



Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

Representing 12 Counties of Federated Republican Women

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President's Message



I hope you are all rested and ready for our big year of elections, conventions, rallies and GOTV events!

It will be a busy year for GHC and our council member clubs.

The year starts with our January 16th general meeting at the Mendenhall Center, 1414 Wirt Rd in Houston. Delegate Check in with coffee and snacks is 9:30 and our meeting and program is at 10:00 am.

Our speaker will be Richard Johnson, Director, Booker T. Washington Initiative and Senior Fellow for Urban Education. Come early so you can meet the new board members!

Be sure to get your club membership dues of \$30 and delegate information to us so we can update our files to keep your club more informed. Delegates are the important voting members of the Council.

SAVE THE DATE!

"The GHC Original Nuts 'N Bolts Workshop" March 26th at Mendenhall Center

This is a 9 am – 2:00 pm event which includes training for your club officers and members by our wonderful TFRW President Zenia Warren, District Directors, Deputy Presidents, and talented local club leaders. Light breakfast and lunch included. Registration information is coming soon.

2024 is a major fundraiser event year for GHC, which will celebrate our 62nd anniversary and Republican women. Tickets and sponsorship information coming soon.

Biennial GOTV Rally on August 27th at the Mendenhall Center. All member clubs, candidates and guests are invited to participate. Lunch and snacks are provided for a nominal fee. Stay tuned for registration details, our GOTV club contest and our lineup of great speakers.

I look forward to seeing you on January 16th!



WELCOME 2024-2025 BOARD



OFFICERS



Tina Gibson
President
Fort Bend RW



Buckley Morlot
1st VP Programs
Magic Circle RW



Amy Byers
2nd VP Membership &
Nuts 'N Bolts Co-Chair
Lake Conroe Area RW



Dana Khan
3rd VP Special Events
Northwest Forest RW



Micheline Hutson
4th VP Finance
Cy-Fair RW



Ronnys Cowell
Recording Secretary
Village RW



Della Brown
Corresponding Secretary
Clear Creek RW



Lois Gremminger
Treasurer &
Budget Chair
Fort Bend RW



Sophia Mafrige
Immediate Past President &
Parliamentarian
Magic Circle RW

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Debbie Cupples
Bylaws &
Financial Review Chair
Memorial West RW



Gayla Baker
Campaign Activities
Brazosport RW



Emely McHattie
Liaison to County Chairs &
Social Media
Village RW



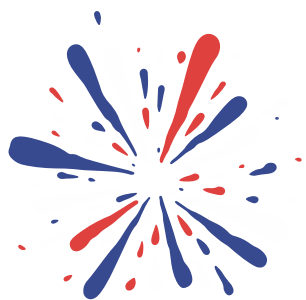
Renee Lunsford
Legislation
Walker County RW



Laura Carlson
Newsletter
Magic Circle RW



Mary Sage
Public Relations
Magic Circle RW



SPECIAL COMMITTEES



Marga Matthews
Club President Liaison
Baytown RW



SJ Swanson
Historian
Magic Circle RW



Joyce Chambers
Hospitality Co-Chair
Kingwood Area RW



Carolyn Hodges
Advisor to President
Village RW



Alicia Cantrell
Chaplain
Magic Circle RW



**Elizabeth
Hanson Walker**
GOTV Chair
Fort Bend RW



Betsy Kindred
Protocol &
Nuts 'N Bolts Co-Chair
West Pearland RW



Michelle Martin
Social Media
Lake Conroe Area RW



Jennifer Knesek
Social Media
RW Katy



Carmen Crenshaw
Speakers Bureau
Magic Circle RW



Alice Melancon
TFRW/NFRW Liaison
Montgomery County RW



Thank you

2022-2023

GHC BOARD

We appreciate all your hard work!

Executive Board

President, Tina Gibson
1st VP Programs, SJ Swanson
2nd VP Membership, Amy Byers
3rd VP Special Events, Dana Khan
4th VP Finance, Barbara Tague
Recording Secretary, Mary Sage
Corresponding Secretary, Elizabeth Lauzon
Treasurer, Micheline Hutson
Immediate Past President, Sophia Mafrige

Standing Committees

Bylaws, Debbie Cupples
Campaign Activities, Gayla Baker
Liaison to County Chairs, Emely McHattie
Legislation, Bonnie Foster
Newsletter, Amy Byers

Special Committees

Club President Liaison, Marga Matthews
Historian, SJ Swanson
Hospitality Co-Chairs, Edie Holland & Milinda Morris
Advisor to President, Sherry Peterson
GOTV, Milinda Morris
Parliamentarian, Debbie Cupples
TFRW/NFRW Liaison, Alice Melancon
Social Media, Jennifer Knesek
Nuts 'N Bolts, Amy Byers

GHC December Board Luncheon



November Meeting Highlights

by SJ Swanson, 1st VP Programs

GHC members and guests enjoyed a great Salute to Veterans and final general meeting of 2023 on **Tuesday, November 14th** at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center.

