

Legislative Report

Marilyn Davis, VP Legislation

Several TFRW ladies attended the NFRW 2008 Spring board meeting in Washington, D.C. in March. Voting members of the board unanimously passed a resolution endorsing John McCain as the Republican candidate for President.

First Lady Laura Bush invited the Regents to an elegant, formal Tea at the White House. Photographs of the Regents with Mrs. Bush were taken in the Blue Room. Attendees enjoyed refreshments on the State Floor of the White House, where they had the opportunity to view the historic furnishings and art work in the Red, Blue and Green rooms, the State Dining Room and the East Room. Capitol Regents were surprised and delighted to share some private time in the Oval Office with President Bush.

The legislative committee met and decided to continue to support Jessica's Law, the informal name given to a 2005 Florida law designed to punish sex offenders and reduce their ability to re-offend. With the help of grassroots Republican ladies nationwide, forty-one states including Texas, have passed Jessica's Law. A version of Jessica's Law has been introduced at the federal level, known as the Jessica Lunsford Act.

The legislative committee also voted to advocate the passage of Katie's Law in all fifty states. Katie's Law is named after Katie Sepich, a young New Mexico woman, who was brutally raped and murdered. Skin and blood were found under her fingernails, leaving the attacker's DNA sample. This DNA profile was sent to the national DNA database system (called CODIS), where officials hoped a match would be made. The Sepiches later learned that most state laws do not allow law enforcement to take DNA for felony arrests. This was the beginning of the quest for "Katie's Law", which requires immediate DNA testing on those arrested for felonies.

It has come to my attention that lobbyist groups are contacting club presidents and asking to speak to the membership. Please remember that if you allow a member of one of these organizations to speak to your club, you should make certain the opposing positions are also presented so that members have all the facts and can form educated opinions.

PLEASE NOTE. Thanks to the 13 clubs who have sent me contact information for their legislative chairmen. I need to hear from the other 153 clubs. Send your legislative chairman's (or designated contact person's) name and email address to me at marilyndavis17@gmail.com.