRW VP of Finance

## OTHER NEWS

### CURRENT AND PAST PRESIDENTS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY MEET MONTHLY



Pictured: front row left to right: Julie Morton, Montgomery County Republican Women; Ann Kate, North Shore Republican Women; Pat Truesdale, The Woodlands Republican Women; Julie Faubel, Montgomery County Republican Women; and back row left to right Stacey Buick, Liberty Belles Republican Women; Francine Hope, Lake Conroe Republican Women; Alice Melancon, Montgomery County Republican Women; Suzanne Adams, Montgomery County Republican Women, and Michelle Martin, Lake Conroe Republican Women.)

Each month, a group of current and past presidents of Republican Women's clubs in Montgomery County meet for lunch. The group varies in number each month from as few as 5 to as many as 16. The luncheons offer opportunities for the Presidents to exchange ideas, talk about political and governmental activities, and visit socially.

These lunches are particularly helpful since Montgomery County now has 7 Republican Women's clubs, 3 of which are less than 4 years old.

# PHOTOS

## Nuts n' Bolts



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Month of February	Black History Month
February 20, 2017	Presidents' Day
February 21, 2017	Greater Houston Council Board of Directors Meeting
March 21, 2017	Greater Houston Council General Membership Meeting
April 5, 2017	TFRW Belles 'n Boots
April 6, 2017	TFRW Legislative Day
October 6, 2017	Greater Houston Council Anniversary Celebration

