



THE BEACON

NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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

Volume 23, No. 7

September 2023

Region XVII, Senate Dist. 4



President's Letter - Leigh Billingsley

We welcome the cooler temperatures on the horizon along with a flurry of activity this month.

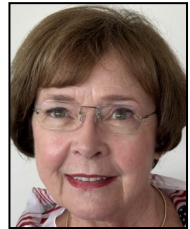
Most importantly we host our annual fundraiser events starting with our Online Auction. The highly successful auction, which is online only, is in full swing and will run through September 25th. There are many wonderful items that Roberta Clark and her team have gathered. If you haven't checked them out be sure to do so! Once you see the amazing array of items you will want to forward the information to your friends – please do so and encourage them to bid! Go to page 3 of this newsletter for information and a link to the auction website.

On Monday, September 25th our highly successful United We Stand golf tournament fundraiser will take place. Sherry Fox and her team have outdone themselves this year with more sponsors than ever before! She has some fun surprises for the golf participants this year and it will be a tournament not to be forgotten.

I am looking forward to representing North Shore Republican Women, along with member Stacey Stein, at this year's National Federation of Republican Women's Convention in Oklahoma City September 28th – October 1st. I look forward to summarizing the key happenings for all of you at our October 4th meeting!



- Carolyn Jones
1st Vice President/Programs



Monthly Meeting Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Bentwater COUNTRY Club
800 Bentwater Dr.,
Montgomery, TX

Program: Catherine Engelbrecht Founder & President of True the Vote

What became a full-time call to grassroots activism started in 2008, when Catherine could no longer watch silently as Government acted in stark contrast to America's principles of personal liberty and economic freedom.

In 2009 she started True the Vote, a citizen-led effort to restore honor and integrity to our electoral system. True the Vote educates voters, trains and mobilizes citizens to work at the polls, researches the veracity of voter rolls, and advocates for election code reform. True the Vote is now the nation's leading voters' rights organization.

Catherine believes when government isn't held accountable, it inevitably abuses the rights of American citizens. So, when she learned the Internal Revenue Service was targeting her organization and others, Catherine stood her ground and took action. In 2013, True the Vote embarked on a precedent-setting lawsuit against the IRS and its top leadership, leading to a historic victory in 2019.

As a nationally recognized spokesperson on voters' rights and free speech, Catherine has appeared on television and talk radio, testified before Congress and state legislatures, and spoken to grassroots activists across the nation.

We will also hear from Pearl Maggio, Texas Federation of Republican Women Senate Dist. 4 Director

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, September 26, 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

Are you registered to vote?



If not, go to page 5 for information.

Membership

- Genette Stanton, 2nd VP/Membership

Excited to say that we have 231 active members and 86 associate members. We will be taking 2024 Membership forms beginning in November. It is not too late to become a 2023 Member. We have revamped the Membership form so that it is easier to see and less information to fill out. Our New Member Wine and Cheese party will be held on January 18th at Carolyn Jones' home. See our Lighthouse Circle on page 9 (those who pay more than the membership requirement are on the Circle).



New Members

Stephanie Vaught
Kat Pavelka
Debbie Graham

Caring for America/ Americanism - Kim Greene, Gail McKinnon, Ann South



VFW TRUNK OR TREAT



On Saturday, October 28, NSRW will participate in the VFW Post 4709 (1303 W Semands St., Conroe), Trunk or Treat. **Candy donations** are needed (no chocolate), and can be dropped off at our October meeting, at the entrance before the check in table. All other candy donations can be dropped off to Kim Greene, 41 W Oaks Ct., on October 26 and 27 only.

Bring a lawn chair and help us hand out treats from our NSRW Trunk from 11:00am until around 2:00pm, or the until the candy runs out!

TOILETRIES, SOCKS, ETC.



Colder weather will be here soon, so please drop off socks and gloves, along with your toiletries, at our meetings in October, November and December. Designated boxes will be near the check in tables at each of the meetings.

WILLIS SENIOR CITIZEN BINGO



Also, if anyone is interested in helping with Senior Citizen Bingo, at the community center in Willis on November 15 and December 13, please contact Kim. They need help with the lunch preparation and also with monitoring the monthly event.

OFFICER ELECTION

The NSRW Nominating Committee has recommended the following members as 2024 officers (some will be serving the second year of the two-year term):

President

Leigh Billingsley

1st Vice President/Programs

Carolyn Jones

2nd Vice President/Membership

Genette Stanton

3rd Vice President/Ways & Means

Anyone interested?

