



THE BEACON

NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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

Volume 23, No. 2

February 2023

Region XVII, Senate Dist. 4



President's Letter - Leigh Billingsley

One of the major out-comes from the pandemic is a high awareness among parents and grandparents about what children are learning at school. Many folks around

the country are frustrated with the teachings on race and gender identity, and the lack of focus on core academics in some situations. Many parents (and some grandparents) are taking positive action by attending school board meetings – and some even running for school board positions. I am very excited about a bill a friend of mine told me about recently, and the support it has from our leaders in Texas.

Governor Greg Abbot, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and the Texas GOP have listed school choice as a legislative priority for this year. State Representative Mayes Middleton (R – Galveston) has already filed Senate Bill 176. Bill 176 would create an education savings account program that allows parents to use state funds to pay for their children's private school, online education or private tutors.

This program would allow families that opt out of the state's public education system and receive the average amount of money it costs Texas public schools to educate a child. (Currently that is roughly \$10,000 a year.) Additionally, parents would have the option to roll over the funds on a year-to-year basis and could be used to help pay for higher education.

For me, this work is important – so much so that I have sent letters to Representative Metcalf and Senator Creighton letting them know of my support for SB-176. I encourage those of you who are like minded in being concerned about the direction in which are public education system is headed to do the same.



- Carolyn Jones
1st Vice President/Programs



Monthly Meeting Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Bentwater COUNTRY Club
800 Bentwater Dr.,
Montgomery, TX

Program: Jim Fredricks speaking on behalf of the Texas Destination Resort Alliance

Jim Fredricks will speak on behalf of the Texas Destination Resort Alliance about a **proposed constitutional amendment** that is intended to create economic development and a new source of revenue for the state through the creation of a limited number of **destination resort casinos**. The TDRA is asking the Legislature to put the measure on the ballot and allow Texans to vote on it. More about the measure can be found at www.txdra.com.

In addition to his current work with the Texas Destination Resort Alliance, Jim Fredricks is a Realtor and government affairs consultant in the Houston region. Jim is a former editor and publisher of the largest daily newspaper in Montgomery County who is using his two decades in the news business and knowledge of Montgomery County to serve clients in real estate, communications and government affairs. He is a licensed Realtor with ReMax The Woodlands & Spring, the leading real estate brokerage in The Woodlands and operates The Fredricks Group real estate and consulting with his wife, Melinda, who is a former vice chairman of the Republican Party of Texas. Jim also served as chief of staff for Montgomery County Judge Craig Doyal from January 2015 to January 2019. He has served on the boards of numerous community organizations, including the Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce and Montgomery County United Way and currently serves on the board of Compassion United, a Conroe-based ministry to the homeless, and leads a men's prayer ministry at the Ark Church. He and Melinda live in Montgomery County.

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, February 21 (online), 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 choose the 0 option.

RESERVATIONS



Food Drive March 1

See page 2 to learn how you can provide food at our March 1 meeting for those who are in need.

Membership

- Genette Stanton, 2nd VP/Membership



We would like to encourage everyone to get in their memberships dues by **February 17th**. That's the deadline for getting everyone in our directory. As of February 15 we had 214 members, making us a Texas Federation of Republican Women Super Jumbo club! Last year, however, we ended up with 259 members, so let's try to reach that number soon.



New Members

Sandra Ayers
Jan Freeman
Cynthia Guyton
Lisa Livermore

Sharing the Light

With Our 2023 LIGHTHOUSE CIRCLE



North Shore Republican Women
 Thanks you for your contribution

Caring for America

- Kim Greene, co-chairman



Food Drive for The Local Church (TLC) Food Pantry in Willis



The NSRW board has approved a quarterly food drive for the food pantry in Willis. Items can be donated at the meeting in the last month of every quarter, **beginning with our March 1 meeting**. Current needs include Cereal (boxed), Peanut Butter and Jelly, Soups, Ramen Noodles, Canned Vegetable, Canned Fruits and Juices, Pasta and Rice, Spaghetti and Sauce, Boxed Dinners, Pinto Beans, and White Rice.

