



# THE BEACON

## NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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

Volume 23, No. 8

October 2023

Region XVII, Senate Dist. 4



### President's Letter - Leigh Billingsley

Constitution Day was September 17<sup>th</sup> and as always North Shore Republican Women delivered (via member Ann South) over 600 constitution booklets to Wil-

lis' 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This particularly rang true for me when i attended the National Federation of Republican Women Convention a couple of weeks ago where Kelsey Gabbard gave a speech. She spoke about many inspiring things but she also told a story about her first time in Congress when they did the annual reading of the Constitution into the Congressional record. She was present but only a handful of Democrats were present. She spoke to them outside the session to ask why so many weren't present and they told her "It's a Right Wing thing, we don't get involved in that." Really? Please talk to your Democratic friends and neighbors about that - the Constitution is for all of us!

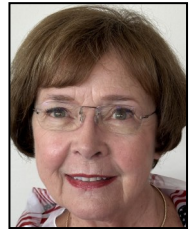
Many of you attended the meeting where Will Metcalf filled us in regarding the number of Bills he has introduced which are many. We now need to vote on those bills. Please vote (and encourage your neighbors to vote) on November 7<sup>th</sup>, or even better go to early voting October 23 - 28 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) and Monday, October 30 - Friday November 3 (7:00 am - 7:00 pm).

**In 2023, clocks will "fall back" one hour at 2 AM on Sunday, November 5. This will mark the end of daylight saving time.**



Chairman Bryan Christ

- Carolyn Jones  
1st Vice President/Programs



**Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday,  
November 1, 2023  
Sign-in at 5:30 p.m.**

**Bentwater YACHT Club  
200 Bentwater Harbor Dr.,  
Montgomery, TX**

### Program: Bryan Christ, Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party of Texas

Bryan Christ was elected as the Montgomery County Republican Party of Texas Chairman in 2020 and 2022.

Bryan is an IT Consultant and business owner, with over two decades of experience leading large teams on multi-faceted engineering projects. He is often a featured speaker at technology conventions and was recently published in a peer-reviewed cyber-security journal. He attended the College of Biblical studies in Houston where he graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Biblical Counseling.. He attended the College of Biblical studies in Houston where he received his degree in Biblical Counseling. Bryan is passionate about Christian Apologetics, and enjoys talking to people who struggle to reconcile their faith with science.

Bryan has been married for 22 years to wife Kristin. They live in Magnolia where they raise their three children whom they also jointly homeschool educate.

Bryan's Politics: Chairman Christ is a conservative Republican who believes that the best government is one that is limited to only those powers outlined in the Constitution. Bryan is a staunch supporter of the Republican Party Principles. Regarding the Party Platform, Bryan is an advocate for seeing the Platform reduced to one page in order to reflect the Republican style of government that he believes his fellow Conservatives seek.

### NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION AND TIME

**Bentwater Yacht Club  
Sign-in at 5:30 p.m.  
Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.  
Plated Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Program at 7:00 p.m.**

**Dinner is optional, but reservations must be made by midnight, October 24, 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.**

**RESERVATIONS**

## Membership

- Genette Stanton, 2nd VP/Membership

We have 233 members and 86 associates. We will begin our membership drive for 2024 at the November 1 meeting. We are hoping to set up electronic membership soon.



**Welcome new member Kristen Martin!**

**All the Republican Women clubs in the state:**

<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>Golden Triangle RW</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>McLennan</b>	<b>McLennan Co. RW</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>Collin</b>	<b>Golden Corridor RW</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>North Shore RW</b>	<b>227</b>

(Numbers do not include this month)

**We are the largest club in Montgomery County.**

## Help Needed at Gift Table

Gift Table Chairman Becky Harper is lonesome working at the tables filled with all kinds of Republican clothing, jewelry, hats, and other items that are for sale at our meetings. She is looking for help! If you can join her and help set up and take down, she would really appreciate you. Email [northshorerw@northshorerw.com](mailto:northshorerw@northshorerw.com) if you are interested.



## Treasurer's Report

- Chris Gurley, PAC Treasurer

We began the month of September with a balance forward of \$125,037. We brought in income of \$2,357. (Dues \$185, Gift Table \$549, Fundraiser \$1,623). Expenditures totaled \$224. (Administrative \$45, Communications/Media \$39, Gift Table \$117, Yearbook 23). Our balance on hand as of September 30, 2023 was \$127,170.