Recording Secretary

Mary Osborn

Treasurer/PAC Treasurer

Chris Gurley

Election of officers will be held at the October 4 meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Treasurer's Report

- Chris Gurley, PAC Treasurer

We began the month of August with a balance forward of \$116,626. We brought in income of \$8,644. (Golf tournament \$8,644). Expenditures totaled \$233 (Administrative \$45, Alliance for New Americans \$100, communications/media \$29, ways & means fundraiser \$59). Our balance on hand as of August 31, 2023 was \$125,037.



Any University of Texas Fans out there?

You will love this hat and necklace set in our Online Auction, which ends Monday evening.

See page 3 for details. There are also Astros and Texas wear.

Hook 'Em!



September 18-25, Golf Tournament ONLINE AUCTION

Roberta Clark, Auction Chairman

Get ready!!! The 7th annual NSRW Golf/Auction/Dinner event is just around the corner on September 25.



In addition to the golf tournament and fabulous sit-down banquet following golf, the popular and successful online auction also returns this year. We have 25 items. It is open for viewing and bidding and will close during dinner on September 25.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the auction website, or scan the QR code below.



OPEN NOW!!!

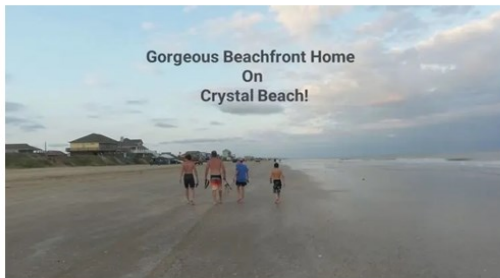
North Shore Republican Women

2023 ONLINE AUCTION

September 18-25



Here is a small sample of what you will see online.





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

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

SEE YOU MONDAY!!!



NSRW Golf Tournament Schedule

Date: Monday, September 25, 2023

Times:

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Driving range opens

11:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony - Weiskopf Putting Green

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour

5:00 p.m. - 7 p.m. Awards Dinner in Bentwater CC Dining Room

6:00 p.m. Online Auction ends

Place: Bentwater Country Club

Golf on Miller Course

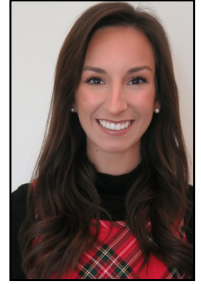
800 Bentwater Dr., Montgomery, TX 77356

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



Vote FOR Prop 4: The Largest Tax Cut in History



Howdy Texans! During the upcoming November election, you, the voters, will be heading to the polls to vote on amendments to our state's constitution. These amendments were voted on and passed by the Texas Legislature during the 88th Regular and Special Legislative Sessions earlier this year, and now they must be approved by the voters of Texas this November as propositions on the ballot. 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. Among the 14 propositions on your ballot, Texans will have the 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 most recent special legislative session this summer.

During the second called special legislative session, the Texas House and Texas Senate arrived at an agreement for an \$18 billion tax cut for Texas taxpayers. I was honored to spearhead these negotiations for the House and serve as the lead architect of House Joint Resolution 2 which is now Proposition 4. As part of the agreement, we passed an omnibus property tax relief package that features the constitutional amendment. The amendment, Proposition 4 on the November ballot, provides the constitutional authority to implement this historic tax cut.

Proposition 4 represents \$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. Proposition 4 also raises 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 that expires on 12/31/2026.

Importantly, 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! I have been pushing for elected positions in our appraisal districts for years and I was pleased to negotiate this addition into the final bill.

This is a major property tax relief and reform plan that incorporates policies that I have fought for personally each legislative session. As one of the lead fighters for appraisal reform in the state 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 encourage everyone to vote for Proposition 4. This amendment will 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 was desperately needed. Remember to mark your calendars and get out to vote by November 7th.

May God bless you, your family and the great state of Texas.

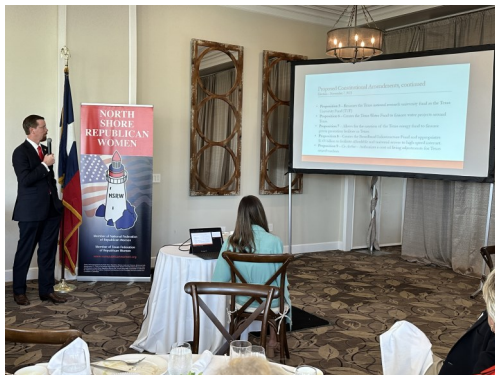
THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ELECTION IS

October 10, 2023

If you are not registered to vote, or have moved, NSRW has deputy voter registrars who can register you.

