

HOW YOU GONNA KEEP THEM DOWN ON THE FARM WHEN THEY'VE BEEN TO THE TFRW CONVENTION??

By: Suan Angelo

Don't think they will stay home for long, too much work to be done! From the opening gavel by President, Toni Ann Dashiell on Friday, November 13th at 1:00 p.m., until the closing benediction by Cynthia Trevino Eisenberg on Sunday, November 15th, the 2009 biennial convention of TFRW was non-stop information and inspiration! I don't know what I expected, but the amount of enthusiasm, single-mindedness and rapt attention was a welcome surprise.

The TFRW is a 10,000 member strong organization and was represented by 577 delegates and some 100+ guests and elected officials. Toni Ann Dashiell is a tall, attractive woman, with carriage, charisma and composure to completely control this crowd in an 11,000 sq. ft. room.

After taking care of the "housekeeping" business of the convention, the first speaker, Debra Medina, candidate for Governor, had 10 minutes. She was very powerful, advocating the Texas legislature pass nullification of the "primary" process. Her argument was sound and well received. She was a great young speaker and I hope she will be a force in Texas politics for many years to come. (medinafortexas.com)

I didn't realize the Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas was a woman....Cathie Adams. She, too, is an effective young speaker with many years of success for Republicans in Texas. Bill Crocker, the Republican National Committee Man, agreed with Ms. Medina regarding eliminating the "primary" process, partly based on the fact that it costs \$25M per month for just the "primary" process. Also, did you know that the total democrat attendees at Obama's inauguration were 1,416,852 and only 14 had to miss work?? (Just a little statistic to keep in mind!) Dr. Robin Armstrong, Vice Chairman, Republican Party of Texas is an evangelist for staying engaged in ALL local and state contests. Ignore the media, we have no allies there! Connect on your cell to FIREDUP 95613 for updates. Then our extraordinary Governor, Rick Perry had his 10 minutes (yes, they all only had 10 minutes! and with a time-keeper). His message was for us to keep being resilient and pressing forward for the possible re-taking of the House and Senate in 2010. At this point, I must remember that ALL the speakers HIGHLY praised the TFRW for the successful grassroots work in past elections and ongoing efforts for re-elections. It is imperative that we keep the Texas House and Senate Republican. The redistricting of the State after the 2010 census is of paramount importance for all future elections. Don't look to 2012, let's take back D.C. in 2010!

Dan Patrick, Texas Senator, Dist. 7 was our last "speaker" for the first session. His resonate radio voice demanded our attention as he fortified the message of the previous speakers, reminding us there are smart "yes" votes as well as smart "no" votes. Leadership is first and foremost in the qualities of our leaders, many in Texas and Washington are leaders, and the ineffective must be replaced. His web site is danpatrick.org and a great Christian movie to obtain is located at HeartofTexasMovie.com.

Whew.....what a session. I think "overload of information" is an understatement! And, if that were not enough, the Opening Gala at Moody Gardens presented another opportunity for Governor Perry, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and Dan Patrick at a microphone to further inspire us...along with photo ops!

Saturday, our first elected official was Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. She was very positive in her message that she intended to “stay in Washington until after the primaries” to be attentive to the business of Texas and the Nation, at this crucial time for conservative votes. We all agreed with our applause that D.C. is the best place for her, as senior Senator from Texas. Elizabeth Ames Jones, RR Commissioner of Texas, and candidate for US Senate is another young, unusually gifted speaker for Republican values. Her family legacy of over 150 years in Texas conservative life makes her a current and future force with which to be reckoned. Lt. Governor, David Dewhurst brought his 6’5” statuesque presence to the podium with a message delivered in his melodious voice. If you don’t like his message, you have to like the man, he has more charisma than a thousand Obama’s! A serious leader who someday will be in the U.S. Senate (at least), a truly conservative messenger. “In spite of Obama,” the Eyes of Texas are upon the nation and the National government. Our state is the “shining City on a Hill” with the 1-5 best cities in America to do business, we are #1 in recruiting new businesses and 1st in opportunities for small businesses...therefore....the Dems have their eyes set to destroy us with “cap & trade,” health reform and any other high tax rate that will bring down our sound economy. (daviddewhurst.com) Brenda Beaven’s presentation of the “Favorite Teacher Award Recipient” also included a request for service to our WWII Vets. The memorial, built in Washington D.C. in 2004 is something we can help these heroes visit. With WWII veterans dying at the rate of 600+ per day, we have a short window of opportunity to hold fund-raisers and locate local WWII vets to take to D.C. Her experiences in this endeavor have been very powerful. We do need to remember all our heroes and what we can do to enhance their lives. Susan Combs, Comptroller of Public Accounts of Texas was very positive about the economy of Texas, leading in “lowest” foreclosure rate of the largest states....1 of 838 homes...in Nevada it is 1 of 62, and in Florida and California it is 1 of 140! The balanced budget idea does work...remember, “Roosters crow, hens deliver!” Joan Hoffman, Texas Senator, Dist. 17 has a background in prosecutorial law in Harris County. Her work ethic is flawless, she is also one of our young, enthusiastic, energetic, magnetic speakers who will be a leader for many years. Keeping her in State politics will be difficult, for I think she is qualified for much higher office. The Honorable Michael Williams, highest ranking African-American in Texas is a mighty speaker, with the presence of a minister. He should be well known, he is inspirational, involved and highly intelligent. We hope to have him visit one of our meetings soon.

