



Mark Your Calendar

December 25-26

TFRW Office is closed

January 1

TFRW Office is closed

January 25-26

1st Quarter Board Meetings

January 27

Leadership Day, Georgetown

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TO TFRW Club Presidents TFRW Patrons
TFRW Board of Directors Members

FROM Theresa Kosmoski, President

President's Message

As 2017, and my term as your President, draws to an end, this represents a good time to look back at just some of our accomplishments over the last two years.



- A successful "One More" membership campaign resulting in nearly 5,000 brand new members.
- First long-range business plan ("2017 & Beyond") to guide TFRW and help chart a course through the changing political landscape.
- Designing a new website with security and membership features.
- Developing interactive website templates for our clubs to use at a very low cost.
- Refreshing our imaging and branding including logos, newsletters, and mailers.
- Development of branding/marketing videos for TFRW and club use.
- Being recognized as an integral part of the effort to elect a Republican President in 2016.
- Serving on the Texas Trump Advisory Committee.
- Having the opportunity to serve as a national surrogate for Candidate Trump.
- Having the opportunity to represent TFRW on television, radio, national magazines, and newspapers all across the state.
- Highly successful Leadership Day, Legislative Day, and Belles and Boots events.
- Successfully working on two important bills, supporting them through the legislative process.

(continued on page 3)

2016-2017 ELECTED OFFICERS

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TFRW Won NFRW's Prestigious Traveling Golden Eagle Trophy!

TFRW 2018 Board Meetings

1st Quarter	January 25-26
2nd Quarter	April 13-14
3rd Quarter	July 20-21
4th Quarter	October 12-13

JGT Award Reminders

- Get your official roster of all club officers including names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and offices held to the TFRW office in Austin on or before January 1. CF-3
- Submit the first installment of membership dues plus annual service charge to TFRW on or before January 31. CF-2 (or submit by January 15. CF-1B)

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Year End TEC Reporting

As the year comes to a close, many of the local club PAC Treasurers will be changing. The outgoing PAC Treasurer will need to file the year end December 31, 2017, report no later than January 16, 2018. At that time, the outgoing PAC Treasurer will also need to terminate themselves as the PAC Treasurer. As soon as the outgoing PAC Treasurer files her Campaign Termination and December 31, 2017, report, the incoming PAC Treasurer will need to file the AGTA form (amendment of general purpose committee treasurer report) and Security Form to get a password for electronic filing. These forms can be faxed to TEC to be activated immediately. If you have any questions, please call TEC at 512-463-5800 or on the web at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/gpac-mpac.htm>.

Patricia Harless | PAC Chairman | pacchair@tfrw.org

The President's Newsletter is an official publication of the Texas Federation of Republican Women and is mailed or emailed monthly to its Club Presidents, Board of Directors, Patron Members, and Subscribers. It contains information about the Federation, its member clubs, and issues important to the political arena.

POLITICAL ADVERTISING PAID FOR BY TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN, PAC - A TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION UNDER SECTION 527 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. CONTRIBUTIONS TO TFRW, PAC ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

(continued from front cover)

- Developing and implementing an online Candidate Development course to encourage and train our members to run for public office.
- Working on behalf of Republican candidates all across the state of Texas.
- The most successful year for awards at the NFRW Convention including winners for:
 1. Best State Membership Newsletter
 2. National Public Relations Award
 3. National Campaign Hours Award, turning in over 4,000,000 campaign hours logged
 4. Betty Heitman Award for State Excellence
 5. Caring for America
 6. Best Club Use of Technology
 7. Many, many of our clubs winning Club Achievement Awards
- A highly successful philanthropic partnership with Patriot Paws that has resulted in four, and possibly five, Veterans that are being given highly-trained service dogs to meet their disability needs.
- Distributing approximately \$45,000 in gift cards from all across the country to help Hurricane Harvey victims in southeast Texas.
- Convention 2017 that was entertaining, educational, and by all accounts, worth the time to attend - thanks to the work of an incredible committee in Dallas chaired by Kit Whitehill.



