



THE BEACON

NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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

Volume 23, No. 9

November 2023

Region XVII, Senate Dist. 4



President's Letter - Leigh Billingsley

I hope your Halloween was fantastic and that you are enjoying the cooler weather! We just finished the Special Election on November 7th, and now we look forward to the barrage of activities with the 2024 elections coming up.

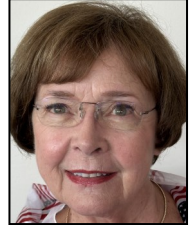
Your Board has been hard at work this past month, with Carolyn Jones leading the charge, discussing and deliberating program speakers for 2024. I believe we have a very exciting line up for next!

Additionally, we have been working to develop our 2024 budget. Two line items we are particularly excited about are, first, "Campaign Contributions" which will exceed anything we have ever proposed in the past, allowing us to fully support our Republican candidates. The second line item is "Keeping Montgomery Red". We look forward to our members' input as we implement ideas. (Sherry Fox expands on this topic in her column on page 3).

I look forward to enjoying the festivities at our December meeting when the Chordbusters regale us with their fun Holiday song performance. At that time we will be asking members to help support the Montgomery County Sheriff's Christmas Blue Elf program by providing breakfast for the volunteers. Bring a Chick-fil-A gift card to our meeting. Kim Greene's column on page 2 provides more details.



- Carolyn Jones
1st Vice President/
Programs



Monthly Meeting Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Bentwater COUNTRY Club
800 Bentwater Dr.,
Montgomery, TX

Program: Christmas Music by The Chordbusters and Installation of 2024 NSRW Officers by State Representative Will Metcalf

The Chordbusters women's barbershop chorus is finishing up their 20th year this Christmas. Chordbusters is made up of women from the Lake Conroe area. They have 3 charter members including the director, Cay Eckland, and 5 new members. They sing all year for churches, clubs, nursing homes, & organizations. Among their performances are singing the National Anthem for the Astros, Rockets, & Comet's games. They have done patriotic shows for the Vietnam Wall celebration, and the Conroe Symphony. Their most memorable performance was singing Christmas music at the White House, with a pre-performance in the lobby of the Trump Hotel. They are always looking for new singers.

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, November 28, 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.

RESERVATIONS



Membership

- Genette Stanton, 2nd VP/Membership

I am excited to say that we ended the year with 233 active members and 86 associates. We got a wonderful head start to 2024 at our November meeting, with 33 active members and 12 associates already signing up for 2024. We are taking credit cards, checks and cash this year. Please get your form in as soon as possible.



New Members

Lynn Arthur
Rylee Jones (youth)
Melissa Jordan
Sherry Sinisi
Selma Steidley
Vickie Voelz

Sharing the Light
With Our 2024 LIGHTHOUSE CIRCLE

Leigh & Roger Billingsley
Linda & Brian Duncan
Sherry & Dan Fox
Pat & Pail Gottung
Chris Gurley
Carolyn & Randy Jones
Ann & Fred Kate
Linda & Barry Maddox
Lori Maddox
Jenifer Miller
Virginia & Tom Mueller
Mary Osborn
Kay & Steve Pontious
Claudia & Mike Riedlinger
Bruce & Toni Sellers
Sandy Wagner

North Shore Republican Women
Thanks you for your contribution

Treasurer's Report

- Chris Gurley, PAC Treasurer

We began the month of October with a balance forward of \$127,170. We brought in income of \$12,859. (Dues \$40, Gift Table \$277, Fundraiser \$12,542). Expenditures totaled \$19,060. (Administrative \$75, Communications/Media \$98, Community Engagement \$34, NFRW Convention \$750, Hospitality \$125, Dues to TFRW \$150, Literacy & Youth Outreach \$2,634, Ways & Means Fundraiser \$15,194. Our balance on hand as of October 31, 2023 was \$120,969.



