

*Share the TFRW Vision!*



## ***A TFRW Heroine!***

*Dixie Clem is a charter member of Conner Harrington RW and has so many wonderful stories to tell about bringing the Republican Party to Collin County. Dixie is truly a special Republican lady. In the 1970's she personally built a Republican stronghold in Collin County that remains strong to this day.* Jody Rushton, TFRW VOTER REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN

I became involved in politics full time when I was asked to be the Nixon Campaign Headquarters Chairman in 1968. As the campaign progressed and a Republican Presidential candidate was carrying Collin County for the first time, our Senatorial Committeeman and County Chairman asked me if I would be interested in being Secretary/Director of a Republican Headquarters. As a result, we opened the first full-time Republican headquarters on December 2, 1968 and I remained in charge for 30 years, retiring in 1998.

During the next 30 years we held Lincoln Day dinners, picnics and creative fundraisers to keep our County Headquarters open. The first year we had 16 precinct chairs and set up a program to bring all Republicans together every three months. Our first success was winning a constable race in the very first year we had headquarters open. Next, we ran a Justice of the Peace candidate and won that seat. Then we ran a sheriff. Later we ran County Commissioners and a County Judge until we finally had all Republican office holders in Collin County! We moved on to run State Representatives, State Senators and U. S. Congress candidates.

Our story truly began as a “dream” to build a Republican Party in Collin County with quality candidates who would be strong leaders. I also served on the Texas Federation of Republican Women Board as the Membership Vice President. During my tenure, Texas won an award at the Republican National Convention for the state with the most new clubs. I served as a District Director and then as State Republican Committee Woman on the State Republican Executive Committee.

Collin County Republican Party has been a “stronghold” for National, State and local Republican candidates for many years. To realize the “dream” in your county, it takes a lot of grit, hard work and a wish to overcome the naysayers when they say “it just can’t be done.” To those naysayers you can just point out what happened in Collin County and keep on working to make your dream a reality.

-Dixie Clem

Conner Harrington Republican Women

