



## President's message



*"Are Republicans secretly tired of winning?" This was a question posed by Erica Grieder of the Houston Chronicle in a recent column. What do you think the answer is - "yes", "maybe" or a definite "no"?*

*The primary is over - now what? Primaries are always challenging as Republicans battle against Republicans to see who will "best" represent our party in the general election. However, there has not been a more critical time than now for every Texas Republican to put the battles of the primary behind us and move towards actively supporting our Republican Party and candidates. Yes, Texas Republicans outvoted Texas Democrats by over a half of a million votes, but we're seeing the Democratic Party making gains in our urban areas and in some cases - outvoting us.*

*I'll be frank - Erica Grieder's question bothered me. I saw in my own precinct (which is still predominately Republican) apathy among my Republican friends and neighbors and more enthusiasm among those voting in the neighboring Democratic Party polling booths. This same lack of energy carried over to some "ho-hum" senate district conventions with lower attendance.*

*I know that we are tired of all the politicking that has been going on since the first of the year and would just like a break. But, there are still Republican candidates in runoff primary elections (May 22nd), Republican candidates running for school boards and city councils (May 5th), and a state convention in San Antonio (June 14-16th). As Republican women - our work is not done. Now is the time to get re-energized and build up enthusiasm among our friends and neighbors for the Republican Party. The success of the fall election hinges upon which party can motivate more of their voters to get out and vote. Complacency is what will kill us in the fall election - not the Democrats!*

*April is a month of new beginnings and celebration and with new beginnings come opportunities. So, are you secretly tired of winning or are you ready to do what it takes for the Republican Party to win again this fall?*

*I hope to see you at our next general meeting, which is open to all members of our Republican Women's Clubs. Please note that the general meeting will be Tuesday, May 1st at 10 am.*

*Warm regards,  
Cindy Siegel*

**General Meeting**  
**10:00 am, May 1, 2018**  
**Trini Mendenhall Community Center**  
**1414 Wirt Road, Houston**

**"REPUBLICAN WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINE"**

The Experiences of Republican Women Campaigning for Office

Join us for our May 1 meeting to hear from the following Republican women who have run or are running for office as they discuss their experiences as candidates:

**Kristin Bays-** Republican candidate for Judge of the 284th District Court.

Kay is a civil attorney with 24 years representing clients in cases involving bad faith claims against insurance carriers, defense of commercial disputes, probate litigation, personal injury defense and prosecution, and collection matters. She has also briefed cases to appellate courts in both Texas and the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

**Melanie Bush -** Republican candidate for Montgomery County Treasurer and current President of the Conroe Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Melanie has for the last 16 years, built a thriving bookkeeping business, leading a team of 18 employees in two locations in Texas.

**Sophia Mafrige -** Republican candidate for Harris County Civil Court of Law Number 4.

Sophia is a practicing attorney since 1988 with broad legal experience in litigation, transactional and real estate/ property matters. She is licensed with the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals since 1989 and licensed with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas since 1991. She serves as Chairman of the City of Houston Police Officers' Civil Service Commission. The Commission is charged with hearing disciplinary disputes involving Houston Police Officers.

**Cindy Siegel -** Former Mayor of the City of Bellaire.

Cindy served as the Mayor of the City of Bellaire for 8 years before being termed out in 2011 and as a Bellaire City Councilman for 6 years. Currently she serves on the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors as the 2nd Vice-chairman. She is a Certified Public Accountant with 35 years of experience providing accounting and tax services for small businesses and individuals.



## Highlights from March General Meeting



Greater Houston Council hosted Nick Adams, author of *The Green Card Warrior*. Nick, an Australia immigrant inspired a large group of Republican women about American Exceptionalism and FLAG, a non-profit organization that helps educate students in a kid-friendly way about the United States Constitution.





## Braes Republican Women's Club

BRW hosted two run-off candidates as speakers at our March 29th meeting.  
Dan Crenshaw, United States Representative, District 2.  
Michelle Fraga, District Judge, 295th Judicial District.

## Important Dates

May 5th	City and ISD Elections
May 22nd	Primary Runoff
June 14-16th	Republican State Convention

## Montgomery County Republican Women Host Meeting Discussing Cyber Security and Human Trafficking

The [Montgomery County Republican Women](#) hosted an impactful meeting on March 22 that covered many aspects of cyber security and human trafficking.

We live in an online society and this is especially true for our youth. As parents and grandparents it is difficult to know how to best keep our children and other vulnerable youths safe while they are online.

Constable [Ryan Gable](#), Montgomery County Precinct 3, and Vicki Tompkins, Montgomery County Precinct 3 Victims Assistance Liaison, gave our members an overview of the human trafficking issue in Montgomery County and how predators use everyday technology to prey upon our youth.

