

THE BEACON

NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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

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Volume 23, No. 3

March 2023

Region XVII. Senate Dist. 4



President's Letter
- Leigh Billingsley

Go woke, go broke? Recent reports show that many businesses are going "woke" by prioritizing political ideologies rather than focusing on profits. The fail-

ure to prioritize the business goals and objectives doesn't work out in the company's (or investor's) best interest as demonstrated with the recent high profile bank failures. And yet, many additional companies are moving in the direction of "woke".

A non-profit company called the 1792 Exchange put out a "Corporate Bias Ranking" report assessing the policies, practices and other relevant criteria of more than 1,000 companies to determine the likelihood that a firm will cancel a client contract, boycott or deny services to customers based on a difference in ideological beliefs. You are likely very familiar with many of the companies at high risk of going "woke" and using profits to push agendas that go against our core beliefs as Conservatives. For example, Bank of America (Merrill Lynch) has quit doing business with several customers with conservative viewpoints, terminated business relationships with gun manufacturers, and uses its corporate reputation and funds to advance ideological causes hostile to freedom of expression, such as critical race theory. They fund Planned Parenthood, called abortion "settled law", and fund employee abortions (including travel) in states that restrict procedures.

Other examples: Amazon, Facebook (Meta), Abbott, Adobe and Target.

Sadly, I do business with some of these companies. I recently contacted my Merrill Lynch advisor to politely communicate my dismay at their policies. My husband and nephew left Facebook recently due to Facebooks political leanings. I have cut back on Amazon purchases (still struggling with leaving it altogether). I encourage you to take a stand against companies that profit off you and use those funds to promote liberal values.

To find out if the companies you do business with are "woke" companies please visit 1792 Exchange.com.



- Carolyn Jones 1st Vice President/Programs

Monthly Meeting Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Bentwater <u>COUNTRY</u> Club 800 Bentwater Dr., Montgomery, TX



Program: Pct. 1 Justice of the Peace Wayne Mack Introduction to Suicide Prevention

Judge Wayne L. Mack, a 35 year resident of Montgomery County has had a distinguished career of public service, starting out as a custodian working the night shift for the Montgomery County Building Maintenance with Montgomery County cleaning the Court House in downtown Conroe TX. He has over 30 years of service with Montgomery County government. After graduating from Lone Star College Police Academy he became a Law Enforcement career and has almost 15 years in Law Enforcement working as Reserve Captain at the PCT. 1 Constables office and as a Reserve Sergeant at the Conroe Police Dept. and a M.A.P. Deputy with the Constable PCT. 2.

In 2014 Judge Mack was elected to serve as the Justice of the Peace for Justice Court One. He has Court offices in Willis & Montgomery Texas. When he came into office, he started the Justice Court Chaplaincy Program that includes over 60 members across Montgomery County representing all faiths that respond to assist Law Enforcement in times of crisis and tragedy to help families start the process of grieving and healing.

In addition to his role as Justice of the Peace, Judge Mack has served on 15 different non-profit Boards in Montgomery County. He formed and leads 250 volunteers within The Montgomery County Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Task Force, and teaches mental health classes for the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention.

Judge Mack was recently named "Justice of the Peace of the Year 2020" by the Justice of the Peace and Constable Association of 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, March 28 (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

Thank you to each one of our members who have turned in their membership form, as of March 10 we have 220 members and 81 asso-



ciates. It is exciting to have so many new members. We are still taking forms all year long. We hope to surpass the number that we had last year, which was 259. I am extremely proud to be a member of such a wonderful organization as North Shore Republican Women and to be associated with all of you...



New Members

Sandra Avers Jan Freeman **Cynthia Guyton** Lisa Livermore



Treasurer's Report - Chris Gurley, PAC Treasurer

We began the month of February with a balance forward of \$82,074. We brought in income of \$5,694 (advertising \$1,250, dues \$4,305, gift table \$139). Expenditures amounted to \$4,498 (administrative \$1,441, mcrp \$1,000, communications/media \$32, hospitality \$50, membership (dues to TFRW) \$1,925, ways & means \$50). Our balance on hand as of February 28, 2023 was \$83,270.

Caring for America

- Kim Greene, co-chairman

Thank you to all of those who donated food to our first Caring for America Food Drive for the TLC Willis Food Pantry.



NSRW is caring for our community by donating 389 pounds of food! Ann South, Caring for America Co-Chair and I delivered the food immediately after our meeting, and the volunteers there were very happy to help us unload it all.

Our next food drive will be at our **June 7th meeting**. We are setting a goal of 500+ pounds of food. Summer is always a difficult time for our local kids when school is out, and they are not able to take advantage of school breakfasts and lunches. Please donate items such as peanut butter, jelly, canned spaghetti and ravioli, mac and cheese, cereals, rice, and canned fruits/vegetables to help them bridge the gap this summer.