There are so many great things that we have accomplished for TFRW that I couldn't list them all; I'm so proud of the work we've done, together. Most importantly, I'm proud of the people that I had the good fortune to work with, both on the Board of Directors - and amazing group of women - and you, our membership. I'm proud to say that I have now visited over 85% of all of our clubs - logging over 44,000 miles on my car and a more than a few frequent flyer miles - and I wouldn't trade a moment or a mile for any other experience; it remains my favorite part of the job.

It has been one of the privileges of my life to have served as your TFRW President these past two years; thank you for the opportunity to serve and the faith you have shown in me. I can retire with great confidence that our next administration, under the leadership of Karen Newton, will take TFRW to the next level and continue our forward trajectory.

In January, I shall not be worrying about them at all as I sip my cold beverage under the shade of the coconut trees from which my hammock sways gently with the ocean breeze.



Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays to all of you, dear friends.

Theresa



Finance Update

by VP Finance Karen Newton
vpfinance@tfrw.org

Get Fired Up! Leadership Day 2018

Christmas is a time of year full of family, frolics, and reflections on faith. This year may be different for me. While faith will be more important than ever, the family and the frolics will have to be put aside for a while. Since becoming your President-Elect for the Texas Federation of Republican Women on October 20th, the Newton household has been turned upside down, literally. It seems every room in the house has turned into a T.F.R.W. work space with Post-it notes covering walls and windows, boxes of binders covering floors, and what was once a game room for the kids is now my new office. What could possibly be consuming all my time? The answer is our Leadership Conference to be held in January. This three-day event kicks off the new board and will set the tone for TRFW for the next two years. I would like to give you a little teaser, a few reasons to not want to miss this!!

Georgetown Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center

Thursday, January 25, 2018

- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM District Director and Deputy President Meeting
- 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dutch Treat Dinner on Georgetown Square
- 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM Fireside Fellowship



TEXAS FEDERATION
of
Republican Women



Friday, January 26, 2018

- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch with guest speaker
- 1:15 PM - 1:45 PM TFRW Handbook Trivia
- Win a Patron Membership!
- 1:45 PM - 3:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Patron Event: Picture the Possibilities
- Learn how to take selfies, pose for pictures, and post Complimentary Headshots for Patrons at Woops! Bakery*
- 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM TFRW Welcome Reception
- LIVE Music by Ready Betty, heavy appetizers, and cash bar*

[CLICK AND REGISTER Eventbrite](#)

Saturday, January 27, 2018

- 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM Leadership Day
- Professional Headshot Booth Available
- Three Breakout Sessions
- Networking Luncheon
- A Conversation with Kay**



Join TFRW member, Kay McConaughey, as she candidly delves into conversation and reflection, with close friend Paula Dennis, about her life as an actress, author, wife, and mother raising three successful sons, Rooster, Pat, and Matthew.



Campaign Activities

by VP Campaign Activities Janis Holt
vpcampaignact@tfrw.org

Campaign Activities

Here we are at our last newsletter for the 2016-2017 term. I have enjoyed my time as Vice-President of Campaign Activities. It has been a joy to watch our clubs doing so many wonderful activities to promote the Republican Platform and work for Republican candidates in our local areas, as well as on the state and federal levels.

Not only did we bring the national award for campaign hours back to Texas, we have shown that we were a powerful force when it comes to getting Republicans elected. We also were able to conduct over twenty campaign management schools all across the state of Texas, teaching and training candidates and campaign volunteers. So, congratulations on a job well done.

Going forward, Michele Samuelson will be taking over as Vice-President of Campaign Activities. I know she will do a fantastic job, bringing a new ideas and skills to this position. I look forward to seeing all the wonderful things she is going to do.

As for me, I will be taking the position of Awards Chair for the 2018-2019 term. Thank you again for allowing me to serve as Vice-President of Campaign Activities.