Before the meeting came to order, everyone enjoyed some socializing with light bites and coffee. Thanks to Hospitality Chair **Edie Holland**, and hospitality host clubs **West Pearland RW** and **Clear Creek RW** for providing our breakfast.

GHC President **Tina Gibson** called the meeting to order. Instead of the usual meeting opening, those in attendance were treated to the first known occasion of a dual color guard presentation.

The **All Glory Color Guard** consisting of retired military members and led by **Commander Gilberto B. Guerrero**. The **Primary Color Guard** from **E. L. Furr High School JROTC** led by instructor **Major Landry-Richardson** included **Cadet LTC Carlos Alvarado**, **Cadet MAJ Keyshia Calderon**, **Cadet CPT Elisabet Hernandez**, and **Cadet SFC Daniela Ortiz**. Although these two groups had never worked together or even met, they coordinated and presented a beautiful and moving presentation of our flags.



Next, President Gibson offered a prayer, and US Veterans Tim Stroud (U.S. Army, combat, medic sergeant) and Dani Post (U. S. Army), led the U.S. and Texas pledges.

1st VP of Programs SJ Swanson made a brief presentation about the history of Veteran's Day in America. Emely McHattie played a video compilation she made of all of the six branches of the U.S. Military (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force) songs, logos, and video footage. SJ and Baytown Republican Women member Jo Ann Cecil then presented each Veteran in attendance with a special flag lapel pin and ribbon thanking them for their service. Each Veteran gave a brief description of their military service.

SJ then introduced the featured speaker, **Debra Coffey**. Debra Coffey is Chief of Government Affairs for Smart Start, LLC (since her presentation she has retired and become a consultant to the company). Debra is very active in Texas Republican politics and has worked as a volunteer for more than 25 years chairing precinct conventions, serving as a delegate to county and state conventions, assisting with multiple local, state, and national campaigns, block walking, writing letters, raising money, making phone calls, and hosting events and candidates in her home. She has served on the TFRW Board and her local DFW area and Burnet County Republican Women's clubs in multiple positions and leadership roles.



Debra gave a fascinating and moving talk and slide show about her family's 51-year journey to bring her father, Captain Robert Russell "Bear" Barnett, USAF, home, after he was shot down and declared Killed, Non-Recovered in Vietnam, in 1966. Not a dry eye remained in the room as she told the highlights of the five decade-long search – an emotional roller coaster of hurry ups and waits, and ups and downs. And finally, confirmation of her father's remains, and the process of bringing him home. The photos and her words showed the honor and respect her father had garnered during his life before his military service, in that duty, and bringing him to his final rest.

At the end of the fascinating talk, Debra was delighted to share a recent development. She had been contacted recently by an Australian Bomber Pilot colleague of her father's who had her his flight suit. They had exchanged suits decades ago after some beer and shenanigans. The suit would be shipped to Debra soon along with a letter from the Aussie pilot describing how he came to have it. SJ promised to let our members know when this occurred (see related story Bear Barnett's Flight Suit Comes Home, too).

SJ then acknowledged that the large basket of men's socks collected today would be given to **Camp Hope/PTSD Foundation of America** (see related story), and that the gift card gathered would be delivered to support **Camp SHiELD**, an organization aimed at helping female Veterans.



SJ introduced **Rose Escoria, the AmeriCorps VISTA Member, Outreach at Camp SHiELD**, who talked about the organization and its work with women veterans in Texas. Camp SHiELD is a division of After Military Service (AMS), a 501(c)3 that was founded in 2017. The mission of AMS is to support the personal and professional success of Veterans and their families, after military service. AMS increases resiliency, life satisfaction, and empowers our nation's military families. Thus far, Camp SHiELD has had hosted multiple day and long weekend workshops, retreats, and programs for the female veterans, provided licensed professional counselors, resources, including support with medical, insurance, housing, financial, mental health, and other areas.