Thank you to everyone who donated hotel toiletries, socks, gloves, and other hygiene products in the baskets that were on the gift table at our January meeting. They will be at each of our NSRW meetings, and will be given to the Over/Under Ministry for those in need.

Also, don't forget my message that was in last month's Beacon: NSRW Caring for America committee will also be working with "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" ministry to construct beds for community children who need beds to sleep in, instead of on the floor. Their motto of sorts is: "No kids in our town sleep on the floor." We will sponsor a "Build Day" and actually build beds. So, if you like working with power tools or think you would, NSRW is begging for volunteers to join in and help us schedule a "Build Day."

Our boxes for Over/Under Ministry



NSRW Eyeglass & Hearing Aid Collection Box at Bentwater Fitness Center

Treasurer's Report

- Chris Gurley, PAC Treasurer

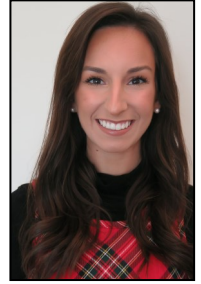


We began the month of January with a balance forward of \$79,216. We brought in income of \$5,696 (advertising \$225, dues \$5,248, gift table \$223). Expenditures amounted to \$2,838 (administrative \$270, communications/media \$28, membership (dues to TFRW) \$1,595, programs \$300, ways & means \$645). Our balance on hand as of January 31, 2023 was \$82,074.

The Metcalf Minute

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

Legislative Chairman
- Sarah Tillman Henry



On Wednesday, February 8th, the Texas House of Representatives took a vital step in setting its agenda and priorities for the 88th Legislative Session with the appointment of House Committees. With 150 members each representing different districts and constituencies across the state, this is an important and extensive task for the House Speaker. I am proud that Speaker Dade Phelan has demonstrated strong faith in me with three critical committee appointments. This session I am proud to serve once again as the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration and as a member of the Committee on State Affairs and the Committee on Natural Resources.

It is a true privilege to be reappointed to the influential role of Chairman of the Committee on House Administration. The Chair of House Administration works closely with the Office of the Speaker to oversee and manage the House, its finances, and daily operations. The committee is tasked with overseeing all operations of the Texas House and its members, officers, and employees, which includes the rules, procedures and policies by which the House is governed. It is also tasked with controlling all appropriations from House offices and business that takes place on House property, including the floor of the Texas House of Representatives. The House Administration Committee is an important institution within the House of Representatives and ensures that the body is operating in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner. Being given this opportunity to serve in a key leadership role in the Texas House is a tremendous honor and a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I appreciate the vote of confidence that has been placed in me by Speaker Phelan and am eager to continue to work serving all Members of the House in this leadership capacity.

Another appointment that I was honored to receive from Speaker Phelan is my reappointment to the Committee on State Affairs. The Committee on State Affairs is a powerful committee with very broad jurisdiction over a wide array of matters, including any issues of importance deemed relevant to state policy, the powers of state government and all of its departments, agencies, and institutions, the conduct of persons with influence in public policy, the regulation of electric, telecommunications and cybersecurity utilities, and an all-encompassing range of issues where jurisdiction is not granted to another standing committee under the Texas House rules. During the interim period between the 87th and 88th Sessions, I was honored to serve as the Chairman of the State Affairs Committee with the interim resignation of the former chair, and we worked in great depth on the many issues relating to our state's electric grid and power generation as a result of the devastating Winter Storm Uri in February 2021. The committee will be chaired during the regular session by Republican Todd Hunter of Corpus Christi. The State of Texas has long been a shining example of how all states in our union should function, and this has been made even more apparent during the last couple of years as inflation has ravaged our economy. We have seen our state's low regulation, business-friendly policy framework thriving as companies from all over the nation leave their heavy-handed governments behind to move to Texas where economic promise flourishes. I am proud to once again serve on this important committee, and it is one of my top priorities as a member to see that Texas continues to lead the nation in policymaking that benefits our citizens and our economy.