We still will be collecting hygiene and toiletry products, socks, etc. for the Under Over Mission in Conroe, at each of our meetings. Donations may be placed in the designated



bins as you enter our meetings. As the hot weather approaches, we will need more soap, face cloths, etc., keep that in mind when making your donations.

Kim Greene Ann South





←WOW!

Go to page 10 to see more Caring for America activities.

2023 NSRW Membership Directories are Here!



If you checked the box for a hard copy of the 2023 membership directory on your membership form, the directories were available at the March 1 meeting and will be on hand at the April 5 meeting as well.

If you are not going to be attending the April 5 meeting, please have someone pick yours up for you. **Jody Hostetler**, editor, directory chairman, and all-around hard worker, will be handing them out at our May and June meetings, but don't make her haul yours each month - pick it up soon.



Thank you to all of the sponsors that made the publication cost much less. Co-Directory Chairman Karen Darcy Pawlak enjoyed working with you.

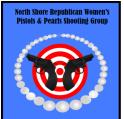
Eyeglass Delivery to Lions Club

Our previous Caring for America chairman, **Sharon O'Neil**, was finally able to deliver eyeglasses to the Conroe Noon Lions Club eyeglass recycling center last week. Sharon, trying on several pairs herself, took 120 regular glasses and 30 sunglasses to the center, where she was greeted by Taylor Cloud, an employee in the office. According to the club's website, "Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services. Lions have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and collect usable glasses in their communities to support the Lions Recycle For Sight Program." North Shore Republican Women has a collection box in the Bentwater Country Club Fitness Center for donations of eyeglasses and hearing aids.









Pistols & Pearls Shooting Group

- Tracie de Roulac



Pistols and Pearls had another good time shooting at BTO range March 3. Come out and join us for our next shooting on **Friday, April 7**, at 10:30 a.m.





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

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

"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY!"



Over the past 6 years our largest annual fundraiser has grown. Last year the Golf/Auction/Dinner raised enough money to make substantial contributions to our candidates. We are not slowing down our efforts. This year we are highlighting how women are making a bigger than ever impact, in all facets of life. In the boardroom, the military, the Congress, and even the LPGA, women are shining in America.

In a culture that seems to focus on past injustices, we want to focus on the improvements that have been made. We know that opportunity and inclusiveness have improved for women in America. Is everything perfect?

Probably not.... But it is a lot better now than it was 100 years ago. Thanks to a lot of strong-willed, hard-working women who paved the way for us.

This year we will celebrate these accomplishments. We will highlight women who broke barriers and women who have benefited from these opportunities. The funds we raise will allow us to fund the campaigns of those that will keep our conservative values for our families and our businesses in the 2024 elections. We saved \$29,000 for this effort last year. We plan to do the same this year. This money will allow us to have a big impact on Montgomery County.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

North Shore Republican Women
UNITED WE STAND

to Keep Montgomery County Red Seventh Annual Golf Tournament, Auction, & Dinner

BENTWATER COUNTRY CLUB

800 BENTWATER DR., MONTGOMERY, TX 77356

Monday, September 25, 2023





Funds raised go to NSRW's many activities and programs with contributions to candidates, and charitable projects, as well as college scholarships to young Republicans graduating from Willis and/or Montgomery High Schools. All fifth grade students in Willis ISD receive U.S. Constitution booklets and all third graders receive dictionaries. We support homeless youth, new citizen and veterans groups, the Montgomery County Food Bank, Safe Harbor and other organizations. We sponsor a high school Republican club in Willis.

Political Advertising Paid for by North Shore Republican Women, Chris Gurley, treasurer, 45 Fairfield Dr., Montgomery, TX. 77356. A Tax-Exempt Organization Under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to North Shore Republican Women PAC Are Not Deductible as Charitable Contributions for Federal Incomer Tax Purposes. Corporate Contributions Are Not Permitted. Not Authorized by Any Candidate or Committee.

NSRW Golf Tournament Auction News

One of the online auction items for our 2022 Golf Tournament fundraiser was a seafood buffet dinner for four at Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida. The winner, NSRW member Patti Moore, took friends and had an awesome time in Florida, seeing the sights and attending the special dinner. Here is her report:

"Dinner at "Mar-a-Lago" in Palm Beach, Florida was the highlight and a treat. The resort will be 100 years old in 2024, and after visiting with both the Managing Director of MAL (has worked for Trump for 27 years) and the Dining Coordinator (worked at MAL for 11 years), it is clear that loyalty, opulence, and excellence abound. The seafood buffet was endless and outstanding, with fresh lobster and the largest shrimp I've ever seen. Incredible attention to detail on all levels. Security was tight and photo permissions limited inside MAL since it is a residence, but we were allowed to snap a few pics. And while photos were not allowed of our special visitor ... President Trump came to greet the visitors and check out the buffet."



