



# THE BEACON

## NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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

Volume 23, No. 1

January 2023

Region XVII, Senate Dist. 4



### President's Letter - Leigh Billingsley

We're off and running with memberships flowing in, many of them new memberships. The generosity of members who have signed up their spouses as Associate

members and/or contributed to the Lighthouse fund astounds me! You are an amazing group!

We kicked off 2023 with a wonderful presentation from Scott Toland.

Scott gave us a peek into what it was like to work in the West Wing for President Trump. And in February we have Teresa Strack coming to talk to us about her work at LifeFirst.

Legislative Day is on Friday, February 3rd, and I hope some of you will join us. With workshops on how to use the Texas Legislature Online, how to find reliable sources, understanding the procedures in the House and Senate, and the opportunity to participate in a Mock Hearing, this is a day not to be missed. There is no better opportunity to develop your legislative skills than at TFRW Legislative Day.

At our next meeting on February 1st, please consider bringing unused hotel and sample size toiletries for Kim Greene's Caring for America project. Additionally, if you are willing to stop by your local dollar store for socks and gloves to donate, that would also be very much appreciated. At the meeting, Kim will be leaving a basket by the front door to the club to collect items.

If you have not renewed your membership, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and send it with a check to NSRW, P.O. Box 1993, Montgomery, TX 77356. Thank you!



- Carolyn Jones  
1st Vice President/Programs



### Monthly Meeting Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Bentwater COUNTRY Club  
800 Bentwater Dr.,  
Montgomery, TX

### Program: Teresa Strack, Executive Director of LifeFirst

Teresa served as director of Montgomery County Right to Life for almost 8 years prior to the launch of LifeFirst in December of 2019. Teresa is a graduate of Houston Baptist University and the proud mother of four.

From Teresa - LifeFirst is a new pro-life ministry focused on the compassion and civil rights issue of our time - the loss of life and suffering due to abortion and euthanasia. Thomas Jefferson rightly stated, "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government." LifeFirst's focus is on the grassroots work of heart and mind to create an attitude shift back towards Life. Attitudes are what undergird laws and judicial rulings. Therefore, this foundational work is essential. LifeFirst has grown tremendously despite being launched during the many restrictions due to COVID. Families in 48 cities throughout Texas have participated in LifeFirst's student contests in just the year and a half that the contests were opened to state-wide participation. LifeFirst's When Does Life Begin social media campaign is having an impact nation-wide - including in pro-abortion states.

**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, January 24 (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**

## Membership

- Genette Stanton, 2nd VP/Membership



Congratulations to our members that have renewed, and welcome to the new members who have joined. We want to encourage those that haven't sent in their memberships to go ahead and get theirs in.



# WELCOME!

### New Members

Cathy Alexander  
Jill Anderson  
Mary Balfantz  
Liz Carter  
Tammy Coleman  
Linda Duncan  
Suzanne Fox  
Brenna Hankla  
Paige Lohman  
Lynne Napoleon  
Sharon Neider  
Sherri Payne

Lisa Pescitelli  
Charlsie Rogge  
Lynnette Russo  
Angela Siegert  
Missy Spain  
Joni Wright

### New Associates

Carrie Butler  
Allen Greene  
Sam Harper  
Alice Melancon  
Jim Stanton



## Treasurer's Report

- Chris Gurley, PAC Treasurer

We began the month of December with a balance forward of \$79,156. We brought in income of \$3,140 (gift table \$526, special contribution \$20, dues \$2594). Expenditures amounted to \$3,081 (administrative \$105, Caring for America \$566, communications/media \$26, Historian \$25, hospitality \$23, membership (dues to TFRW) \$2,261, ways & means \$76). Our balance on hand as of December 31, 2022 was \$79,216.



## Americanism

- Kim Greene, co-chairman  
- Gail McKinnon, co-chairman



Americanism is defined as the allegiance to the traditions, institutions, and ideals of the United States. As your Americanism co-chairs, Gail McKinnon and I plan to show the allegiance of the NSRW members to our country, our veterans, and our American ideas.

We have plans to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Bentwater, and look forward to decorating our floats and receiving your ideas for a theme. This year the 4<sup>th</sup> of July falls on a Tuesday, so we will wait until the POA decides on the day for the parade and decorate the floats the afternoon before the parade. We need volunteers for this and will keep you updated in "The Beacon" and at our meetings.

In addition to the above, we continue our support of our Community Engagement Committee, providing volunteer teachers, mock interviewers, and funding for Alliance of New Americans. If you are interested in helping people become American citizens the right way, then please volunteer to teach a Citizenship class to help these immigrants become USA citizens.