Caring for America/

Americanism - Kim Greene, Gail McKinnon, Ann South



Chick-fil-A Gift Cards Needed

Americanism/Caring for America will be designating Blue Elf, through the Montgomery County Sheriff's office, as our NSRW 2023 Christmas philanthropy. We have designated \$1000.00 to cover bicycles from Academy to be donated by NSRW. The Academy gift card will be presented to the Blue Elf representatives on Dec. 6 at our meeting.

But, we need your help! In addition to our bicycle gift to the Blue Elf, NSRW ladies have been given the chance to provide breakfast for the 100 Elves, our volunteer first responders from the Sheriff's office. So, we are not asking for toys this year, or bicycles, but instead Chick-fil-A gift cards (you can also give cash instead, but no checks)! We will be collecting them at our meeting on December 6th!

You can purchase the cards at Kroger in Montgomery or Willis, or most Chick-fil-A restaurants, in any amount you choose. Please purchase them and bring them, or cash, to the December meeting so we can have a great breakfast for the 100 Blue Elves before they distribute the bicycles. Kim Greene will be there in her elf suit to collect them from you at the meeting.

It's a busy time of year, but I do hope that you will consider picking up a Chick-fil-A gift card and bringing it to help us provide a nice breakfast for our 100 first responder elves at the bicycle distribution on Dec. 9th.



PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BUY A CHICK-FIL-A GIFT CARD AND BRING IT, OR CASH, TO OUR DECEMBER 6 MEETING!

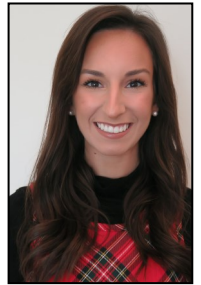
Our bins for donations of toiletries, hats, gloves and socks will also be on hand at the meeting. They are delivered to the Under/Over Ministry in Conroe for the homeless and others in need.



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 want to begin by thanking Texas voters for their support and approval of Proposition 4 during the constitutional amendment election. I was proud to author this legislation during the second called legislative session earlier this summer, and now voters have officially approved the largest tax cut in history, as well as much needed appraisal reform.

As you are well aware from our previous updates, the legislature has been engaged in multiple special sessions since the regular 88th Legislative Session which ended in May of this year. During this most recent 3rd called special legislative session in October, we passed Senate Bill 4 and Senate Bill 7 into law.

Senate Bill 4 will deter human smuggling and the operation of a stash house by increasing criminal penalties and establishing a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence for criminal conduct involving smuggling persons and the operation of a stash house. I was proud to co-sponsor this legislation. Senate Bill 7, which I co-sponsored, ensures Texans medical freedoms are protected by prohibiting employers from mandating their employees receive the covid vaccine as a condition of their employment. SB 7 will ensure no employee is unfairly discriminated against by an employer because of their covid vaccination status. Furthermore, this legislation ensures that no employer may take an adverse action against an employee because of their refusal to receive a covid vaccine. Under the legislation, employees can file a complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission if they believe they have been discriminated against and the employer may be penalized if it is found they have violated the law.

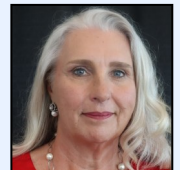
Governor Abbott has called the legislature back for the 4th called special legislative session which began on November 7th. Governor Abbott has tasked the Legislature with taking up legislation relating to education, specifically matters dealing with public school finance, teacher pay raises, school safety, and educational savings accounts. He also added legislation which would authorize Texas to take further action to protect our southern border by creating a state offense for illegal entry into Texas from a foreign nation, as well as legislation increasing funds to the state's border wall construction. As you know, only the Governor has the authority to call for a special session and determine what items are eligible for debate and passage. I take these issues extremely seriously and I look forward to continuing to fight for conservative legislation at your State Capitol.

It is an honor to continue serving the constituents of House District 16 in the Texas Legislature. Please know that my door is always open and I look forward to hearing from you. Do not ever hesitate to contact my office if I can be of service to you. May God bless you, your family and the Great State of Texas.



- Sherry Fox,
3rd Vice President/Ways & Means

Keeping Montgomery County RED - What are your ideas?