Our next golf tournament is March 25, 2023. Watch for our online auction details in a few months.













Legislative Chairman - Sarah Tillman Henry

The Metcalf Minute

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





I hope everyone is looking forward to the start of spring and all the excitement it brings. All across the state we're seeing the beauty of our native Texas wildflowers and bluebonnets paint the roadsides and pastures, a sure sign that spring has arrived

In the Texas Legislature, this time of year also means that the bill filing deadline, March 10th, has come and gone. As you recall, this means that we are past the 60th day of session and bills are beginning to make their way through the legislative process. Constitutionally, Texas could only take up legislation that was specifically named on the Governor's list of emergency items up until this point. Now, any and all legislation is free to be carefully considered and possibly changed, voted on favorably, or killed. With 7,865 bills filed this session, things will begin moving quickly from now until the end of May when the 140th day of session signals the end of the 88th Regular Session.

As we are all aware, in recent years Texas has seen rapidly rising appraisals on our properties, which is untenable for many residents and small business owners. Every April, I hear from many concerned constituents about their property appraisals, and I am passionate about appraisal reform.

That is why the Texas House has made this issue a top priority this session by filing House Bill 2, the Property Tax Relief Act, and House Joint Resolution 1 to provide this tax relief and put additional safeguards in place to combat rising property values. House Bill 2, which I am a co-author of, provides an additional \$12 billion in tax relief by further compressing school district tax rates by \$0.15. Coupled with our base budget, House Bill 1, this will provide over \$17 billion in total property tax relief, the largest reduction in state history, by reducing school property taxes 28%. House Bill 2 also reduces the number of school districts subject to recapture, reducing total recapture payments by \$4.5 billion for the 2024-25 biennium. Our goal is to not only provide this immediate tax relief to all property owners but also to protect both homeowners and businesses from that much-too-often shock of rising property values. HB 2 and HJR 1 additionally lower the appraisal limit to 5% for all properties in Texas. This not only cuts in half the current 10% appraisal cap for homestead owners but extends the cap to all property. Notably, HB 2 also includes a 5% cap on all commercial property which has had no appraisal cap in the past. This will help continue to promote economic growth and provide stability and predictability for all property owners. HB 2 would also require tax assessors to provide escrow accounts at the request of property owners to better help them plan and save for their property tax bill. Lastly, HJR 1 will allow voters to decide on whether or not to enact the appraisal cap measures in HB 2 as well as ensure any future property tax relief appropriations can be sent to taxpayers without being subject to the spending limit. This is a great piece of comprehensive legislation aimed at addressing the appraisal side of your tax bill and I look forward to passing it in the Texas House.

As I do every year, my office personally works on many other pieces of appraisal reform legislation including the election of chief appraisers, appraisal district boards of directors, and appraisal review boards. On March 13th, I presented House Bill 1228 in the House Ways and Means Committee. It will serve as another tool in a property owner's toolkit when protesting a property appraisal. HB 1228 would allow an individual to access the information that the appraisal district uses to appraise property before scheduling a protest hearing. This will help ensure that property appraisals are being fairly valued and provide a property owner with all the necessary information to understand how a district came to a certain value and how the property owner can argue against the value if they disagree. Under current law, once a property owner files the protest in the appropriate time frame, some occasionally may be able to reconcile the dispute at an informal hearing. In other cases, if you are not able to have an informal hearing or if you are unable to reach a solution at an informal hearing, you may take your case to the appraisal review board if you have filed your protest by the appropriate deadline. Before this formal hearing at the ARB, the appraisal district must mail the property owner a statement notifying them that they can inspect and obtain copies of data, schedules, formulas and other information the appraisal district plans to use at the hearing. They must do this at least 14 days before the formal hearing. This information is not automatically provided. There is simply a statement that the information is available upon request. This legislation simply gives a property owner the ability to access this information without scheduling a protest. I look forward to continuing our fight for property tax relief by taking these steps on the appraisal side of the equation.

As always, it is an honor to serve our community here at the state capitol. May God bless you, your family, and the great state of Texas!





Congressman Morgan Luttrell 8th Congressional District

Veterans Issues

The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023 that I introduced will ensure that our nation's veterans receive the same annual cost-of-living adjustment as Social Security recipients.





Sign up for my newsletter to get updates on these issues and others!

Click here

All Republicans Are Invited

Montgomery County Republican Party of Texas Chairman Bryan Christ: Our emcee is the Honorable Judge Vince Santini. Social time starts at 6 p.m. Speakers start at 6:30. Make sure to come early and eat delicious food at Honor Cafe (admission is free, and meals are paid by individuals). Invite your Republican friends and neighbors!



