

Caring For America January Newsletter Report

First, I would like to congratulate all the new elected officers for the coming year especially the incoming presidents. You have a great responsibility to make TFRW grow and become even more dynamic this year. You are our leaders. I would also like to congratulate all the incoming **Caring For America** Chairpersons. Thank you for accepting this great honor. You have a chance to make a difference in someone's life. Many of you are brand new at this position so I have chosen at this time to guide you through the requirements.

My name is Barbara Perales. It is my pleasure to be the **Caring For America** Chairman for TFRW. I consider this an honorable position.

Remember, you are Republican women. How you treat other people, especially those not of the Republican Party, and the choices you make are very important. You need to be a role model for those around you.

The goal of **Caring For America** is to encourage state and local clubs, attract new members, keeping the ones we already have, and provide positive public relations by attracting new Republicans by working in the community and showing that Republican women do care about our families, our communities and our country. **Caring For America** was established in 1999 by NFRW to encourage local clubs and state organizations to form committees and to commit to at least one service project. Since that time, hundreds of local clubs have energized their membership by getting involved in community service projects.

Each local club and state organization should have a **Caring For America** chairperson. The chairperson should be selected based on interest and personal involvement in local community projects and be willing to search out new projects that the club actively and enthusiastically supports. Remember to select projects that have REPUBLICAN values with REPUBLICAN women. Research your project carefully.

Last year President Toni Anne Dashiell agreed that we needed one special project. This special project had its beginning with a very special TFRW member, Susan Fischer. The theme this year will be same as last year, "**Honoring Their Service with Our Caring Efforts**".

Throughout the past year, our Texas clubs have been making caps for the military in the Middle East. The military wear them underneath their helmets for comfort from the heat and cold. The members of your clubs can make the caps themselves, and/or recruit friends and family members. Men and women in senior centers and various church members can be encouraged to join in our efforts. Many of these citizens are retired military who would be honored to help if we just ask. If you are not able to knit there are many ways you can help fulfilling our goals. The yarn itself can be donated or donating money for the yarn in other areas where there are those who can knit but are able to purchase the yarn. If your city airport is not deploying soldiers, the caps can be sent to Susan and her group or to someone else in the Dallas area. Lastly but probably the most important every member can write notes to the soldiers, which are pinned on the caps. That little note can make getting on the airplane just a little bit easier. All pertinent knitting instructions are on the TFRW website or you email me and I will send it to you.

Remember, your club can do several projects, not just one. If you have good ideas please share them with other clubs. The **NFRW Caring For America** chair has decided to do something different in judging the state federation projects. They will be awarding one First Place and one Second Place winner. It is very important that you keep complete records of your projects. May 15, 2009 is the deadline for the TFRW official report form. I must have the NFRW forms completed and sent by June 1, 2009. I know it sounds very far away but time does fly. I will be awarding certificates at the Convention in November for the most donated caps.

Thank you for all you,

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