We have worked so hard as a club to raise money to maintain our Republican leadership. We can see the stark difference in Harris County. Our judges and sheriff are tough on crime. Our legislators represent our conservative values in Austin in creating legislation that governs our state. We will be able to fund the campaigns of our Republican candidates in 2024.

We are in the position to make a big impact in our community. We will continue to fund our outreach programs that are already established. **We would like all of our membership to present ideas to impact new areas of our community. We have slated a portion of our 2024 budget to allow for new projects. Please let anyone on the board know if you are aware of a need in our community, or a project that will get the word out to vote Republican.**

I believe it is possible to change the hearts and minds of people through simple acts of kindness. Our charitable projects bring visibility to our club and highlight the conservative value of people helping people without government subsidies. Help us to spread our message throughout Montgomery County. Please contact any board member with project ideas, or email them to northshorerw@northshorerw.com.

November 1, 2023 Meeting





North Shore Republican Women

Invites

New & Prospective Members to a

Wine & Cheese Party

January 18

6 p.m.

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

**Please RSVP to Genette Stanton at
genette@northshorerw.com**



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

Keep Montgomery County RED!

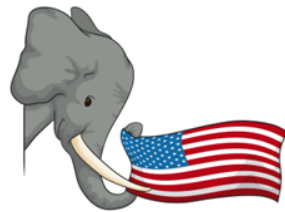
NSRW current members (except for those new in the last year) are invited to attend only if accompanied by a future new member.



NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

SAVE THE DATE

**March 5, 2024 Republican
Primary Election Candidates**



Republican Candidate Forum

For statewide and local candidates

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024
Meet the candidates 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Forum 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**North Montgomery County Community Center
600 Gerald Street, Willis, TX 77378**

**Candidates - contact Deborah Gentz
at deborah@northshorerw.com to RSVP or for information**

Political advertising paid for by North Shore Republican Women PAC, Chris Gurley 49 Fairfield Dr., treasurer, Montgomery, TX 77356.
Contributions are not federal tax deductible as charitable contributions. Corporate Contributions Are Not Permitted.

It's Political Season! Beware!

The 2024 Republican Primary elections are scheduled for March 5. Following are rules and laws of which we need to be aware.



Candidate filings began November 11, so it's important to know ahead of time the laws and rules concerning political signs. If you live in a subdivision or city, be sure to know the pertinent laws. For those under POA rules, the following state laws must be followed:

Sec. 259.002. REGULATION OF DISPLAY OF POLITICAL SIGNS BY PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION. (a) In this section, "property owners' association" has the meaning assigned by Section 202.001, Property Code.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a property owners' association may not enforce or adopt a restrictive covenant that prohibits a property owner from displaying on the owner's property one or more signs advertising a candidate or measure for an election:

(1) on or after the 90th day before the date of the election to which the sign relates; or

(2) before the 10th day after that election date.

(c) This section does not prohibit the enforcement or adoption of a covenant that:

(1) requires a sign to be ground-mounted; or

(2) limits a property owner to displaying only one sign for each candidate or measure.

(d) This section does not prohibit the enforcement or adoption of a covenant that prohibits a sign that:

(1) contains roofing material, siding, paving materials, flora, one or more balloons or lights, or any other similar building, landscaping, or nonstandard decorative component;

(2) is attached in any way to plant material, a traffic control device, a light, a trailer, a vehicle, or any other existing structure or object;

(3) includes the painting of architectural surfaces;

(4) threatens the public health or safety;

(5) is larger than four feet by six feet;

(6) violates a law;

(7) contains language, graphics, or any display that would be offensive to the ordinary person; or

(8) is accompanied by music or other sounds or by streamers or is otherwise distracting to motorists.

(e) A property owners' association may remove a sign displayed in violation of a restrictive covenant permitted by this section.

Remember - no signs until 90 days before the election (December 5 if the primary is to be held March 5). Take them down before the end of 10 days after the election (March 16).

