



THE BEACON

NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

WINNER OF THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD 2020-2021

Volume 24, No. 4

April 2024

Region XVII, Senate Dist. 4



President's Letter - Leigh Billingsley

Spring has finally arrived in full force with its gorgeous, perfect weather days along with the typical rainstorms. The recent loud thunderstorm we had brought our

scared 130 pound Great Pyrenees into our bed leaving us with a very long, sleepless night. But he is our baby.

More importantly, we have two important elections coming up. May 4th is the school board and city elections with early voting occurring April 22 – 27, and April 29 – April 30. For those members in the Montgomery ISD, running for position 4 are Paul Cameron IV and Trey Kirby. For position 5 Elizabeth Ivey is running. If you live in another district, follow the link on page 4. Also, on everyone's ballot are candidates for the Montgomery County Appraisal District. For information, read Rep. Will Metcalf's editorial on page 3 of this newsletter. On May 28th there will be a run-off for Sheriff. The two candidates are Rand Henderson and Wesley Dolittle. Early voting will occur May 20 – 24 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Please go out and vote! See page 4 for information on times and places to cast your ballot.

Food Drive and Bingo Opportunities



NSRW Food Drive for TLC Food Bank will be at our May 1 meeting. Kim Greene will be collecting in her SUV as you enter the meeting. Items especially needed this time of year are: packaged cookies, Little Debbie cupcakes, muffins, etc., boxes of cereal, and jars of jelly.

Willis Senior Citizen Bingo will be held on Wednesday, May 8, from 10:30-1:30, at North Montgomery County Community Center in Willis. We always need volunteers to help, and cookies/brownies for participants.



- Carolyn Jones
1st Vice President/Programs



Monthly Meeting Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Bentwater COUNTRY Club
800 Bentwater Dr.
Montgomery, TX

Program: Mark Meckler, president of Convention of States Foundation & Convention of States Action - speaking on the basics and purpose of the Convention of States

Mark Meckler is the President of Convention of States Foundation & Convention of States Action (COSA). COSA has over 5 million supporters and activists, representing every state legislative district in the nation. Mark appears regularly on television, radio and online discussing the conservative grassroots perspective on political issues.

Before COSA, Mark was the Co-Founder of Tea Party Patriots. He left the organization in 2012 to implement this constitutional solution to take power from DC and return it to the sovereign citizens of the states. Mark has a B.A. from SDSU and a law degree from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. He practiced law for two decades.

From February 2021 to May 2021 Mark served as the Interim CEO at Parler to help bring the free speech social media company back online and equip it for a strong future. Meckler said, "It was an honor to serve in this capacity in the fight for free speech in America."

Mark and Patty have been married more than 28 years. They have two grown children and reside in central Texas.

Sign-in starts at 10:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m., with lunch at 11:30 a.m. The program will begin at noon. Meetings last until approximately 1:00 p.m. Lunch is optional, but reservations must be made by midnight, April 23, even if you're not eating. You can make reservations by clicking on link below or by calling Bentwater Country Club at 936-597-6219 and choosing the 0 option.

RESERVATION

Membership

- Genette Stanton, 2nd Vice President

We have 231 Active Members and 65 Associates. Please get your renewals turned in as soon as possible. You can send a check with the form or renew online.



WELCOME!

New Members

Beverly Anderson

Leslie North

Online membership:

<https://www.nsrepublicanwomen.org/membership.html>

Sharing the Light

With Our 2024 LIGHTHOUSE CIRCLE



- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lori Alderfer | Mary Osborn |
| Cathy & Ace Alexander | Yolanda & Cecy Petro |
| Kristin & Randy Bays | Kay & Steve Pontious |
| Leigh & Roger Billingsley | Ann & Zefrin Pospisil |
| Barbara Bowe | Gail Pritz |
| Stacey Buick | Phyllis Prange |
| Liz & Jeff Carter | Georgana Repal |
| Roberta & Mike Clark | Phyllis & Don Rainey |
| Kim Clendenin | Claudia & Mike Riedlinger |
| Karen & Rich Coffman | Cody Roberts |
| Tammy Coleman | Judge Jennifer Robin |
| Stephanie Collins | Teresa Rose |
| Karen & Ed Pawlak | Donna & Mike Roth |
| Mary Frances & Kevin Doris | Toni & Bruce Sellers |
| Linda & Brian Duncan | Patricia & Nick Sheridan |
| Jo & Ted Dutton | Beverly & Blair Smith |
| Joyce Ferguson | Missy & Mike Spain |
| Sherry & Dan Fox | Genette & Jim Stanton |
| Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs | Nancy Griffin & Brian Sweeney |
| Nancy & Jim Gibson | Selma Steidley |
| Denise Long-Goheen | Christy & Kevin Tatum |
| Lesta & Paul Gotsch | Diane & Mark Tompkins |
| Pat & Paul Gottung | Judge Amy Tucker |
| Chris Gurley | Sandy Wagner |
| Brenna & Steven Hankla | Janet Walker |
| Diane Hivnor | Virginia Warnsman |
| Jody Hostettler | Debbie & Eddie Watson |
| Susan Hutchcroft | Rae-Jean Young |
| Suzie Johnson | |
| Barbara Jonas | |
| Carolyn & Randy Jones | |
| Ann & Fred Kate | |
| Lori Keyser | |
| Mary & Jim Krenek | |
| Sharon Lasseter | |
| Shannon & DA Brett Ligon | |
| Jacque & Greg Lookabaugh | |
| Martha Low | |
| Linda & Barry Maddox | |
| Lori Maddox | |
| Ann Marshall | |
| Nicole & Jack McCormack | |
| Kim & Mark McDaniel | |
| Gail McKinnon | |
| LaVera Meaders | |
| Jenifer Miller | |
| Thelma Miller | |
| Virginia & Tom Mueller | |
| Rhonda & Zane Nixon | |
| Leslie North | |
| Donna & Daavid Offut | |

North Shore Republican Women
Thanks you for your contribution

Ways & Means

Debbie Graham, 3rd Vice President



Fundraising/Golf Tournament



Along with supporting our wonderful Montgomery Republican Party Candidates in the upcoming elections to **KEEP MONTGOMERY RED**, our North Shore Republican Women's PAC has a lot of wonderful projects planned to support our community as well. For us to accomplish our goals we need your support!

Our main fundraiser is our annual NSRW Golf Tournament, Banquet, and Auction which will be held on September 30th. This event is dependent upon your generous sponsorship through monetary and in-kind donations, the procurement of auction items, and the volunteering of your time and expertise to make our fundraiser a great success.

We are presently in the final stages of determining the cost and setting our budget that will guide us in reaching our goal of \$50,000. Due to our nation's present state of inflation, our expenses will be a little higher than in previous years, so we are asking for a few more sponsors at various levels to assist us in keeping the cost of golf and dinner tickets relatively the same as last year.

If you were one of our level sponsors last year, we are hoping for your continued support. If you were not a sponsor, or if you would like to up your sponsorship level, please contact me as soon as possible as we will be updating our brochures which we hope to provide to our attendees at our May luncheon.



We have already received the sponsorships for Dinner Host (Harry & Lori Keyser of GuadalaHARRY's) and Red, White & Blue Sponsors, (Commissioner Robert & Janet Walker). We also have 2 out of 10 commitments from Gold Sponsors (\$1,000); 1 out of 3 commitments for Hole-in-One Sponsors; 1 out of 15 Sponsors at the Silver Level (\$500); 1 of

3 commitments of Sponsors for the Putting Contest (\$250); and 2 Sponsors and 1 commitment for our 12 Hole Sponsors (\$150) amounting to \$12,350, with an additional \$1,000 donation in gift cards for our auctions. In addition to the sponsorships listed above, we are still in need of 10 Platinum Sponsors (\$2,000); 6 Dinner Beverage Sponsors (\$350); and 5 Golf Beverage Sponsors (\$300).