Mary Sage, Recording Secretary then presented a "Mini Nuts 'N Bolts" with tips and instructions on how to keep proper meeting minutes.

The election of the GHC Executive Board officers was held next, and your new board was elected unanimously.

Magic Circle Republican Women was awarded the prizes for the most members of their club in attendance.

Before adjourning the meeting, Tina thanked all of the club Presidents and delegates, GHC board members and others who have supported GHC all year long. She said we have a lot of events planned for 2024, including our The Original Nuts 'N Bolts Workshop on March 26th, our biennial Get Out The Vote Rally on August 27th, and a fundraising event. She said it has been her honor to represent you as your GHC President this term, and thanked all for everything you do!



Update from Debra Coffey

Yesterday, I received a handwritten letter and package in the mail from an Australian Bomber pilot that met Daddy in 1964, while his Australian flight bomber squadron was flying with the 8th and 13th USAF bomber squadrons, from 1962-1964.

He wrote me a letter reflecting on the Royal treatment from the USAF pilots, but one “big, friendly pilot especially stuck out and shared his love of flying and sharing a refreshing Budweiser or Schlitz, his name was..... Bear Barnett”

He went on to say they “were engaging in some shenanigans and decided to exchange flight suits”.

David Twyford is the pilots name. He found me off the internet and wanted me to have Daddy’s flight suit. He ended the letter with saying “Debra, since those days the United States had had a special place in my heart and always will, because of that special bond of welcoming, friendly, generous, good humored and courageous men, especially your Dad. Please accept my warmest best wishes for the future for you, your family and your county.” Sincerely, Dave Twyford, Mosman, NSW, Australia.

Following are pictures of Daddy’s flight suit, the letter, Daddy in his flight suit and a picture of Dave at the Ubon Hilton, USAF Clark Field, Philippines. 1964



Congratulations Magic Circle!

They won the award for most members in attendance at the November GHC General Meeting



GHCFRW Donates to Help Our Veterans

by SJ Swanson, 1st VP Programs



GHC club members brought dozens and dozens of men's socks and a cache of gift cards to our November general meeting to help some local men and women Veterans. Camp SHiElD received Visa, Amazon, and Target gift cards to support their members and programs. The PTSD Foundation of America received a big basket of socks for the Camp Hope Veteran residents.

Pictured is Marc MacLean of the PTSD Foundation/Camp Hope accepting the sock delivery. We received a letter of thanks (edited for length and clarity) and explaining the great work that's done at Camp Hope.



01/02/2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for donating the much-needed gift of socks in support of our Veterans at Camp Hope! Items such as these make a big difference in the lives of the brave Veterans we serve, who so selflessly served for us. Our average Veteran stays at Camp Hope for 133 days, and items like the ones you have donated help ensure their stay and recovery at Camp Hope is not only successful, but also comfortable and worry free.

Your benefaction enables us to bring hope and healing to combat veterans with PTSD. Camp Hope has been home to over 1,700 Veterans; and last year alone our National Outreach conducted 8,353 one-on-one Veteran mentoring sessions, nationwide. Our goal for this year is to greatly surpass those previous achievements, and it is support from donors like you that will enable us to accomplish this.

Our organization could not do what it does without the generous support of patriots like you. Thank you again for your commitment to our cause, and please continue to visit our website, www.ptsdUSA.org, for more ongoing graduate success stories as well as upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you again for your goodness, grace, and generosity.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Maulsby'.

David Maulsby

Executive Director

Save the Date! The Original Nuts 'N Bolts Workshop

March 26, 2024
Registration begins at 8:30am

Trini Mendenhall Community Center
1414 Wirt Road
Houston TX 77055

Stay tuned!



