



March 2018

President's message



My husband and I have been amazed by the amount of campaign literature swamp- ing our mailbox every day. For the average voter without the knowledge that the Republican women of our clubs have - it must be difficult to determine what to believe about a particular candidate. It seems that this year it has been a particularly difficult and contentious primary season. Personally, it has disturbed me to see some Republican candidates cross over the line of tough campaigning to conducting smear campaigns against their opponents in an effort to sway voters.

So, what is dirty politics? In my opinion, it is spreading lies of any kind about a candidate; personal attacks against a candidate (versus attacks on a candidate's qualifications, experience and position on issues); and hiding behind social media "whisper" campaigns and negative mailers from unidentified groups.

How does this compare to running a tough campaign? Again, in my opinion- tough campaigning is attacking the opposition based upon facts. What is the opposition's experience - both for the job and with the Republican Party? Have they voted regularly in Republican primaries? Have they actually voted? Have they supported other Republican candidates and the Republican Party? What are their qualifications for the office they're running for? How are they a better candidate than their opponent? What positions on issues pertinent to the office or Republican Party has the candidate taken compared to their opponent that voters should be aware of? Tough campaigning is not shying away from presenting a clear distinction between two candidates based upon their experience, their support of the Republican Party, and their positions on various critical issues to the Republican voter. It is working hard to win and winning with integrity - not winning based upon personal attacks and misleading information.

As president of Greater Houston Council, like our club presidents, I am not allowed to endorse or support one Republican candidate in a race against another Republican candidate. But that does not mean that I can't stand up as a Republican woman and say, "I will not vote for a Republican candidate who runs a campaign based upon "fake news" and smear tactics." It means that I'm going to work hard to get the Republican vote out at the polls in November. However, it also means that I'm going to give of my time and money this fall to those Republican candidates, who have fought hard during the primary and have run a campaign based on qualifications, experience and integrity. Given that we all have limited resources - money and time - I'm going to actively support those Republican candidates, who have in turn been a consistent supporter of the Republican Party with their own time, money, and, most importantly, vote.

We continually hear from elected officials and candidates how important Republican women are to the Republican Party and to the success of our Republican candidates. So, in recognition of our efforts, make your voice heard and your vote count! Help ensure that on March 7th when the dust settles, that our party can put the primary behind us and unite behind Republican candidates that represent the best of our party!

Warm regards,
Cindy Siegel

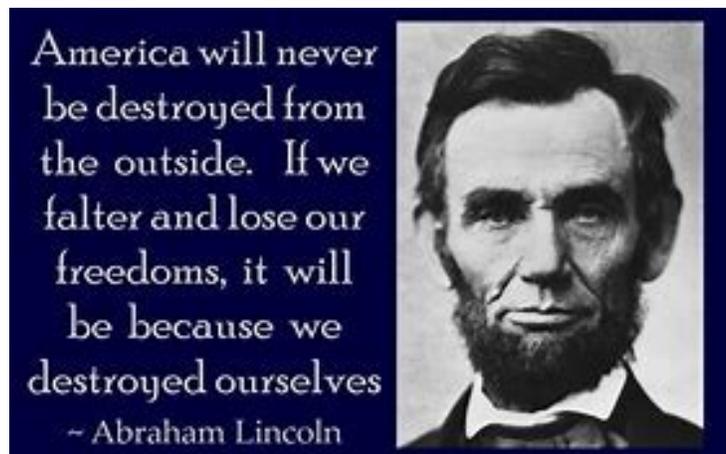
February Highlights

Nuts N Bolts 2018 was a great success!
Thanks to the TFRW District Directors, Deputy Presidents, GHC Board
&
All of you for attending!!!

On a different note...

Republican women joining together are a force to be reckoned with! This past month two different events were organized by dynamic Republican women. **The first one was the inaugural organizational meeting of the newest Republican women's club in our area, the Baytown Republican Women's Club.** Under the leadership of Bergundi Cain (their newly elected president), fourteen women met and elected their officers and took the first steps to becoming a Federated Republican Women's Club. **The other event was the SD 11 RW Club Rally organized by a past president of GHC, Sherry Peterson, and various clubs of that district.** This Rally not only showcased the clubs in SD 11, but TFRW and GHC, too. Elected officials and candidates also, were there to show their appreciation of the support and "boots-on-the-ground" help they get from the Republican women from these clubs.