Debi Tengler, Chief Relations Officer for [Arrow](#) Child and Family Ministries, gave us tips on how we can help combat human trafficking by being more aware of what signs to look for in a child who is being “groomed” by a predator and what to do when we see something that seems suspicious.

The 2 main things she said we could all do to help with this issue are:

Keep the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) number saved in our phone (888-373-7888) and if we see anything suspicious take a photo, discreetly if possible, and call the hotline. It is not up to us to investigate, but we do need to report it.

Download the [TraffickCam](#) app and use it to take photos of the hotel rooms you stay in when traveling. Traffickers regularly post photographs of their victims posed in hotel rooms. TraffickCam photos help investigators determine where the photos are taken.

MCRW President, Suzanne Adams, presented Debi Tengler a check for \$300. This will cover Arrow’s cost to house a survivor of human trafficking in their rehabilitation facility, [Freedom Place](#), for 30 days.

As Republicans, we focus on families, personal responsibility and helping our neighbors in need. Let’s all be proactive, not reactive, when it comes to protecting our youth!





# Legislative Report by Wendi Lojo

The House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committee are two of the most important committees in the Texas Legislature. These committees are responsible for adopting the state's biennium budget and approving any other appropriation from the state treasury. It is important to monitor these committees considering the influence they have during a legislative session. The following is a chart of what each committee is studying during the interim in preparation of the 2019 86th Legislative Session. Each committee will study and make recommendations on each item.

## Senate Finance Interim Charges

- **Alamo Historical Site Renovation;**
- **Economic Stabilization Fund;**
- **Texas Emission Reduction Plan;**
- **Request to Exceed Review** (reduce the number of times interim budget modification is necessary);
- **Fee Structure Review** (Review state General Revenue - Dedicated fees);
- **Adult and Juvenile Corrections Funding; Trauma Funding;**
- **Property Tax on Business Personal Property;**
- **Interest Rate Disparity;**
- **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation of the following funding initiatives:
  - CPS Critical Needs - Monitor the impact of salary increases and additional caseworkers allocated to Child Protective Services last interim.
  - Health Care Costs Across State Agencies - Monitor coordination efforts among state agencies to improve health care and reduce costs.
  - Behavioral Health - Monitor the state's progress in coordinating behavioral health services and expenditures across state government, including the impact of new local grant funding provided by the 85th Legislature.
  - Sporting Goods Sales Tax - Identify state and local park needs and determine whether the Sporting Goods Sales Tax is meeting those needs.

## House Appropriations Interim Charges

- **Hurricane Harvey;;**
- **Economic Stabilization Fund;**
- **One-time funding and deferral measures;**
- **State Agency Contracts;**
- **Cybersecurity;**
- **Employee Retirement System (ERS);**
- **Border Security;**
- **Adult Probation/Juvenile Justice System;**
- **State Crime Lab;**
- **Early Childhood Intervention Program;**
- **CHIP Reauthorization and Federal Healthcare reform;**
- **Caring for Aging Texans;**
- **TRS-Care; ;**
- **TEA Classroom Connectivity Project;**
- **Texas Emissions Reduction Program;**
- **Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Fee;**
- **Monitoring:**
  - Hurricane Harvey;
  - State Agency deferred maintenance;
  - DFPS or the HHSC for prevention and early intervention, and/or behavioral health services;
  - HHSC therapy rate increases and policy;
  - HHSC's expansion of Texas's inpatient psychiatric infrastructure;
  - DFPS critical-needs funding;
  - Medicaid cost-containment efforts;
  - TEA's reinterpretation of regulations related to the local option homestead exemption;
  - Proposal by UT and Texas A&M systems to modernize the management of Permanent University Fund lands;
  - DPS's efforts to eliminate the sexual assault kit backlog with funds appropriated for that purpose.

## Upcoming Spring Club Events

Fort Bend County Republican Women's Club Fundraising Luncheon

Wednesday, May 9th, 11:00 AM

the Sweetwater Country Club

4400 Palm Royale Drive, Sugar Land

Celebrating the Super Women of Fort Bend County

Special Guest, Texas Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick.

For more information, contact Marilyn Davis at [marilyndavis17@gmail.com](mailto:marilyndavis17@gmail.com).



The Northwest Forest Republican Women's "Salute to Ted Poe" Dinner

Monday, May 14th, 6:30PM

Raveneaux Country Club

For more information, contact Carolyn Rogers at [carolynrogers@aol.com](mailto:carolynrogers@aol.com)



Kingwood Area Republican Women Spring Fashion Show

Wednesday, May 23 at 11:30 AM

Walden on Lake Houston Country Club

For more information, contact M'Liss Painter at [mpainterkarw@gmail.com](mailto:mpainterkarw@gmail.com).