★ ★ ★ Mark Your Calendar ★ ★ ★

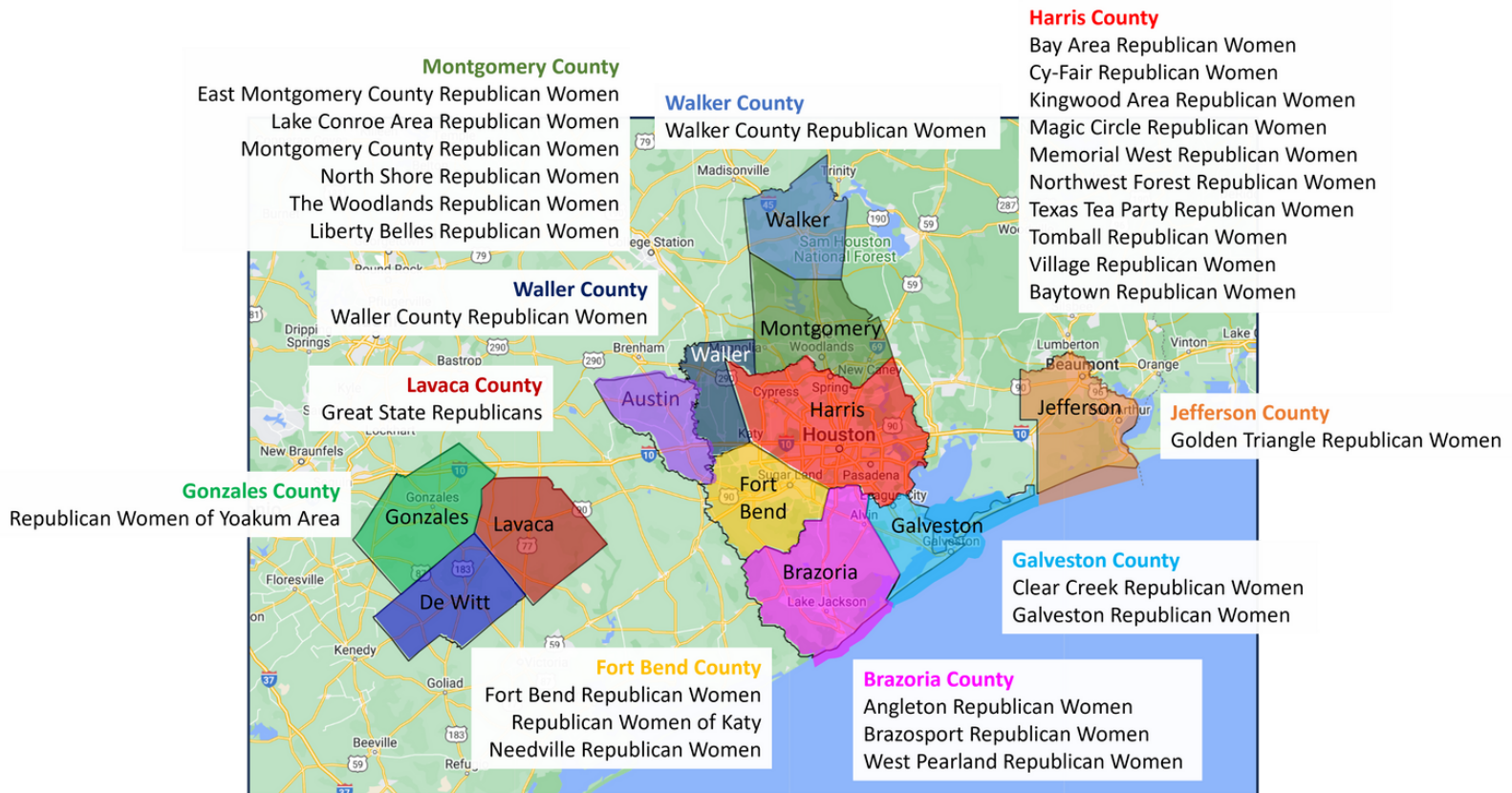
Jan 2	GHC Board Meeting	May 23-25	RPT Convention
Jan 16	GHC General Meeting	May 28	Runoff Election
Jan 25-27	TFRW Leadership Day	Jun ?	Board Retreat, TBA
Feb 5	Last Day to Register to Vote	Jul 15-18	RNC Convention
Feb 20	GHC Board Meeting	Jul 26-27	TFRW Board Meeting
Feb 20 - Mar 1	Early Voting	Aug 13	GHC Board Meeting
Mar 5	Primary Election	Aug 27	GOTC Rally
Mar 23	RPT Precinct and Senate District Conventions	Sep 17	GHC General Meeting
Mar 26	"Original" Nuts 'N Bolts Workshop	Oct 15	GHC Board Meeting
Apr 16	GHC Board Meeting	Oct 21	Early Voting
Apr 19-20	TFRW Board Meeting	Nov 5	Election Day!
May 14	GHC General Meeting	Nov 19	GHC General Meeting
		Dec ?	Christmas Luncheon & Board Meeting, TBA



Member Club Dues are Due!