I am also excited to serve once again on the Committee on Natural Resources. Although I was not a member of the Natural Resources committee last session, I have previously served as a member and Vice Chair of this committee. I am happy to be back once again as water issues remain a crucial issue in House District 16 and Montgomery County. The Committee on Natural Resources is tasked with overseeing the management, use, and conservation of our natural resources, most prominently water. Montgomery County is no stranger to the need for efficient and responsible water resource management with a growing population and greater pressure from residents and businesses to keep supplies both abundant and affordable. I am eager to begin work to guarantee a cost effective, sustainable future for our children where we leave them a clean and easily accessible cache of natural resources.

I am humbled and honored by the opportunity and trust that Speaker Phelan has placed in me with these committee assignments. I look forward to serving in these roles and others to keep fighting for the wonderful people of House District 16 and the Great State of Texas.

May God bless you, your family, and the Great State of Texas.

This is your chance to meet and question your U.S. Congressman

TOWN HALL

with

Congressman Morgan Luttrell

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND | 6PM

North Montgomery County Community Center

600 Gerald St. Willis, TX 77378

RSVP: Luttrell.House.Gov



Congressman Luttrell's Comments on the Chinese Spy Balloon

The Chinese spy balloon was a direct national security threat to the United States. Time and time again, POTUS has failed to counter, curb, and compete with China - we cannot continue this show of weakness when it comes to protecting our country. We need answers on the Biden Administration's lack of urgency to address this brazen act by the CCP. This week, I signed onto a letter to Secretary Mayorkas concerning the Department of Homeland Security's role in the lack of response to the Chinese spy balloon and House Republicans passed a resolution to condemn the Chinese Communist Party's use of a spy balloon over our country.

Committee Actions

Over the last two weeks, we had our first organizational meetings at the House Armed Services Committee, Committee on Homeland Security, and Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The House Armed Services Committee also held its first hearing on the Pressing Threat of the Chinese Communist Party to U.S. National Defense.

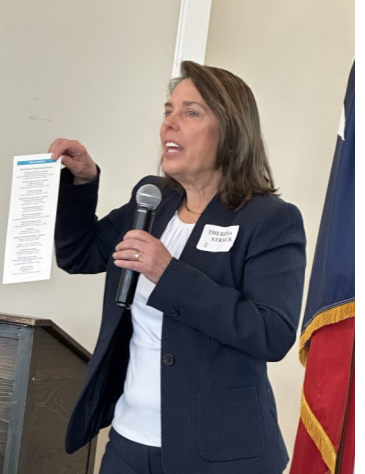
Border Security Caucus

Last week, I joined the the Congressional Border Security Caucus. Securing our borders and protecting Texans from the drugs, cartels, and criminals pouring over will always be a top priority.

Sign up for my newsletter to get updates on this issue and others!

[Click here](#)

February 1, 2023 Meeting



TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN LEGISLATIVE DAY in AUSTIN



New Member Wine/Cheese Party



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1 MEETING

- Dorothy Woodall, Acting Secretary
and Mary Osborn



The General Meeting of North Shore Republican Women was called to order at 11:00 a.m. at Bentwater Country Club by acting President, Dorothy Woodall. Cheryl Bolt, Chaplain, gave an inspirational devotional and prayer. Commissioner Robert Walker led the pledges to the flag and expressed his appreciation for the messages of condolences on the loss of his father. The minutes stood approved as presented.

Genette Stanton, 2nd Vice-President, Membership, reported on the Wine and Cheese party recruiting new members. She announced that there were eighteen new members. Currently, our membership is 160 active members and 50 associate members. All members are encouraged to renew by February 17, to ensure being listed in the yearbook. Chris Gurley, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$82,074.43. These monies are dedicated to campaign donations and community involvement. The Americanism Committee reported that they are asking for donations for personal hygiene items, hats, gloves, and socks. These items may be placed in the boxes located on the gift table. Karen Darcy Pawlak and Joan Martin, co-chairs of Community Engagement reported on the Alliance of New America Citizenship Classes. They encouraged our members to join them in this important endeavor. They also reported on their efforts as Deputy Registrars registering new voters.

Karen Darcy Pawlak and Jody Hostetler, Yearbook Chairmen, reported that the yearbook will be going to the printer on February 17. They encouraged all members to utilize their yearbooks and avail themselves of all the information it contains. Sarah Tillman Henry, Legislative Chairman, reported on the events in Austin as the Legislature begins their session. Bills are being prefiled and Committee hearings will begin.