Email northshorerw@northshorerw.com for help.

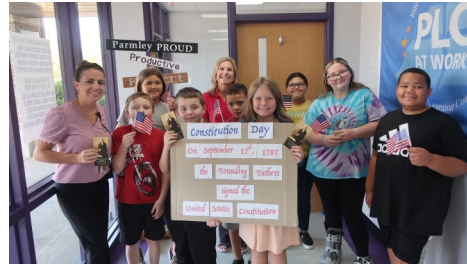
September 6, 2023 Meeting



Literacy - Ann South



North Shore Republican Women's Literacy Chairman Ann South delivered over 600 United States Constitution booklets to all the Willis ISD Fifth Graders. Constitution Day is September 17th, the day the Founding Fathers signed the Constitution in 1787.



THE STUDENTS of WISD NEED YOU!! Youth Outreach -Diane Hivnor



NSRW has committed to assisting Willis Independent School District with their R.I.S.E. (Relationships Inspiring Students' Education) Mentorship Program. Adult mentors spend time on a bi-weekly basis with a student to build caring relationships, inspire personal growth, and provide stability to their lives. Mentors and students are paired by gender and meet for lunch at school every other week.

The meetings are scheduled at the mentor's convenience. The mentor brings a quick and easy lunch for the student, typically from a fast-food establishment. Mentors retain their paired student for as many years as they are available to continue mentoring, which helps build a strong relationship for the student. The campuses that are served are Willis High School, Brabham Middle School, and Lynn Lucas Middle School.

Join a mentor training session for all the details, and you will have the opportunity to sign up if you decide to participate. The next session is October 17, 2023, at 10:00 AM at Willis High School, Room 101 – please RSVP to keckert@willisisd.org or call @ 936-537-4585. You may also contact the Mentoring Coordinator, Leigh Ann Elmore @ lelmore@willisisd.org or #936-856-1274, ext. 3483.

Encourage your husbands to volunteer as well. This is a rewarding experience for you and the student. Contact Diane Hivnor, Youth Outreach for NSRW, at mdhivnor@hrmfg.com. if you want more details. **The Students of WISD need YOU!!**



MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING - Sharon Lasseter, Recording Secretary



The September 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, "Welcome Back" blessing and prayer. Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16, led the Pledges of Allegiance. The minutes were approved as presented.

Genette Stanton, 2nd Vice President reported that there are currently 230 active members and 86 associate members. She discussed a few revisions that have been made to the Membership Form. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting for members who are interested in being on a committee. The annual new member Wine and Cheese social will be January 18, 2024.

3rd VP Ways and Means, Sherry Fox and Roberta Clark discussed the Golf Tournament that will be held September 26, 2023 at The Bentwater Golf and Country Club. The online auction will open September 18th. Twenty-six items have been donated for the auction. Donations for door prizes ranging from \$50-\$100 are needed.

Chris Gurley, Treasurer presented the monthly report. The balance is \$125,037.05.

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 would like to propose and nominate the following officers for 2024: President, Leigh Billingsley; 1st Vice President/Programs, Carolyn Jones; 2nd Vice President, Membership, Genette Stanton; 3rd Vice President- to be determined; Secretary, Mary Osborn; Treasurer, Chris Gurley. Elections will be held at the October General Meeting, Nominations can be made from the floor.

Ann Kate, Media, announced that the Texas Youth Summit will be held September 29th-30th.

Karen Darcy-Pawlak announced that the last day to register to vote is October 10th..

The following elected officials were introduced: Rand Henderson, Sheriff; Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16; Vince Santini, District Judge 457th Court; Sandy Wagner, Montgomery County Hospital Board; Robert Walker, County Commissioner, Pct. 1; Ann Kate, Pct. 72 Republican Chairman; Kent Chambers, Candidate for 9th Court of Appeals; Brandon Kiser for Senator Creighton.

Will Metcalf, State Representative District 16, gave an interesting and informative update on the recent Texas legislative session.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.



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*

What is the Lighthouse Circle?

Did you see the Lighthouse Circle logo on page 9 of this newsletter? Don't know what it is? Explanation: we show our appreciation to members and associates who make a contribution to NSRW, in addition to their membership fee, by putting their names in the Lighthouse Circle.