It's not too early to start procuring auction and door prize items, as we are planning to have our On-Line Auction going from September 14th through September 28th, and a Silent Auction that will begin during registration on September 30th and closing during the banquet.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and appreciate all your support in this endeavor. I can be reached by e-mail at deb@nortshorerw.com or you can call or text me at 281-705-3887.

Treasurer's Report

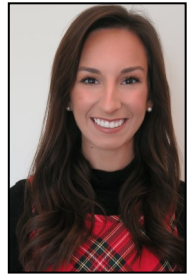
- Chris Gurley, PAC Treasurer

We began the month of March with a balance forward of \$121,342. We brought in income of \$5,679 (Dues \$904, Ways & Means (Fundraiser) \$4,000, Ways & Means (Gift Table) \$775. Expenditures totaled \$5,474 (Administrative \$96, Caring for America \$178, Historian \$271, Hospitality \$75, Keep Montgomery County Red \$2,000, Ways & Means (Gift Table) \$1,215, Yearbook \$1,639). Our balance on hand as of March 31, 2024 was \$121,547.



The Metcalf Minute

Legislative Chairman
- Sarah Tillman Henry



An Update from the 87th Legislature at the Texas Capitol
By State Representative Will Metcalf, House District 16



First-Ever County Appraisal District Board of Directors Election on May 4th, 2024

As we are all aware, 2024 is a crucial election year for our nation. It is imperative we get new leadership in the White House, but we also have important local elections coming prior to the general election this fall. On May 4th for the first time in Texas history, voters will have the opportunity to elect three members to a county appraisal district board of directors. If you recall, during the second called special legislative session last summer, I authored and passed the constitutional amendment allowing the largest tax cut in history, \$18 billion, and I made sure that part of this historic property tax cut included appraisal district reform as well. In November of 2023, voters codified this \$18 billion tax cut by voting FOR Proposition 4. Additionally, this is the most comprehensive appraisal reform passed in Texas since the creation of appraisal districts over four decades ago in 1979. 2024 is a landmark year for appraisal reform where voters in the most populous counties in Texas will elect three members to the appraisal district board of directors.

In the upcoming uniform election this May, voters will have the opportunity to elect three additional members to a county appraisal district board of directors. This will be a requirement for counties with a population of 75,000 or more in size. Going forward, the appraisal review board (ARB) members will be appointed by the appraisal district board of directors, as opposed to their current appointment by a district judge, and at least two of the elected board members must approve an appointed ARB member as a part of a majority vote. The remaining board of directors will still be comprised of the tax assessor of a county and five directors selected by the taxing entities of a county. This election is essential because one of the most important rights as a taxpayer is your right to protest your property appraisal value to the appraisal review board (ARB). You should protest if you disagree with the appraisal district valuation or any of the appraisal district's actions concerning your property value. This puts the ARB in the hands of we the people, the taxpayers, with this new board makeup. I have been pushing for elected positions in our appraisal districts for years and I was pleased to negotiate this addition into the final bill.

This is a major reform plan that incorporates policies that I have fought for each legislative session. As one of the lead fighters for appraisal reform in the state legislature, I am happy to see that we now have a plan to ensure taxpayers are having the voice they deserve. I hope citizens get involved in this important process.

I encourage everyone to research the candidates to make an informed decision in the upcoming election. Early voting begins April 22nd and ends on April 30th. The final day to vote is on May 4th. Please mark your calendars and get out to vote to ensure you have a voice in the appraisal process which we all know is an important aspect property taxation.

May God bless you, your family and the great state of Texas.

Montgomery County Appraisal District Board of Directors Election

May 4

Vote for 1 or none in each place.