So, what did these two events have in common? Every Republican woman attending one of these events demonstrated a love for our country and state; a concern about the future our children and grandchildren face; and a commitment to doing their part to ensure that the core values and freedoms outlined in the U.S. Constitution are protected and preserved. **Welcome, Baytown Republican Women's Club and great job, SD 11 Republican women!**



Legislative Report by Wendi Lojo

Texas Commission on Public School Finance

In response to a legal challenge to our school finance system, the Texas Supreme Court ruled in 2014 that while the system met “minimal constitutional requirements,” Texas school children deserve an updated, revamped system. The Supreme Court issued an “urgent challenge” to legislators “to fashion a school system fit for our dynamic and fast-growing State’s unique characteristics.”

The legislature’s attempts at school finance reform since the 2014 Supreme Court opinion have unfortunately failed as no consensus between the House and the Senate could be reached on how to best overhaul the system. Ultimately, both chambers agreed to establish the Texas Commission on Public School Finance to study and make recommendations for improvements to the public school finance system or develop new methods for financing public schools. The commission shall prepare and issue a report no later than December 31, 2018. The Commission is tasked with developing recommendations to address issues including:

1. the purpose of the public school finance system and the relationship between state and local funding in that system;
2. the appropriate levels of local maintenance and operations and interest and sinking fund tax effort necessary to implement a public school finance system that complies with the requirements under the Texas Constitution; and
3. policy changes to the public school finance system necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic diversity in the state.

The Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House and State Board of Education all appointed members to the commission. The Commission members are:

- Justice Scott Brister (Commission Chair), Georgetown – Former Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas (Appointed by the Governor)
- Rep. Diego Bernal, San Antonio – Vice Chair of the House Committee on Public Education (Appointed by the Speaker)
- Sen. Paul Bettencourt, Houston – Member of the Senate Committee on Education (Appointed by the Lt. Governor)
- Dr. Keven Ellis, Lufkin – State Board of Education Member, District 9 (Appointed by the State Board of Education)
- Rep. Dan Huberty, Houston – Chair of the House Committee on Public Education (Appointed by the Speaker)
- Nicole Conley Johnson, Austin – Austin Independent School District Chief Financial Officer (Appointed by the Speaker)
- Rep. Ken King, Canadian – Member of the House Committee on Public Education (Appointed by the Speaker)
- Dr. Doug Killian, Pflugerville – Pflugerville Independent School District Superintendent (Appointed by the Lt. Governor)
- Melissa Martin, Deer Park – Galena Park Independent School District Career and Technology Teacher (Appointed by the Governor)
- Rep. Elvira Reyna, Denton County – Former State Representative for District 101 (Appointed by the Governor)
- Sen. Larry Taylor, Friendswood – Chair of the Senate Committee on Education (Appointed by the Lt. Governor)
- Sen. Royce West, Dallas – Member of the Senate Committee on Education (Appointed by the Lt. Governor)
- Todd Williams, Dallas – The Commit Partnership founding Chairman and Executive Director (Appointed by the Governor)

Most lawmakers and elected officials remain hopeful that after a thorough study of the school finance system, the Commission will issue proposals to reconstruct effective, equitable reforms to help increase funding to public schools. All are working to stop the repeated legal challenges to the system and meet the ultimate goal of providing the best “efficient system of public free schools” as constitutionally required.



OBAMA BLOCKED HIM
TRUMP HAILS HIM
NICK ADAMS

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

MARCH GENERAL MEETING FOR GHC
9:30 AM - NOON
TRINI MENDENHALL CENTER
1414 WIRT RD. HOUSTON TX 77055

World-reknoned author, speaker, conservative. Nick Adams is an Australian immigrant who wrote the *Green Card Warrior* among other books and started a non-profit group, FLAG. His mission is to educate students in a kid-friendly way to the US Constitution. He wants them to know he is convinced we live in the greatest country with the most opportunity. Convinced the liberal narrative is far from the truth, he is on a mission.

Come hear him speak to the Greater Houston Council about American Exceptionalism.