GHC has such an exciting year planned, but to have our great programs, we need you!

The Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women is a coalition of 29 Federated Republican Women's Clubs in 12 surrounding counties of Houston.



Your 2024 dues are up for renewal. If you don't have your **Membership Club Dues** Invoice page, Amy Byers can email them to you, or they can be found on our website at www.ghcfrwpac.org.

Mail the forms, along with your check for \$30 (payable to GHCFRW PAC) to:

GHC
c/o Amy Byers
4851 W. Fork Bld.
Conroe TX 77304



Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

2024 Member Club Dues Form

Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women PAC
(GHCFRW PAC) Club Annual Dues.....\$30.00

1. Complete the form at the bottom of this page and return with payment.
2. Attach your club's check for \$30, payable to GHCFRW PAC.
3. Send form and check to:

Greater Houston Council

c/o Amy Byers, 4851 W. Fork Blvd. Conroe TX 77304

Club Name: _____

Club Website: _____

Club Email: _____

Club's County and Senate District: _____

Note: The county and SD should be the same as your TFRW County and TFRW SD. This may not be the same as your voting information.

Club President

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

PAC Treasurer

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Club Meeting Info

Contact: _____

Date/Day: _____

Location: _____

Newsletter Information

Editor: _____

Monthly Deadline: _____

Email: _____

Club Delegate Information

Please pick members that are likely to attend GHC meetings

Delegate

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Delegate

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please Note: Please do not list the President as a delegate. The President gets 1 vote, and the delegate gets 1 vote. If the delegate cannot make a meeting the alternate delegate gets 1 vote. Please list a delegate and an alternate delegate.

FOR GHC ONLY: REC: _____ RECEIPT: _____ INIT: _____ CK NO: _____

January 16th General Meeting

Keynote speaker **Richard Johnson**, Director, Booker T. Washington Initiative and Senior Fellow for Urban Education will be speaking about the political school fight, how it will effect the Primary, and why this matters in expanding our party.

Renee Lunsford, Legislation Chair will provide information about RPT Convention

Presidents, please bring your delegate and club members.

9:30 am, check in, light snacks and coffee

10:00 am - 12 noon, business meeting and speaker

Prize to the club that brings the most members.

Door prizes!

About our Speaker - Richard Johnson



Richard A. Johnson, Ed.D., is the director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Booker T. Washington Initiative, which examines the effects of public policy on African-American communities.

Previously, Johnson served as a chief of staff in both municipal and state governments. As chief of staff for a Houston City Council member, he played a significant role in drafting and navigating policies related to public safety, public works, and housing and community development. During the 85th and 86th Texas Legislatures, he served as a chief of staff and a senior policy analyst for a House member and worked on education, public safety, healthcare, and workforce development legislation.

An educator for more than 20 years, Johnson has extensive experience in teaching and research. He worked as a research assistant at the University of Texas Mental Science Institute, studying the efficacy of counseling and pharmacological therapy on cocaine and heroin addicts. He began counseling inner-city adolescent males and founded an academy for troubled boys which provided education, discipline, and residential substance abuse treatment. In 2007 he began teaching and researching in the areas of psychology and academic performance.

Johnson was the president of the Louisiana Prison Chapel Foundation for nearly two decades, building more than 20 churches inside prison walls. In addition, Johnson served as the co-founder and second president of 100 Black Men Metropolitan Houston, vice president of development for 100 Black Men San Antonio, and co-chair of the education committee of the NAACP, Houston.

Johnson served in the U.S. Army after college, obtaining the rank of sergeant. He was selected to play for the All-Army basketball team.

A Texas native, Johnson has an Ed.D. in education administration and an M.A. in clinical psychology from Texas Southern University. He received a B.A. in history and government from Wiley College.



Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

General Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

Trini Mendenhall Center

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President, Tina Gibson.
2. The Presentation of Colors was by the All Glory Honor Guard and Primary Colors Guard by the Jr. ROTC of E. L. Furr High School.
3. Opening Prayer by President Tina Gibson.
Pledge to the US Flag by U.S. Army Veteran Dani Post and Pledge to the State of Texas Flag by U.S. Army Veteran Tim Stroud.
4. 1st VP SJ Swanson said she was grateful to have two Color Guards for today's Veterans Day Salute. She read the history of Veterans Day and said that County Chair Liaison Emely McHattie would present a Veterans Day Salute with Anthems of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. SJ asked all Veterans to stand and state their name, branch of service and their role in the military. Each Veteran was presented an American flag.
5. President Tina Gibson recognized elected officials and candidates.
6. 1st VP Programs SJ Swanson introduced Debra Coffey, who served as TFRW First VP and as a Precinct Chair. Debra had a very memorable video presentation about her Dad, Captain Robert Russell "Bear" Barnett, USAF, who was born in 1933 and graduated with a BA from Baylor University. He served in Vietnam and Laos and was shot down and crashed into a mountain on April 7, 1966, when Debra and her sister were 11 and 9. Her Dad was declared killed in action, non-recovered. The U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency used circumstantial evidence and dental comparisons, which matched his records. Her Dad's remains were repatriated on April 6, 2017, 50 years after being shot down. Debra said that Carolyn Hodges is on the Board of the Texas State Cemetery, and Carolyn facilitated having Capt. Barnett buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. Debra presented a beautiful video of the life of her Dad, Robert Russell "Bear" Barnett. There wasn't a dry eye in the room!
7. 2nd VP Membership Amy Byers was absent. Ronnye Cowell called the Roll Call of member clubs and recorded the number of members attending from each club.
8. Recording Secretary Mary Sage stated that minutes of the September 19 meeting were published in the newsletter. There were no changes. Immediate Past President Sopha Mafrige made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bylaws Chair Deb Cupples seconded the motion, and the September 19 minutes were approved as written.
9. Treasurer Micheline Hutson was absent. Tina presented the Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2023.
10. President Gibson reported that many of our members attended the TFRW Convention.
11. 1st VP Programs stated that David Maulsby, Director of Camp Hope that provides 120-bed housing for veterans with PTSD, was unable to attend our meeting. Rose Escorcia represented Maggie Peterson, who founded Camp Shield. SJ asked members to give gift cards or cash that we will donate to Camp Shield and Camp Hope.
12. Campaign Activities Chair Gayla Baker stated that three-fourths of our Clubs earned Awards at the TFRW Convention. Golden Triangle RW and Cy Fair RW were recognized with awards for campaign hours at the convention.
13. President Gibson stated that West Pearland RW provided a beautiful red, white and blue cake and Clear Creek RW brought refreshments for our meeting.
14. Recording Secretary Mary Sage presented a Mini Nuts N' Bolts minute providing details about the office of the Recording Secretary. She read the GHC Bylaws description for the Recording Secretary, who keeps the history of our organization, mentioned some of her experiences serving in that office, and said she is honored to have served with Presidents Sophia Mafrige and Tina Gibson.

15. President Tina Gibson said we would have the election of our 2024-2025 officers. Tina said the Nominating Committee report was published in the Newsletter. She has not been notified of a nomination from the floor. Tina asked Ronnye Cowell to read the Nominating Committee report. The Nominating Committee members were Amy Byers (Chair), Ronnye Cowell, Jenn Knesek, Marga Matthews and SJ Swanson. The following members have agreed to serve as 2024-2025 GHC officers. Ronnye asked members to stand.

President – Tina Gibson (Katy RW)

1st VP Programs – Buckley Morlot (Magic Circle RW)

2nd VP Membership – Amy Byers (Lake Conroe Area RW)

3rd VP Special Events – Dana Khan (Northwest Forest RW)

4th VP Finance – Micheline Hutson (Cy Fair RW)

Recording Secretary – Ronnye Cowell (Village RW)

Corresponding Secretary – Della Brown (Clear Creek RW)

Treasurer – Lois Gremminger (Ft. Bend RW)

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Ronnye made a motion to accept the slate offered by the Nominating Committee. Tina said the motion does not need a second. The motion was unanimously approved. Tina said the officers will have photos after the meeting.

16. 1st VP Programs, SJ Swanson presented Door Prizes.

SJ said that Magic Circle RW had 7 members attending and will receive a certificate for having the most members attending our meeting.

17. Announcements:

GHC 2022 and 2024 Board Luncheon and Meeting, December 5, 2023

GHC 2024 Board Meeting, January 2, 2024

GHC General Meeting, January 16, 2024

GHC “Original” Nuts ‘N Bolts Workshop, March 26, 2024 at Mendenhall Community Center

GHC General Meeting, May 21, 2024

GOTV Rally August 27, 2024

(All GHC Board and general meetings at Trini Mendenhall Community Center)

18. Club representatives announced their upcoming events.

19. SJ Swanson is HCRP chair for Judicial candidates. She said the HCRP will have a Judicial candidate signing event on Saturday, November 18, and she encouraged all members to attend.