Place 1 - Freddie Brooks, Gary W. Beck

Place 2 - Pete Palmer, Luis Pedraza

Place 3 - Webb Melder

**For more information about this May 4 Joint Election and the May 28 Primary Runoff
Election for Sheriff, go to page 5 of this newsletter.**

Montgomery County Appraisal District Candidates

(US Vote Smart and Vote 411)

PLACE 1

Freddie Brooks - No information found

Gary W. Beck

U.S. Army, Active Duty: 2/8/1968 to 4/15/1968, Ft. Polk, Louisiana; 4/16/1968 to 12/15/1968: Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. 1/6/1969 to 1/6/1970: 5/42nd Artillery Battalion, II Field Force, III Corp area of the Republic of South Vietnam. Served in Fire Direction Control adjusting 155 MM artillery fire on enemy targets in support of American, Australian, New Zealand and Thai ground forces. Honorable Discharge effective 2/8/1974.

1976 to 2016: Professional Petroleum Landman - Negotiated and prepared a multitude of oil and gas instruments and agreements to grant clients the right to explore for and produce wells on behalf of a variety of major and mid-range oil & gas firms including Damson Oil Corporation, Anadarko Production Company, Chevron, Mobil Oil and others over a myriad of producing basins in Texas, and other basins in the Lower 48 and Canada. Retired in July, 2016.

Served as a member of the Montgomery County Appraisal Review Board for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

PLACE 2

Pete Palmer

Native of Montgomery County. Graduated from Conroe High school in 1959. Attended Trinity University graduating in 1964 while receiving a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army Corps Of Engineers. Served a two year term in Germany before a tour in Viet Nam where I was a Company Commander of 150 men and attained the rank of Captain. Honorably discharged in 1968.

1968-1987 Worked for the developer of Oak Ridge North building and selling real estate, partnered with Toby Powell, former Mayor of Conroe, building homes through out Montgomery county, next, bought a local insurance company and home mortgage company. Sold that operation and started a local broker - dealership.

1987-2005 Regional Vice President of GE Capital Real Estate, responsible for the asset management of an \$8 billion commercial real estate portfolio while managing 63 employees.

Retired from GE and currently reside at 6 Floret Ct. The Woodlands, Texas.

Civic duty:

1978-1982 Served as a two term Councilman for Conroe Texas, 2010-2018 served two terms as a member of the Montgomery County Appraisal review board, three of those years as Chairman. Served 6 years on the Planning Commission for the City of Conroe (In the 70's)....Member of the Woodlands Methodist Church.

Luis Pedraza

Republican - Fiscal Christian Conservative

Understands Complex Budgets

Proven Voice for Limited Government

Married for over 40 years and Father with 2 sons and 1 granddaughter

Republican Precinct Chair#110

Built homes for Habitat for Humanity

Earned a BS Chemical Engineering Degree from UT Austin

Worked in the chemical industry for over 40 years, Retired 2018

PLACE 3

Webb Melder - unopposed

Lived in Montgomery County since 1963

Graduated Sam Houston State 1971

Married Beverley L. Guinn July 4, 1975; we have 5 grandchildren

Real estate / Construction business for 40 + yrs.



TWO IMPORTANT ELECTIONS IN MAY

May 4 - Joint Election (School Boards, Cities, Appraisal District Board, MUDs and propositions). [Go here to find your sample ballot.](#)

May 28 - Primary Runoff Election - Sheriff candidates only - Rand Henderson and Wesley Doolittle

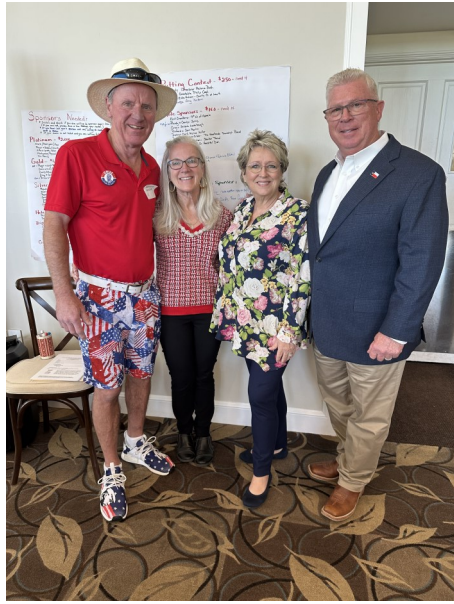
May 4, 2024 Joint Election	
Main and Branch Early Voting Polling Places	
Monday, April 22 - Saturday, April 27	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 29 - Tuesday, April 30	7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