The following elected officials were introduced: Shiva Baradaran representing Senator Creighton; Sarah Henry, representing Representative Will Metcalf; Brett Ligon, District Attorney; Judge Tracy Gilbert, 418 District Court; Melisa Miller, District Clerk; Dr. Sekula Gibbs, The Woodland Township Board; and Ann Kate, Precinct 72 Chairman.

Carolyn Jones, 1st VP, Program, introduced our Speaker Teresa Strack, Executive Director of Life First. Her passionate pro-life remarks were most inspirational to everyone.

Special thanks and appreciation was expressed to Judge Gilbert for his presentation of red roses to each of those present. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



Chris Gurley, Carolyn Jones, Sherry Fox, Leigh Billingsley,
Genette Stanton, Sharon Lasseter

2023 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

Sherry Fox

Recording Secretary

Sharon Lasseter

Treasurer/PAC Treasurer

Chris Gurley

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Americanism - *Kim Greene/Gail McKinnon*

Awards - *Dorothy Woodall*

Campaign Activities - *Deborah Gentz*

Caring for America - *Ann South/Kim Greene*

Caring and Concern - *Sherry Martinez*

Chaplain - *Cheryl Bolt*

Community Engagement - *Karen Darcy Pawlak*

Directory - *Jody Hostetler/Karen Darcy Pawlak*

Gift Table - *Tracie de Roulac/Becky Harper*

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 - *Tracie de Roulac*

Publicity - *Joan Martin*

Scholarship - *Jacque Lookabaugh*

Youth Outreach - *Diane Hivnor*

Past President - *Christy Tatum*

February 20, 2023



**Thank You 418th District Court
Judge Tracy Gilbert
for the beautiful Valentine's roses!**



NSRW Calendar of Events



March 1 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Sign in begins at 10:30 a.m.

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

April 5 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Sign in begins at 10:30 a.m. Program: Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Judge Wayne Mack on Mental Health

April 19 - NSRW Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Bentwater Club board room

What is the Lighthouse Circle?

Did you see the Lighthouse Circle logo on page 2 of this newsletter? Don't know what it is? Explanation: we show our appreciation to members and associates who make a contribution to NSRW, in addition to their membership fee, by putting their names in the Lighthouse Circle.

Contributors have their name inside the logo, which is posted on Facebook and put in our Beacon newsletter.

If you contributed and don't see your name, please let us know at northshorerw@northshorerw.com.

THANK YOU!



We are saddened by the passing of NSRW member Barbara Longley, who passed away January 27, and former long time member Alta McCrehan, who died January 23. We pass along condolences to their families.



**[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



Mailing Address:

**P.O. Box 1993
Montgomery, TX 77356**

Email:

northshorerw@northshorerw.com

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**NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN
MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2023**

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

Zip code: _____

Mailing Address (If different for mailings):

Home Phone: _____

Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

Texas Senate district in which you reside _____

NSRW may/may not publish this information in its printed and electronic yearbooks. Please circle one and initial _____

Do you want a Yearbook? _____ If yes, do you prefer: Electronically _____ or Printed _____

Occupation (Required information for PAC reporting): _____


OR (Please check if retired) _____

Membership Fees: (Please 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).

Please check one:

New _____ Renewal _____

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 _____

*** Please mail this form with your check payable to NSRW to: P.O. Box 1993, Montgomery, TX 77356.

NSRW MEETS THE 1st WEDNESDAY AT THE BENTWATER YACHT CLUB (unless otherwise specified in The Beacon). PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS ONLINE AT www.nsrepublicanwomen.org BY NOON SATURDAY BEFORE MEETING, or call 936-597-6219, option 0 (for meetings at Bentwater).

I'M INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES (Please circle):

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Campaign Activities | Caring & Concern | Caring for America | Community Engagement |
| Finance | Gift Table | Hospitality | Legislative |
| Literacy | Media | Membership | Publicity |
| Scholarship | Ways & Means | Yearbook | Youth Outreach |