Our veterans always are priority one. We support Henry's Home Horse and Human Sanctuary, and the VFW Post 4709, Conroe. We have adopted a Marine Battalion which we are also supporting.

If you are interested in making a difference in our country and our community, please volunteer for our committee, or the committee below, by notifying Kim Greene at [kim@northshorerw.com](mailto:kim@northshorerw.com). We need you!

## Caring for America

- Kim Greene, co-chairman



NSRW Caring for America committee works to aid and improve our local communities. As such, we are currently working with Under Over Ministries in Conroe through our toiletry/ hygiene bag donations. We will continue to work with the Lions Club and the eye-glass donation boxes started by our long time Committee Chair, Sharon O'Neil. While Sharon has stockpiled toiletry donations for years, we have almost exhausted the supplies, so we ask NSRW members to drop off any hotel toiletries, socks, gloves, and other hygiene products in a basket that will be at each of our NSRW meetings, close to the registration table as you enter the meeting area. A special thank you to Annette Young, who has started us off with a healthy donation of items, but we need more!

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."

**Membership**  
- Genette Stanton, 2023 2nd VP/Membership



Start notifying your friends, relatives, neighbors, and others about our Wine & Cheese Party for new and prospective members. They will learn about NSRW and meet our board and other members who bring guests who might be interested in joining.



**North Shore Republican Women**

**Invites**

**New & Prospective Members to a**

**Wine  
& Cheese  
Party**

**January 26**

**6 p.m.**

**Home of Carolyn Jones  
147 Ridge Lake Lane  
Montgomery, Texas 77356**

**Please RSVP to Genette Stanton at  
[genette.stanton@gmail.com](mailto:genette.stanton@gmail.com)**



**Learn about NSRW and our philosophy. Get involved so we can:**

**Keep Montgomery County RED!**

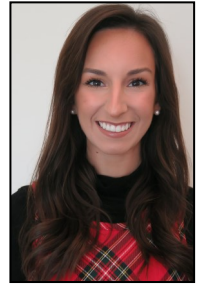
**NSRW current members (except for those new in the last year) are invited to attend only if accompanied by a future new member.**

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# 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



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season and having a great start to 2023. It is hard to believe that we have once again reached a new year and a new legislative session. The 88th legislative session began on January 10th at your state Capitol in Austin. It is an honor to represent House District 16 in the Texas House. This session we will address important issues that are facing the state and approve a new two year balanced budget. As we kick off this legislative session, I would like to give you all an overview of the legislative process here in Texas so that you can be informed about what will take place the next 140 days at your state capitol.

According to our State Constitution, the Texas Legislature operates under a biennial system that convenes its regular sessions at noon on the second Tuesday in January of odd-numbered years. Unlike most other states, Texas operates on a two year legislative and budget cycle. This session began on January 10th and will run for 140 days until May 29th. Our state legislature is made of 150 House members and 31 Senate members elected by voters in their respective legislative districts. The only time the legislature will meet outside of the regular legislative session is if the Governor calls a special session to be held on a specified topic or a collection of topics. We saw this last session as we returned to Austin for three special sessions, stretching into October of 2021. The Governor is the only person that has the authority to call a special session of the Legislature and the only person who can decide what topics can be addressed.

Right now, members are filing bills that will eventually make their way through various parts of our legislative process. The Texas constitution prohibits the legislature from hearing a bill in committee for the first 30 days of session, and prohibits us from hearing bills on the House floor for the first 60 days of session. This is to allow the bodies time to organize and focus on bills that the Governor deems emergency items, and these are the only bills that are an exception to the 30 and 60 day rules. The Governor historically announces his list of emergency items in his State of the State Address to the combined houses of the Legislature. The Governor has the ultimate authority to list his emergency items, and as you can imagine there are many topics of importance to Texans for him to choose from. Until that time, the House and Senate chambers focus on getting organized into committees, adopting rules and procedures we agree to operate under for the duration of the session, and here in the House, we must elect a Speaker from amongst the body to lead the chamber.

On the first day of session, January 10<sup>th</sup>, the House nearly unanimously selected Speaker Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) to continue leading our chamber. Speaker Phelan did an outstanding job as speaker last session and we hands down had the most conservative session in Texas legislative history with the passage of second amendment protections, the outlawing of abortion, we prohibited biological males from playing in girls UIL sports, we banned critical race theory from being taught in Texas public schools, we passed sweeping election integrity legislation, we limited the allowable increase of state expenditures by tying our two-year budget cap to population growth and inflation, among much more. I was proud to support Speaker Phelan once again and look forward to what we will be able to accomplish this session under his leadership.