## Club Dues Reminder

**If your club has not paid its dues!**

**Please send them ASAP**

**to**

**Gwen Withrow, 2602 Highland Blvd., Nederland, TX. 77627**

**Club Membership forms for 2018 are on the webpage at**

**[ghcfrwpac.org](http://ghcfrwpac.org)**

**We want to include you in the GHC Directory Addendum in May**





## Republican Women of SJC

**APRIL 17, 2018**

### **Coldspring - Oakhurst CISD Board of Trustees Candidates**

The Candidates will introduce themselves and present their ideas for adding value and innovation to the current school system.

The meeting will be held at the Republican Party Headquarters,  
located at 201 Highway 150, Suite J, in Coldspring.

Networking with refreshments will begin at 6:00. The meeting starts at 7:00.

For more information, visit

<https://RepublicanWomenofSJC.org> or Facebook.

**Early voting starts on April 23rd**

**Election Day is May 5th**

**YOUR TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF OUR YOUTH  
GET INVOLVED!**

<https://republicanwomenofsjc.org/>

**Email** [RWofSJC@hotmail.com](mailto:RWofSJC@hotmail.com)

# *Thank You!*

From GHC Hospitality

We wish to express our thanks  
To

**Tri-County RW  
San Jacinto RW  
Clear Creek RW**

The refreshments for the March 20 meeting were delicious

We still need clubs to volunteer to help with hospitality for this year.

Please contact Edie Holland at [edie-holland@comcast.net](mailto:edie-holland@comcast.net)

Or



## *Campaign Activities*

I trust that by now everyone has recovered from the March 6<sup>th</sup> Primary Election and is moving on to the Run-Off and then the State Convention! In the meantime we still have Candidates that need your help. Please reach out to those involved in the run off and offer to help.

**AND**, while all eyes are focused on the Run-Off there is another very important election coming up that is “flying” below the radar. It is the School Board of Trustees Election/Uniform Election Day. This election actually takes place before the Run-Off! For info on these candidates you must check with your local ISD and/or Local Government websites! Happy Hunting!

### **Important Dates for Local Political & School Board Elections:**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> : First Day of Early Voting  
April 24<sup>th</sup> : Last Day to Apply for a Ballot by Mail  
(received, not postmarked)  
May 1<sup>st</sup> : Last Day to Early Vote  
May 5<sup>th</sup> : Uniform Election Day  
(School Board & Local Political/Subdivisions)

### **Important Dates for the Run-Off Election:**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Last Day to Register to vote  
May 11<sup>th</sup>: Last Day to Apply for a Ballot by Mail  
(received, not postmarked)  
May 14<sup>th</sup> : First Day of Early Voting  
May 18<sup>th</sup>: Last Day to Early Vote  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Primary Run-Off Election Day

### **Texas State Republican Convention Dates:**

June 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: RPT State Convention, San Antonio

## **Working to Keep Texas Red!!**

Debbie Guitian Roan  
GHC Campaign Activities Chair



## GHC 2018/19 Board

<b>President</b>	<b>Cindy Siegel</b>	<b>jjsiegel@hotmail.com</b>
<b>1st VP Programs</b>	<b>Alice Melancon</b>	<b>almelancon@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>2nd VP Membership</b>	<b>Gwen Withrow</b>	<b>greck@gt.rr.com</b>
<b>3rd VP Special Events</b>	<b>Sophia Mafrige</b>	<b>sophlaw@aol.com</b>
<b>4th VP Finance</b>	<b>Jessica Padilla</b>	<b>jnpadilla2002@gmail.com</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Pearl Maggio</b>	<b>pmaggio@consolidated.net</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Karen McCarter</b>	<b>klmccarter@aol.com</b>
<b>Treasurer/PAC Treasurer</b>	<b>Pat Lunn</b>	<b>pdlunn@comcast.net</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Cheryl Dalton</b>	<b>cd@daltoncreations.com</b>
<b>Legislative Chairman</b>	<b>Wendi Lojo</b>	<b>wslojo@gmail.com</b>
<b>County Chair Liaison</b>	<b>Marie Maggio</b>	<b>mmaggio5326@aol.com</b>
<b>Campaign Activities Chair</b>	<b>Debbie Roan</b>	<b>dgroan@comcast.net</b>
<b>Bylaws and Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Barbara Tague</b>	<b>4tague@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Newsletter Chair</b>	<b>Rajada Fleming</b>	<b>rajadaflaming@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Public Relations Chairman</b>	<b>Emely McHattie</b>	<b>emchattie14@gmail.com</b>
<b>Club Liaison</b>	<b>Sherry Peterson</b>	<b>peterson-sherry@att.net</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Edie Holland</b>	<b>edie-holland@comcast.net</b>
	<b>Givvie Searcy</b>	<b>gsearcy@prodigy.net</b>
<b>Historian</b>		