GHC Important Dates

- March 20th General Meeting 9:30 am at Trini Mendenhall Community Center
- May 1st General Meeting 9:30 am at Trini Mendenhall Community Center
- May 22nd Primary Runoff Election
- June 14-16th Republican Party of Texas State Convention - San Antonio

SPOTLIGHT ON REPUBLICAN WOMEN



Memorial West Republican Women's club is a group of dynamic, hard-charging Republican women. The club is over 55 years old, starting in 1961. They demonstrate their mission to educate voters with their broad range of monthly speakers from Harris County Republican Commissioner Steve Radack speaking about Hurricane Harvey to a speaker on human trafficking. MWRW's membership includes women who have had leadership roles in Greater Houston Council (GHC), including a past president of GHC, and a past state representative. Additionally, many have or are serving as precinct chairs; working many hours on getting Republicans elected; and been long-term grassroots advocates for the Republican Party and platform.

MWRW meets the first Monday of the month at 10:30 enjoying Mexican food and great company and speakers at Ninfa's at 14737 Memorial Drive. Check them out on Facebook or by emailing the president, Deb Cupples at deb.cupples56@gmail.com. We're proud that MWRW is a member of Greater Houston Council!



You can be a delegate to the Republican State Convention!

What is the Republican State Convention?

It's a place for people who vote in the Republican Primary election to define our shared beliefs and to determine how we will promote them. We do this by creating a platform and by setting rules and electing people to run the party between conventions.

Who can attend the Republican State Convention?

Anyone who is a registered voter, who has affiliated with the Republican Party, either by voting in the Party Primary or by taking an oath of affiliation, and has been duly elected by the lower level conventions. You can affiliate with the Republican Party by voting in the Republican Primary Election or by taking an oath of affiliation. You can only affiliate with one party during each election year.

What is a delegate?

Delegates are grassroots Republicans who participate in the shaping of the Republican Party, its role, and its direction regarding public policy. They volunteer and are chosen by their districts to attend the party's conventions in each even-numbered year.

Step 1: Precinct Conventions

When and where: Your 2018 Precinct Convention will be held sometime *after* the polls close on Primary Election Day (March 6, 2018) and *before* the start of the County/Senate District Conventions (March 24, 2018). Please check with your local Republican County Chair for the most up to date information. (See https://www.texasgop.org/county_chairs/)

What to expect: If you are a registered voter and affiliate with the Republican Party, you can participate in this convention. You can introduce and vote on resolutions. Then elect delegates and alternates to the next convention level.

Step 2: County / Senate District Conventions

When and where: Your County or SD Convention will be held on March 24, 2018. Your county party sets the location and time.

What to expect: In the days or weeks before the convention, you can visit committee meetings and let them know what issues are important to you. At the convention, you'll set the rules by which the convention will operate. You will be able to vote on resolutions the committees have worked on. Then you'll elect delegates and alternates to the state convention level.

Step 3: State Convention

When and where: This convention will be held in San Antonio from June 11th-16th. Committees will meet June 11th-13th. General Session and Caucuses will meet June 14th-16th. Please check www.texasgop.org for convention details.

What to expect: You will be able to testify before the committees on issues you care about, vote on the platform that will state the beliefs of the Party, vote on the rules that will steer the Party, and elect people to run the Party for the next two years.

Why become a delegate to the Republican State Convention?

Because you will have an instrumental role in shaping the beliefs of the Party and determining the methods of implementation in public policy.

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Post Office Box 2206, Austin, TX 78768 | www.texasgop.org

Montgomery County Republican Women Host GOP Forums

The Montgomery County Republican Women are dedicated to promoting an informed electorate through political education. In anticipation of the March 6, 2018 Primary, MCRW was proud to host 2 Republican Primary candidate forums, a special evening event on February 8 and another at our general meeting on February 22.

Candidates and their surrogates had a lively discussion of relevant topics and voter concerns. Candidates for the following contested Montgomery County races were invited to attend:

State Representative, District 15

County Judge

County Treasurer

County Clerk

District Clerk

Judge 284th District Court

County Commissioner Pct. 2

Justice of the Peace Pct. 3

Both forums were well attended and attendees to the February 22nd meeting also heard from our SREC committeeman, Will Robbins. Will explained the importance of being a delegate and walked through the process of how to become a delegate to the state convention.

One of the forum's feisty moments was highlighted in an article in the local Conroe Courier - <https://www.yourconroenews.com/neighborhood/moco/news/article/Toth-balks-at-Waters-barb-on-undocumented-workers-12604580.php>





GHC 2018/19 Board

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Historian		

Happy Spring