On the second day of the legislative session we took up the House rules which outline the policies and procedures by which the body will operate. We included language in this rules package that will punish quorum breakers to deter any member from participating in the foolishness that occurred in summer 2021 when many House democrats fled the state in an attempt to stall election integrity legislation from being passed. Of course, we later did pass the legislation once enough members returned to meet a quorum, but our rules for this session impose a \$500 a day personal fine for each day a member is absent without leave for the purpose of impeding action of the House, as well as requiring payment of costs incurred by the House sergeant-at-arms, reprimand, censure and/or expulsion of the member who breaks quorum. There were several democrats who never left the House during that quorum break, and those democrats joined republicans to support this new rules policy. I am glad this policy passed and there will be stiff fines that cannot be paid from state or campaign funds and potential expulsion for any member who tries to pull this sort of shenanigan this session.

As previously mentioned, bills may not be introduced after the 60 day mark of the regular session. During the last convened regular session, almost 7000 bills were introduced and only about 1100 passed. As you can see, a significant number of bills do not make it through the legislative process. We are expecting to make positive impact to our state as the State Comptroller has reported a record surplus in our state budget. California, on the other hand, is facing a \$22.5 billion deficit and will be forced to make devastating cuts in this upcoming budget cycle. Though we are fortunate to have such a robust economy here in Texas while many other states are still floundering from the affects of bad blue state policies, our state constitution requires that we produce a balanced budget that stays below several constitutionally imposed spending limits.

Following the introduction of a bill, the bill must make its way through the committee process. Members are assigned to their respective committees within the first several weeks by the Speaker of The House. Committee topics vary from State Affairs, Transportation, Public Health, Public Education, Criminal Jurisprudence, Natural Resources, and Insurance, just to name a few. **(Continued on next page)**

After a bill is introduced, it is referred to a committee based on a committee's specific jurisdiction. The chair of the committee has the authority to hear bills in their committee. During a committee hearing in which bills are being considered, the committee takes testimony from stakeholders and the public on their support or opposition to each bill. It is a beautiful thing that Texas legislators hear from you, the public, on these important policies. Take Washington DC for example where the public is not allowed to give testimony on legislation that affects us all and spends trillions of dollars of our hard earned money. Unlike DC, the Texas legislative process is alive and well and accessible to anyone who wants to participate. Following testimony, committee members will ask questions and debate with one another about the bill. The majority of bills fail to make it through the committee process. The phrase "died in committee" is commonly used to describe a bill that failed to be heard or did not receive enough votes to make it out of committee. Bills must receive a majority favorable vote from committee members before moving on to the next step of the process.

Following committee action, bills that are reported favorable out of committee are placed on calendars. As you can imagine, there is not enough time to hear every bill on the house floor. These calendars, or schedules, determine the order in which the bills are taken up for further consideration and debate. The Committee on Calendars is responsible for placing bills on the daily House calendar. All bills must receive a majority vote of the House and the Senate. If the House or Senate approves a bill it then moves to the opposite chamber and goes through the entire process all over again in that legislative body.

Once a bill is approved by both chambers, it has one final hurdle it must jump over before it can become law. The Governor has three choices when a bill is headed to his desk. He may sign it into law, veto the bill, or allow the bill to become law without his signature. Each chamber must pass identical legislation before it can reach the governors desk. The process seems painstakingly rigorous, however, our founders set our system up this way so that only the most carefully considered and debated bills can become law.

I hope that this information provides a helpful insight into the process of our Texas Legislature. I encourage everyone to use the website, Texas Legislature Online, to track any bills they have an interest in. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the status of a bill or any other question you may have about the Legislature. I encourage you to remain engaged in the process in your State Capitol.

This job would not be possible without the support of people back home. It is such an honor to serve our district and the people of Montgomery County. Our offices in Conroe and Austin are ready to assist you in any way we can, so please do not hesitate to contact us. It is my honor to serve as your State Representative of House District 16.

May God Bless you, your family and the great state of Texas!

## State Senator Brandon Creighton Sworn In



### CONGRESSMAN MORGAN LUTTRELL RELEASES STATEMENT ON THE PROTECTING AMERICA'S STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FROM CHINA ACT

"The Biden Administration's anti-American energy agenda stamped out our energy independence and boosted our reliance on foreign oil, sending prices through the roof," said Congressman Morgan Luttrell. "We should not be selling emergency oil reserves to a geo-political adversary, especially at a time when our country is facing an unprecedented energy crisis."