## Caring for America

-Ann South, Kim Greene



NSRW will be helping with the Senior Citizen's Bingo at the Willis Community Center on **November 15**, a Wednesday, from 10:30am until 1:00. **If anyone is willing to come help monitor the prize tables or help with the serving of food at the luncheon, please be at the Willis Community Center by 10:30am.** Also, we will need hand held desserts, such as brownies, cookies, bars, cupcakes, etc. on a disposable tray, or in a disposable box. If you are willing to make something for this event, in the way of a dessert, but can't help at the event, please let Kim Greene know, and she'll be happy to bring them with her to the event on the 15th. In addition, you can drop your dessert donations off at Kim's home the day before the event, Tuesday, November 14 or the morning of the event by 10:00am.



## November 7, 2023 Joint Election EARLY VOTING

**Monday, October 23 - Saturday, October 28  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Monday, October 30 - Friday, November 3  
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**



**See page 5 for more information about this election.**





# September 25, 2023 United We Stand to Keep Montgomery County Red Golf Tournament

Sherry Fox, 3rd Vice President/Ways & Means (tournament chairman)

The Day in Photos (more available on our website and Facebook)



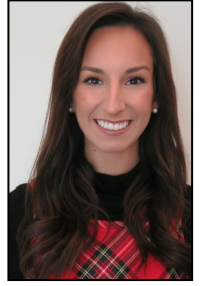


# The Metcalf Minute

An Update from the 87th Legislature at the Texas Capitol

By State Representative Will Metcalf, House District 16

**Legislative Chairman**  
- Sarah Tillman Henry



Howdy fellow Texans! During the upcoming November election, you, the voters, will be heading to the polls to vote on amendments to our state's constitution. Among the 14 propositions on your ballot, you will have the historic opportunity to authorize the largest tax cut in history by voting in favor of Proposition 4. I was honored to author Proposition 4 during the second called special legislative session this past July.

This year the general election date will fall on Tuesday, November 7th. Early voting in-person will begin on October 23rd and will run through November 3rd.

The Texas House and Texas Senate arrived at an agreement for an \$18 billion tax cut for Texas taxpayers. As part of the agreement, we passed the omnibus property tax relief and appraisal reform package that features this constitutional amendment. The amendment, Proposition 4 on your November ballot, provides the constitutional authority to implement this historic tax cut.

Voting for Proposition 4 will advance \$18 billion in tax cuts with nearly \$13 billion in property tax compression. Tax compression in this case is simply the use of state funding to reduce your local school district tax rates. The tax compression replaces local revenues by injecting more state revenue to push down the local maintenance and operation tax rates, which will ultimately reduce what taxpayers owe on their local property tax bills.

Voting for Proposition 4 will also mean raising the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000 for all homesteads in Texas while maintaining the additional \$10,000 homestead exemption for those 65 years of age and older or disabled. This means that Texans 65 years of age and older or disabled will receive a \$110,000 homestead exemption. Notably, it also implements a three-year pilot program for a 20% limit increase in taxable value for commercial properties valued under \$5 million which expires on 12/31/2026.

Crucially, Proposition 4 also provides for the election of 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, and at least two of the elected board members must approve an appointed ARB member as a part of a majority vote. This puts the ARB in the hands of the citizens!

This is a landmark property tax relief and appraisal reform plan that incorporates policies that Texans have asked for year after year. As someone who has continuously fought for tax relief and appraisal reform in the legislature, I am happy to see that we now have an appraisal cap on commercial property by limiting the amount on the taxable value of these properties which has never existed before. This is especially important since I have seen some commercial properties' taxable value increase by over 300% with no limit in place. We also now have elected members of the appraisal district board of directors who have the authority to appoint the ARB members!

I am grateful to my colleagues in the legislature, as well as the Speaker, Lt. Governor and Governor for their help in providing Texans with historic results for Texas taxpayers. I encourage everyone to vote FOR Proposition 4. With your vote, you have the ability to codify the largest tax cut in history and to finally give We The People a voice on the value side of the property tax equation, which has been so desperately needed. Remember to mark your calendars and get out to vote by November 7th.

Vote FOR Prop 4!

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION - NOVEMBER 7, 2023

There are 14 Propositions on all ballots. To read the propositions and Secretary of State explanations, [click here](#).

For information about early voting, election day, and your ballot, go to [Montgomery County Elections](#).