MAP/Photo/Directions	Polling Location	Physical Address	Location in Building
Get All Information	◆ North Montgomery County Community Center	600 Gerald Street, Willis 77378	Meador Room New Room★
Get All Information	◆ Lone Star Community Center (Not the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe)	2500 Lone Star Parkway, Montgomery 77356	Cissy Boulware Room
Get All Information	◆ West Montgomery County Community Development Center	31355 Friendship Drive, Magnolia 77355	Green Room
Get All Information	◆ East Montgomery County Fair Association Building	21675A McCleskey Road, New Caney 77357	Main Room
Get All Information	◆ Central Library (Main Early Voting Polling Place - Limited Ballots)	104 I-45 North, Conroe 77301	Large Meeting Room
Get All Information	◆ Magnolia Event Center	11659 FM 1488, Magnolia 77354	LGI 1
Get All Information	◆ Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center	1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring 77386	Community Center
Get All Information	◆ East Montgomery County Community Development Center	16401 First Street, Suite 100, Splendora 77372	Hayden and Dunn Conference Rooms
Get All Information	◆ Shenandoah Municipal Complex New Location★	29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah 77381	Council Chambers

For May 4 Election Day locations, [click here](#)

For May 28 Early and Election Day voting information, [click here](#)

March 6, 2024 Meeting



March 21 Kirk Cameron Event



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6 MEETING

- Mary Osborn, Recording Secretary



The April meeting was called to order by President Leigh Billingsley at 11:00 AM on April 3, 2024. The devotional and prayer were led by Cheryl Bolt and the pledges to the American and Texas flags were led by County Commissioner, Precinct 1, Robert Walker. The minutes were approved as presented.

In the absence of 2nd Vice President, Genette Stanton, her report was presented by Gail McKinnon and she reported that at this time we have 230 members and 63 associate members. Treasurer Chris Gurley gave the financial report and our balance on hand on March 31, 2024 is \$121,547.22. Deborah Graham, 3rd Vice President in charge of fund raising gave her report concerning the Golf Tournament and she thanked Harry Keyser and Robert Walker for their sponsorships. She also reported for the Scholarship committee for which she is the chair, that the applications and information had been delivered to both Willis ISD and Montgomery ISD and that the deadline is April 15 and they will be picked up at that time. Deborah Gentz, the Campaign Activities Chair asked that hours be reported to her by April 15, for time worked for January through March. She also reminded the membership of donated hours they may not realize they can report, such as education and reading, voting, including time spent to get there and to wait in line.

Elected officials were introduced. Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16; Amy Tucker, Judge County Court at Law No.3; Robert Walker, Precinct 1 County Commissioner; Julie Faubel, TFRW Senate District 4 Director. Also present after the introductions were Rand Henderson, Sheriff; Jay Wright, Justice, 9th Court of Appeals. Also present was Paul Cameron, candidate for Montgomery ISD School Board Trustee, Position 4.

After lunch, our guest speaker was Morgan Luttrell, US Representative District 8. He gave a wonderful talk about last year, this year and the future for the House of Representatives in Washington DC and answered many questions from the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Thank You From Texas Federation of Republican Women

TO ALL OF OUR Candidates - first timers and veterans . . . winners, those that came up short and those in a Runoff, Poll Greeters, Poll Watchers, County Chairs, County Election Workers, Sign Installers, Election Judges, Election Clerks, EVBB, Phone Callers, Door Knockers, Family Members, Meet & Greet Hosts, Watch Party Hosts, Voters and anyone else that participated in choosing candidates for public and party leadership.