20. SJ invited members to meet for lunch at Fratelli’s after this meeting.

21. SJ Swanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, and Merry Christmas! See you next year!

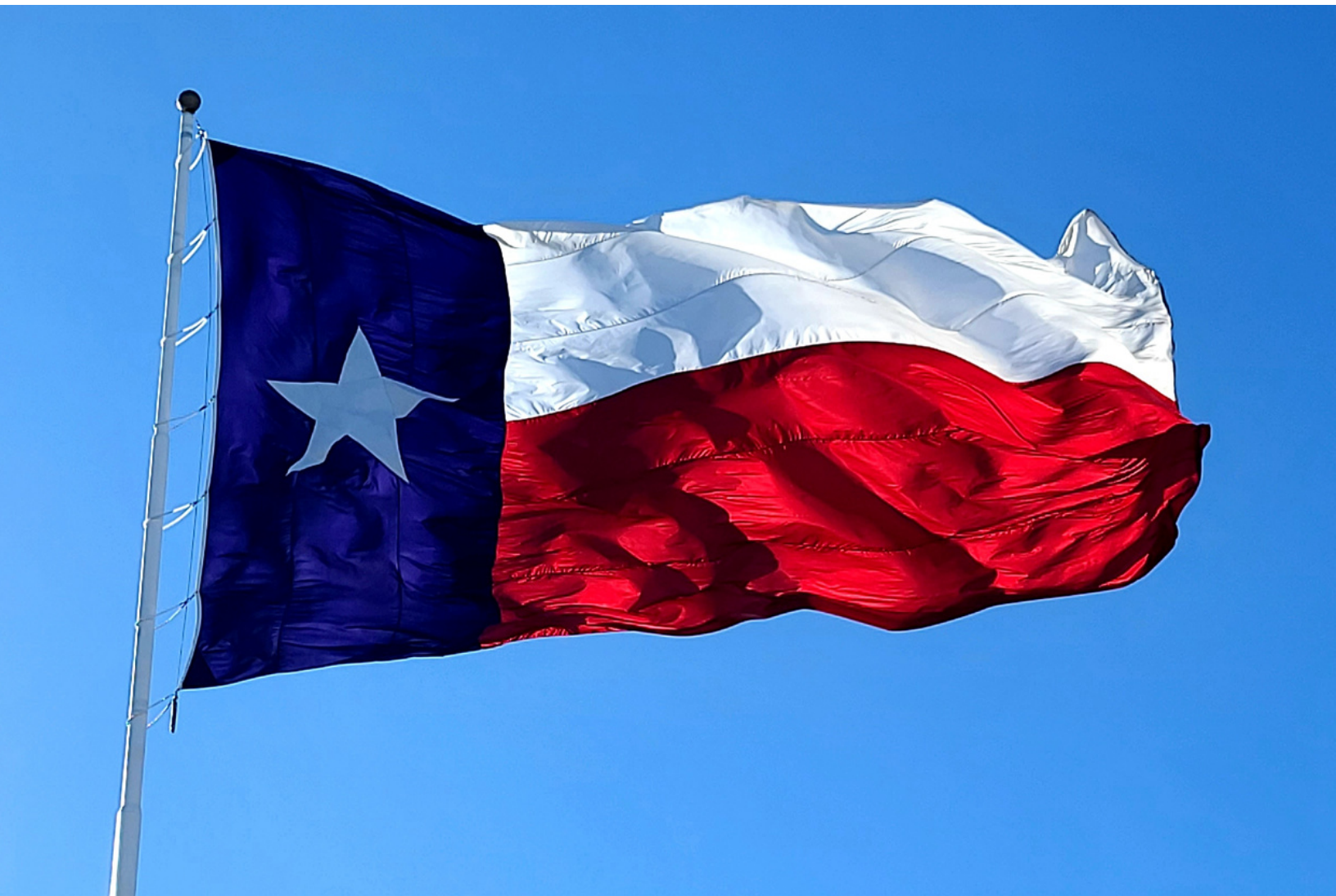
Submitted by,
Mary Sage, GHC Recording Secretary
December 11, 2023



Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

Website: GHCFRWpac.org tfrw.org

If you have any articles or information you would like to add to the GHC newsletter please contact
Laura Carlson at laura@lbltravel.com



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