Awards Luncheon-working-speaking, etc. The Honorable Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas was the keynote speaker. He was introduced by his young daughter (surely a future TFRW member and political activist!). We were again reminded of the superiority of the Texas economy, our conservative values are keeping us in the “black” in Austin. He also reminded us that when called upon to serve, “I can’t” is not an answer....evidenced by his success all the while being wheelchair-bound. He is a true leader. Our PARW president, Sherry Peterson, presented the Voter Registration Award and introduced Roger Williams, Texas 105th Secretary of State & candidate for US Senate. Candidate Williams is an effective speaker with conservative values and life. He supports a positive outlook with a strong military presence to preserve the American way of life....from Ft. Worth Texas, he has been endorsed by many prominent Texans. (RogerforSenate.com)

On Saturday afternoon we had choices of workshops to attend from 2:30 to 4:45, How to Beat the Dems, Empowering the People, Health Care Reform, and Diversity in the GOP. I didn’t take notes on the workshops, I bought the books. There was simply too much information to write. Eric Golub’s workshop on Beating the Dems at Their own Game....included much needed truth in laughter. The “Pelosi Raptor” example was my favorite!!

The dinner Awards Banquet started promptly at 7:00 p.m. With the Honorable Florence Shapiro, Texas State Senator, Dist. 8. Let's "unlock and unload" our conservative values and elected officials on Austin and D.C. in 2010! It is now or never, 2012 will be too late! Janine Turner was our celebrity speaker, and what a cute bundle of energy she is. She was in Northern Exposure and Friday Night Lights, until "written out" because of her conservative/republican values. She giggled and seriously spoke about the difficulties in the entertainment business, overcoming alcohol addiction with Christian principles. Her lovely daughter was with her and they both assisted in the presentation of "Ten Outstanding" awards.

Finally.....to sleep, no chance to dream!

Sunday morning Memorial breakfast at 7:00 a.m. The opening prelude was sung magnificently by Rhonda Lacy. I should have known to have a handkerchief. The opening remarks, Mike Conaway, US House of Representative, 11th Dist., began with the account of his visit to Ft. Hood after the terrorist attack. His emotions were not held at bay as he described the transporting of 13 flag draped caskets into an Army transport to Delaware for autopsy. There was not a dry eye. The Obama administration's decision to bring the terrorists from Gitmo to NYC for trial is another "obamanation," and an insult to the U.S. servicemen and women. Kelly Hoag, USMC, Retired, reminded us of the service our women give to the military, she personally has been to Iraq for 2 tours of duty and has seen first-hand the sacrifices made for our freedom and liberty. Again, no dry eyes. The Honorable Todd Staples, Agricultural commissioner of Texas reminded us that we cannot be dependent on foreign food as we are for oil, and that we should not be dependent on any foreign country for any product that we can produce here. Recognition was made of all women who had served in the military then all who have current friends and relatives in the military. Three-fourths were standing and, again, not a dry eye. We joined hands and sang the "Lord's Prayer," led by the powerful voice of Rhonda Lacy. Definitely a MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Closing Session began promptly at 9:30 am, with a Resolution to the U.S. Congress to NOT pass the "Cap & Trade" legislation, along with many resolutions honoring the current and past officers of TFRW. The Honorable John Cornyn, US Senator, his career started as a District Judge, then the Texas Supreme Court, on to Attorney General and finally appointed to U.S. Senate in 2002, and re-elected since. We are very fortunate to have such an intellectual, experienced Senator who doesn't take conservatism for granted and counts his post as opportunity to serve Texas and the rest of the United States by proudly voicing his careful conservative opinions. Michael McCaul, US Congressman, Dist. 10 (Austin included) is in need of our support. He is facing a liberal from NYC (!) whose wife has already remarked that Texas women don't know how to dress and that the move to Texas is like going into hell. (Well, she can just go back to NYC and pay their high taxes.) Larry Taylor, Texas House of Representatives, Dist. 24, Chairman, House Republican Caucus quoted Reagan and again reminded us of the principled values conservative Republicans believe, and, "Don't let friends vote stupid!" Next was our very familiar Pete Olson, US Congressman, Dist. 22. Pete always has positive remarks and again quoted Reagan, reminding that the vote in 2010 may be the most important one of our lives.

Another reminder...ALL of our speakers have advocated for coming together when our primary is over and working together to defeat the democrats. They will be coming at us with the full force of ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN and whoever else and whoever's money they can beg, steal or borrow. We will have to get down to basics by knocking on doors calling on actual telephones (this

in addition to e-mail, twitter, etc. in the electronic media), and face to face encounters with prospective and tried and true voters. We CANNOT AFFORD TO SIT THIS ONE OUT!

Now, the final speaker was Ted Cruz, former Solicitor General of Texas, Candidate for Attorney General of Texas. His father escaped Cuba to come to the University of Texas, his mother worked her way through Rice University, and Ted went to Princeton and Harvard. Now I know you are thinking: liberal colleges..true, but this young man is a conservative Republican with a capital "C." An articulate speaker, his speech is at www.TedCruz.org. It will benefit you to listen to it. Obviously, the best was saved for last.

After hearing all these young, ambitious, qualified, hardworking conservative Republicans, I believe the future of our beloved GOP is in superior hands. It is a serious time, and we all know it.....finally. Add in some hospitality suites, the well-stocked vendors for souvenirs and gifts, recognition of every possible accomplishment of the past two years, fourteen prayers and seven pledges to the US Flag and Texas Flag, I came away feeling as if I had just attended an old-time revival, one in which we all rededicated our lives or were saved once again. In a way it was. I came away with a determination to do more to promote the conservative causes in the Republican Party and spend more time doing whatever I can to assure the election and re-election of as many Republicans as possible, even if it means driving into another county or even another state to accomplish it. We have been sitting on our collective rears for too long. Being "turn the other cheek" conservatives is not getting it done. It's time to take back the party from the "RINO(S)" and return responsible, representative officials to Austin and Washington D.C.