Let's Unite and Work for EVERY REPUBLICAN ON THE BALLOT!
President Trump and Senator Ted Cruz will need our help!

Visit Our Gift Table Before Every Monthly Meeting (Credit Cards Accepted)



Brunch with Senator Brandon Creighton and other Republican Women clubs



VOTE

JOINT ELECTION
MAY 4

RUNOFF ELECTION
MAY 28



Mary Osborn, Chris Gurley, Leigh Billingsley,
Deborah Graham, Genette Stanton, Carolyn Jones

2024 NSRW Board Members

OFFICERS

President

Leigh Billingsley leigh@northshorerw.com

1st Vice President/Programs

Carolyn Jones

2nd Vice President/Membership

Genette Stanton

3rd Vice President/Ways & Means

Deborah Graham

Recording Secretary

Mary Osborn

Treasurer/PAC Treasurer

Chris Gurley

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Americanism

Awards - *Dorothy Woodall*

Campaign Activities - *Deborah Gentz*

Caring for America - *Ann South/Sherry Fox*

Caring and Concern - *Sherry Martinez*

Chaplain - *Cheryl Bolt*

Community Engagement - *Karen Darcy Pawlak*

Directory - *Jody Hostetler/Karen Darcy Pawlak*

Gift Table - *Becky Harper/Sharon Lasseter*

Historian - *Gail McKinnon*

Hospitality - *Cay Eckland/Debbie Dye*

Legislative - *Sarah Tillman Henry*

Literacy - *Ann South*

Media - *Ann Kate*

Parliamentarian/Bylaws - *Dorothy Woodall*

Pistols and Pearls

Publicity - *Joan Martin*

Scholarship - *Deborah Graham*

Youth Outreach - *Dianne Tompkins*



NSRW Calendar of Events

May 1 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Bentwater Country Club, sign in begins at 10:30 a.m. Program - Mark Meckler, Founder of Convention of States Project

May 4 - Joint Election (see page 4)

May 15 - NSRW Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Bentwater Country Club board room.

May 28 - Runoff Election for Sheriff (see page 4)

June 5 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Bentwater Country Club, sign in begins at 10:30 a.m. Program - Senator Brandon Creighton

No board meeting in June, no monthly meetings in July and August.



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Like us on Facebook:
North Shore Republican Women/TX

Website: www.nsrepublicanwomen.org

TFRW Website: www.tfrw.org

NFRW Website: www.NFRW.org

Republican Party of Texas Website:
www.texasgop.org



Beacon Editor: Ann Kate

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NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2024

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Spouse Name (if applicable):

Home Address:

City:

Zip code _____

Mailing Address (if different for mailings):

Home Phone:

Cell:

E-Mail: _____

Texas Senate district in which you reside _____

Occupation (Required for PAC reporting):

OR (Please check if retired) _____

NSRW may/may not (circle one) publish this information in its printed and electronic form

Do you want a Yearbook? Yes ___ No ___

Prefer: Electronically _____ Printed _____

Please check one:


New _____ Renewal _____

Membership Fees: (Circle One)

Active: \$40 Associate: \$20

Young Affiliate: \$10

Seniors 75+ discount offered: \$30

Lighthouse Circle  (see website): In addition, I would like to contribute _____ \$15, ___ \$25, _____ \$50 or \$_____ to support various NSRW philanthropy programs (any amount would be greatly appreciated).

Active membership is for all women with NSRW as their primary membership. Associate membership is for women with other Republican Women memberships, and men. Associate women please specify your other current active membership: _____ Young Affiliate is teenage women ages thirteen through seventeen.

NSRW has my permission to send the monthly Beacon newsletter to me by email yes/no (circle one)

***** Please mail this form with your check payable to NSRW to:**

P.O. Box 1993, Montgomery, TX 77356

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