March 1, 2023 Meeting















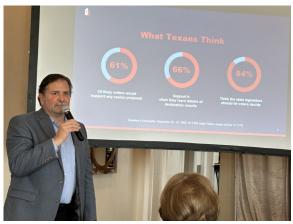














MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1 MEETING - Sharon Lassiter, Secretary

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

Cheryl Bolt gave the devotional and prayer. Judge

Amy Tucker lead the Pledges of Allegiance. The minutes were approved as presented. Genette Stanton, 2nd Vice President reported that there are currently 218 active members and 75 associate members. Chris Gurley, Treasurer presented the monthly report. The balance is \$83,269.67.

Kim Greene, Caring for America, Co-chair. stated that the response for the food bank has already filled up two cars. Food will be collected on the last month of each quarter. The containers for items to be distributed to Over/Under Mission will be available at each meeting. Help will be needed to assemble the bags containing hygiene items for the Mission.

Jody Hostetler and Karen Darcy-Pawlak, Yearbook Chairmen, reported that the book has been completed. Binders for the yearbooks are for sale at the gift table.

The Annual Internal Financial Review for the period 1/1/22 to 12/31/22 was conducted by Jody Hostetler, Leigh Billingsley and Chris Gurley. The audit revealed no discrepancies. Jody moved that the membership accept the report as presented. Gail McKinnon seconded the motion. The audit report was unanimously accepted.

Sarah Tillman Henry gave an informative legislative update. .

The following elected officials were introduced: Phillip Cash, Precinct 1 Constable; B.D. Griffin, County Attorney; Rand Henderson, Sheriff; Sarah Henry representing Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16; Amy Tucker, Judge, County Court No. 3; Sandy Wagner, Montgomery County Hospital Board; Gwen Withrow, State Republican Executive Committee SDA; Ann Kate, Pct. 72 Republican Chairman.

Jim Fredricks, our guest speaker, spoke on behalf of the Texas Destination Resort Alliance. He discussed a proposed constitutional amendment that would create a limited number of resort casinos in Texas.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.



THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE MAY 6, 2023 ELECTION IS April 6, 2023

The election is for local political subdivisions, such as cities, school districts, and water districts.

NSRW has deputy voter registrars that can help you register if you aren't already a registered voter. You can also get an application to register by <u>clicking here</u>.

Would You Like to Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar?

Click here for information



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

<u>3rd Vice President/Ways & Means Sherry Fox</u>

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



Caring for America - Kim Greene, Ann South co-chairmen

NSRW board members, following their monthly meeting, filled 50bags with hygiene products that were delivered to



the Under Over Mission in Conroe. The bags will be given to homeless and others in need.













Delivery to Under Over MissionAnn South, Kim Greene, Charlotte Allen, Al Greene





Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1993 Montgomery, TX 77356

Email:

northshorerw@northshorerw.com



NSRW Calendar of Events

April 5 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Sign in begins at 10:30 a.m.

April 9 - NSRW Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Bentwater Club board room

May 3 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Sign in begins at 10:30 a.m. Program: US Congressman Morgan Luttrell

May 17 - NSRW Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Bentwater Club board room

We're Getting New Shirts!



Gift Table Chairman Tracie de Roulac has ordered new red shirts, which will have our logo on them, for members to proudly wear to events and meetings.

She hopes to have some at our April meeting. Look for them at our gift table.



<u>Like us on Facebook:</u> <u>North Shore Republican Women/TX</u>

Website: www.nsrepublicanwomen.org

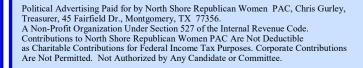
TFRW Website: www.tfrw.org

NFRW Website: www.NFRW.org

Republican Party of Texas Website:

www.texasgop.org

Beacon Editor: Ann Kate



NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2023

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:	Occupation (Required information for PAC
Spouse Name:	reporting):
	OR (Please check if retired)
Home Address:	Membership Fees: (Please Circle One)
	Active: \$40 Associate: \$20
City	Young Affiliate: \$10
City	Seniors 75+ discount offered: \$30
Zip code	
Mailing Address (If different for mailings):	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:
Home Phone:	New Renewal
Cell:	
E-Mail:	Active membership is for all women with NSRW as their primary membership.
Texas Senate district in which you reside	Associate membership is for women with other
agrania in un unita Accia (il unui)	Republican Women memberships, and men.
NSRW may/may not publish this information in its	Associate women please specify your other current active membership:
printed and electronic yearbooks. Please circle one and	Young Affiliate is teenage women ages thirteen through
initial	seventeen.
Do you want a Yearbook? If yes, do you	NSRW has my permission to send the monthly Beacon
prefer: Electronically or Printed	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

Political Advertising Paid for by North Shore Republican Women, Leigh Billingsley, treasurer, 108 Club Creek Drive, Montgomery, TX 77356. Contributions are not federal tox deductible as charitable contributions.

Corporate Contributions Are Not Permitted.