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

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



FOX BUSINESS
DEMOCRACY
★ 24

SECOND
REPUBLICAN
★ DEBATE ★

SEPTEMBER 27TH
RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

FOX News Media's Stuart Varney and Dana Perino will co-moderate the second [Republican presidential primary debate](#) alongside Univision's Ilia Calderón on **Sept. 27** on FOX Business Network.

FOX Business will host the debate at 8 p.m. from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute in Simi Valley, California.



NSRW Calendar of Events

September 25 - NSRW Golf Tournament Fundraiser, Bentwater Country Club

October 4 - NSRW Monthly Meeting, Sign in begins at 10:30 a.m.

October 11 - NSRW Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Bentwater Country Club board room.

Sharing the Light

With Our 2023 LIGHTHOUSE CIRCLE

Sandra & Thomas Ayers
 Mary Balfanz
 Ann Marie Baranik
 Kristin & Randy Bays
 Leigh & Roger Billingsley
 Barbara Bowe
 Janet Brown
 Shirley Burg
 Carrie & Craig Butler
 Denise & David Carey
 Liz & Jeff Carter
 Faye Chapman
 Roberta & Mike Clark
 Iris & Richard Clay
 Debbie & Roger Clemens
 Karen Coffman
 Tammy & Steven Coleman
 Stephanie Collins
 Amalia & Mike Coumos
 Mary Dinklage
 Mary Frances & Kevin Doris
 Julie Faubel
 Shirley Finke
 Heidi & Gil Flores
 Nancy Gibson
 Lesta & Paul Gotsch
 Pat & Paul Gottung
 Kim & Al Greene
 Chris Gurley
 Brenna Hankla
 Kathleen & Jim Hamilton
 Diane Hivnor
 Susan Hutcroft
 Carolyn & Randy Jones
 Ann & Fred Kate
 Cecily & Ed Kelly
 Lori and Ronald Keyser
 Mary & Jim Krenek
 Kate & Kevin Lacy
 Laura and Craig Landis
 Sharon Lasseter
 Jacque & Greg Lookabaugh
 Judy Love
 Martha Low
 Lori Maddox
 Gail McKinnon
 Jennifer & Hall Miller
 Thelma Miller
 Virginia Mueller
 Lynne & Joe Napoleon
 Joanne Naughton
 Mary Osborn
 Gerusa & Nate Parks
 Karen Darcy Pawlak
 Cecily Petro
 Kay & Steve Pontious
 Ann & Zefrin Pospisil
 Phyllis Rainey
 Georgana Repal
 Claudia Riedlinger
 Jennifer & Jeremy Robin
 Teresa Rose
 oni & Bruce Sellers
 Beverly & Blair Smith
 Ann & Steve South
 Kathleen & Brian Stern
 Lana Sultz
 Judge Amy Tucker
 Christy & Kevin Tatum
 Dianne & Mark Tompkins
 Sandy & John Wagner
 Rae Jean & Joe Young

North Shore Republican Women
Thanks you for your contribution

LifeFirst will host Life Chain in Conroe on Sunday, October 1 from 2:15-3:30 pm.

The whole family can take part in this peaceful, prayerful stand for the sanctity of life. It's easy, it's quick, and everything needed is provided! Meet at the Montgomery Bakehouse parking lot at 2:15 for the distribution of Life Chain approved signs. From 2:30-3:30, participants will spread out on the sidewalk on either side of 105W, forming the Life Chain. Each year, it's amazing to see the cars slow down as drivers read the succession of signs. This simple outreach is powerful!

Visit www.lifefirst.org/life-chain-2023/ for more info.



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

NORTH SHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN



Member of National Federation of Republican Women
Member of Texas Federation of Republican Women
www.nsrepublicanwomen.org

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____

Zip code _____

Mailing Address (If different for mailings):

Home Phone: _____

Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

Texas Senate district in which you reside _____

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

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

Occupation (Required information for PAC reporting): _____


OR (Please check if retired) _____

Membership Fees: (Please Circle One)

Active: \$40 Associate: \$20

Young Affiliate: \$10

Seniors 75+ discount offered: \$30

Lighthouse Circle  (see website): In addition, I would like to contribute \$15, \$25, \$50 or \$ _____ to support various NSRW philanthropy programs (any amount would be greatly appreciated).

Please check one:

New _____ Renewal _____

Active membership is for all women with NSRW as their primary membership.

Associate membership is for women with other Republican Women memberships, and men.

Associate women please specify your other current active membership:

Young Affiliate is teenage women ages thirteen through seventeen.

NSRW has my permission to send the monthly Beacon newsletter to me by email yes/no _____

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

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

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

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