Texas Federation of Republican Women Rules on Endorsing Candidates

"Please remember all rules apply in endorsing or supporting: Club Presidents and Campaign Activities Chairs cannot endorse, nor can the club endorse. No member should use their club's name when endorsing and all Federal guidelines apply for Congressional candidates". **Note:** NSRW members (except president and campaign activities chairman) can endorse as individuals, and are urged to get involved in Republican candidate campaigns, but not in the name of NSRW. Wearing your NSRW nametag or shirt to a campaign event for a candidate may be construed to be an endorsement, so it's not a good idea to wear those to fundraisers, meet & greets, and other events for candidates. We will, of course, wear our NSRW shirts to our January 30 candidate forum.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING

- Sharon Lasseter, Recording Secretary



The November General Meeting of the North Shore Republican Women was held at the Bentwater Yacht and Country Club. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Leigh Billingsley, President.

Carolyn Jones, 1st Vice President, gave the devotional and prayer. Shiva Baradaran, representing Senator Brandon Creighton, led the Pledges of Allegiance. The minutes were approved as presented. Genette Stanton, 2nd Vice President reported that there are currently 233 active members and 86 associate members. Membership registration for 2024 is now open. Chris Gurley, Treasurer, presented the monthly report. The balance as of October 31st is \$120,968.62.

Leigh Billingsley reported on the 2023 NSRW Annual Golf Tournament. She recognized the Golf Tournament Committee for their excellent work.

Sarah Tillman Henry, representing State Representative Will Metcalf, gave the legislative update.

The following elected officials were introduced: Shiva Baradaran, representing Brandon Creighton, State Senator District 4; B.D. Griffin, County Attorney; Sarah Henry, representing Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16; Amy Tucker, Judge County Court No. 3; Sandy Wagner, Montgomery County Hospital Board; Ann Kate, Pct. 72 Republican Chairman; Bryan Christ, Montgomery County Republican Party Chairman; Kent Chambers, Candidate for 9th District Court of Appeals and Kenna Seiler, Candidate for 9th Court of Appeals.

Carolyn Jones introduced the program speaker, Chairman Bryan Christ, MCRP. Chairman Christ gave an informative presentation about Republican Party history and levels of Republican Party hierarchy.

Door prizes donated by Judge Amy Tucker were given to two lucky winners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.



It's That Time Again!

November might seem like an odd time to be asked to renew your membership in North Shore Republican Women, but we follow the guidelines and calendar of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, so November is the beginning!

At our meetings we are taking checks, credit cards, or cash, so we have you covered. Don't forget to bring your filled out membership form. You can find one at the end of this newsletter, and on our website at www.nsrepublicanwomen.org.

Luncheon Reminders

Reservations must be made every month by midnight Tuesday, 8 days before our meeting, even if you don't plan to eat lunch.

Also, don't forget to cancel your reservation in advance if you can't make it to the meeting. This frees up a seat if there is a waiting list. And, you may be charged if you don't get your cancellation in on time.

Call Bentwater Country Club at 936-597-6219 if you would rather not make an online reservation, or if you need to cancel one.

What is the Lighthouse Circle?

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, our website, and in our Beacon newsletter.

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



We have 1,099 "followers" on Facebook! Are you one of them? Keep up with us by "following" our page and invite friends to follow as well.

(Click on logo to go to page)



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 - *Vacant*

Youth Outreach - *Diane Hivnor*

Past President - *Christy Tatum*



NSRW Calendar of Events

December 6 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Bentwater Country Club, sign in begins at 10:30 a.m.

December 12 - NSRW Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Bentwater Country Club board room.

January 3, 2024 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Bentwater Country Club, sign in begins at 10:30 a.m. Program: District Attorney Brett Ligon and his "mystery guest".

January 14 - NSRW Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Bentwater Country Club board room.

January 18 - New Member Wine/Cheese party, Home of Carolyn Jones, 6 p.m.

January 30 - NSRW Candidate Forum, 5 p.m.



Mailing Address:

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

Email:

northshorerw@northshorerw.com



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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A Non-Profit Organization Under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contributions to North Shore Republican Women PAC Are Not Deductible as Charitable Contributions for Federal Income Tax Purposes. Corporate Contributions Are Not Permitted. Not Authorized by Any Candidate or Committee.

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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Corporate Contributions Are Not Permitted