**VOTE**



# October 4, 2023 Meeting





# Literacy - Ann South



I delivered Dictionaries to all of the Third Graders in the Willis ISD. A library book was given to two of the Elementaries as part of the Mamie Eisenhower Library Project, MELP. NSRW is dedicated to promoting literacy in our community!





## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4 MEETING - Sharon Lasseter, Recording Secretary



The October General Meeting of the North Shore Republican Women was called to order at 11:05 am by Leigh Billingsley, President.

Cheryl Bolt gave a devotional and the opening prayer. Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16, led the Pledges of Allegiance. The minutes were approved as presented.

Genette Stanton, 2nd Vice President reported 232 active members and 86 associate members.

Chris Gurley, Treasurer presented the monthly report. The balance on hand on September 30, 2023 was \$127,169.88.

Karen Darcy-Pawlak, Community Engagement, announced that October 10th is the last day to register to vote. The election is November 7th.

Deborah Gentz, Campaign Activities, stated that volunteer hours should be submitted by Friday.

Chris Gurley, Nominating Committee Chair, announced that the committee met August 4, 2023 to recommend nominees for the slate of NSRW officers for 2024. Members of the committee are Sharon Lasseter, Genette Stanton, Sandy Wagner, Rae-Jean Young and Chris Gurley, Chair. The committee recommends the following slate of officers for 2024: President, Leigh Billingsley; 1st Vice President/Programs, Carolyn Jones; 2nd Vice President/Membership, Genette Stanton; 3rd Vice President/Ways and Means, Deborah Graham; Secretary, Mary Osborn; Treasurer, Chris Gurley.

Dorothy Woodall, Parliamentarian/Bylaws, conducted the election of officers allowing for nominations from the floor. The recommended nominees were voted into office. The installation will be held at the December General Meeting.

Leigh Billingsley, reported on the 2023 NFRW Convention. New NFRW officers were elected, TFRW President Kit Whitehill was awarded the Ronald Reagan Award. NSRW was awarded the Diamond Award.

Dorothy Woodall was recognized for her exceptional service and for organizing the NSRW Club.

The following elected officials were introduced: Rand Henderson, Sheriff; Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16; Ann Kate, Pct. 72 Republican Chairman; Kent Chambers, Candidate for 9th Court of Appeals; Brandon Kiser for Senator Creighton.

Pearl Maggio, TFRW Senate District 4 Director, and Alice Melancon, TFRW Vice President Programs presented information regarding TFRW and the upcoming convention.

Catherine Englebrecht, Founder and President of True the Vote gave an interesting and informative presentation about her experiences and the True the Vote organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 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 - *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*

## 2024 OFFICERS ELECTED

The following members were elected as 2024 NSRW officers at the October 4 meeting: They will be installed at the December meeting and take office January 1, 2024.

#### President

*Leigh Billingsley*

#### 1st Vice President/Programs

*Carolyn Jones*

#### 2nd Vice President/Membership

*Genette Stanton*

#### 3rd Vice President/Ways & Means

*Debbie Graham*

#### Recording Secretary

*Mary Osborn*

Treasurer Chris Gurley has another year on her term.

## Awards and photos from TFRW and NFRW Conventions

North Shore Republican Women received the prestigious Diamond Award at the National Federation of Republican Women Convention in Oklahoma City in September. On hand to accept the award was President Leigh Billingsley. Accompanying her as an alternate delegate was Stacey Stein.



Attending the Texas Federation of Republican Women convention in Irving, TX last week were Karen Darcy, Sharon O'Neil, Carolyn Jones, Genette Stanton, Virgie Mueller, Sharon Lasseter, and Ann Kate. Carolyn, as 1st Vice President, received NSRW's Club Achievement Award in the absence of President Leigh Billingsley.



**"Like" Us On Facebook!**



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## NSRW Calendar of Events



**November 1 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Yacht Club. Sign in begins at 5:30 p.m.**

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

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

**December 20 - NSRW Christmas Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Home of Leigh Billingsley.**

## County Clerk Steinmann was a NSRW Golf Tournament Sponsor.



**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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**NOVEMBER 1 Monthly Meeting  
Bentwater **YACHT** Club**

**200 Bentwater Harbor Dr., Montgomery, TX**

**CHANGE OF LOCATION AND TIME**

**(FOR NOVEMBER MEETING ONLY)**

**BENTWATER YACHT CLUB  
EVENING MEETING**

**Sign-in at 5:30 p.m.**

**Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.**

**Plated Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

**Program at 7:00 p.m.**

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45 Fairfield Dr., Montgomery, TX 77356**