# January 4, 2022 Meeting



## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4 MEETING

- Sharon Lasseter, Secretary



The January General Meeting of the North Shore Republican Women was called to order at 11:00 am by Leigh Billingsley, President.

Cheryl Bolt gave a devotional from Psalm 118 and lifted up a prayer for those who are ill, bereaved, our leaders and those who have any other concerns. Will Metcalf, State Representative, District 16, led the Pledges of Allegiance. The minutes were approved as presented. Genette Stanton, 2nd VP and Judy Love, former 2nd VP, reported that there are currently 83 active members and 30 associate members. Approximate 98 others joined today. The membership goal is 120 members. A Wine and Cheese Party for new and prospective members is January 26th from 6-8 at the home of Carolyn Jones. Chris Gurley, Treasurer, presented the monthly report. On December 31st balance on hand was \$79,215.67.

Karen Darcy-Pawlak reported that she and Jody Hostetler are responsible for the membership directory. Advertisements are available in three sizes. Small businesses, that are not corporations, are encouraged to purchase ads. She requested that members who are interested in helping with the directory contact her or Jody.

Gail McKinnon, Historian, presented the 2022 Scrapbook to Christy Tatum, President 2022.

Kim Greene, Caring for America, stated that Over/Under Ministries, Conroe is a local organization that we will be helping. Beginning in February a basket will be placed at the welcome table to collect unused toiletries, hygiene products, gloves, socks and caps. The committee is working to identify other local charities to help.

Deborah Gentz, Campaign Activities, stated that this is the last day to submit volunteer hours for 2022.

Ann Kate, Media, reported that 69% of e-mails containing The Beacon, the main source of NSRW news, are opened. Out of 404 emails sent only 89 opened The Beacon. Members are encouraged to read The Beacon both for news and to sign up for the meetings.

Will Metcalf gave a legislative update. The 140-day 2023 Legislative Session begins next Tuesday. Approximately 7,000 bills are filed and about 1200-1300 are passed. Representative Metcalf has an open door policy. Call him for any questions or concerns regarding newspaper articles or online/social media postings.

The following elected officials were introduced: B.D. Griffin, County Attorney, Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16; Sandy Wagner, Montgomery County Hospital Board; Jay Wright, Justice 9<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals; Pearl Maggio, TFRW Senate District 4 Director; Alice Melancon, TFRW VP Programs; Gwen Withrow, State Republican Executive Committee SD4; Ann Kate, Pct. 72 Republican Chairman.

Leigh announced that the TFRW Day is February 3rd in Austin, Texas.

Our speaker, Scott Toland, served as Special Assistant to President Trump and Assistant Staff Secretary. His presentation included slides and show-and-tell memorabilia of his experiences and responsibilities while working in the West Wing of the White House, traveling with President Trump on Air Force One and briefing the President on speeches and documents.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.



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

## 2023 NSRW Board Members

### OFFICERS

#### President

*Leigh Billingsley* [leigh@northshorerw.com](mailto: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*

## What is the Lighthouse Circle?

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](mailto:northshorerw@northshorerw.com).

**THANK YOU!**

### Sharing the Light

#### With Our 2023 LIGHTHOUSE CIRCLE



North Shore Republican Women  
Thanks you for your contribution

## NSRW Calendar of Events



**January 26 - New Member Wine/  
Cheese Party, home of Carolyn  
Jones, 6 p.m.**

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

**February 2-3 - TFRW Legislative Day in  
Austin.**

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

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



We extend condolences to NSRW member Katy Tucker. Katy's husband, Michael "Mike" Tucker, passed away January 2.

Mike was an associate member of NSRW.

Services were held January 7.



**Like us on Facebook:**  
**North Shore Republican Women/TX**

Website: [www.nsrepublicanwomen.org](http://www.nsrepublicanwomen.org)

TFRW Website: [www.tfrw.org](http://www.tfrw.org)

NFRW Website: [www.NFRW.org](http://www.NFRW.org)

Republican Party of Texas Website:  
[www.texasgop.org](http://www.texasgop.org)



**Beacon Editor: Ann Kate**

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**NORTH  
SHORE  
REPUBLICAN  
WOMEN**



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

**Email:**

[northshorerw@northshorerw.com](mailto:northshorerw@northshorerw.com)



**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 1<sup>st</sup> WEDNESDAY AT THE BENTWATER YACHT CLUB (unless otherwise specified in The Beacon). PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS ONLINE AT [www.nsrepublicanwomen.org](http://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