Merry Christmas to you and yours, and a Happy New Year.

FIRST QUARTER BOARD LUNCHEON

Learn How to React to an Active Shooter

Be sure to join us at the TFRW board meeting luncheon at noon on Friday, January 26th for an informational and interactive presentation. Our guest speaker will demonstrate how to react to a shooter in an emergency situation. This is timely subject matter due to the very tragic and recent shootings across America. You will want to attend and learn how to be prepared!

We plan to have exciting and interactive guest speaker presentations the next two years at TFRW events and will keep you informed on the TFRW website, Facebook, and YouTube.

A list of potential guest speakers and their bios will be listed on the TFRW website in the near future. You may access this information for your upcoming TFRW club events in 2018 and 2019.

Linda Hagler | TFRW VP Programs 2018-2019
vpprograms@tfrw.org | 432-254-9990



Programs

by VP Programs Elizabeth "Besa" Martin
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Educate Your Members on Education

State Board of Education. What is this? What does it do?

The State Board of Education (SBOE) sets policies and standards for Texas public schools. The primary responsibilities of the SBOE include:

- Setting curriculum standards
- Reviewing and adopting instructional materials
- Establishing graduation requirements
- Overseeing the Texas Permanent School Fund
- Appointing board members to military reservation and special school districts
- Providing final review of rules proposed by the State Board for Educator Certification
- Reviewing the commissioner's proposed award of new charter schools, with authority to veto a recommended applicant

The board is made up of SBOE members elected from single-member districts.

Board Meetings

The SBOE is required to meet at least quarterly. Meetings are held in the William B. Travis State Office Building, which houses the Texas Education Agency, at 1701 North Congress Avenue in Austin. Each meeting, except for executive sessions restricted by law to specific topics, is open to the public. Anyone who wants to testify in front of the board must submit a public testimony registration form.

Long-Range Plan Meeting

The board is developing a new Long-Range Plan for Public Education, which will set goals for the public schools through the year 2030. Information about the project, including meeting agendas, can be found on Long-Range Plan webpage.

1. Who represents your district?
2. Have a program to explain this to your club members.
3. Educate your members on education.



Secretary

by Secretary Glynis Chester
secretary@tfrw.org

'Tis the Season of Celebration

We have much to celebrate because we Made It Happen! As your club wraps up 2017 and launches into 2018, many of you will host holiday parties for your membership. Just remember that if your party includes an election or installation of club officers, those activities are considered official business and should be a part of your club's records. If holding an election, all relevant information must be recorded. If you're merely "installing" or "swearing in" your officers, the minutes need not contain anything more than the date, time, location, and who conducted the installation.

I feel so very blessed to have served as your Secretary over the last term and am thankful to be involved in an organization filled with such dynamic women! I look forward to meeting even more of you over the next two years as we work together to Inspire. Unite. Achieve!

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

PRESIDENT THERESA KOSMOSKI

Attention Members Who May Do Business with Chase

TFRW has had a long and productive relationship with Chase in various forms, including our "company credit card." The President always personally guarantees the card, and we have a pristine history with Chase.

Evidently, paying your bills in full and on time doesn't mean anything with them. This week, a letter was delivered to me at the TFRW office telling us the following:

"Dear Theresa W Kosmoski,

We have decided not to lend to businesses or organizations we deem to be directly involved in political activities. We reviewed your business credit card account, determined that you are directly involved in political activities, and will close your account 60 days from 11/21/2017."

The letter goes on to tell us what we can/cannot do with the account in the remaining time.

Really????? Chase is willing to reject a premiere, never misses-a-payment customer because we dare to encourage the American people to be a part of the democratic process by becoming informed voters???

I will defend the right of any American company to do business with anyone that they chose as long as they do not violate any of the protected discrimination classes even when, as in this case, they are making stupid business choices. I do not agree with Chase in this matter, but they are exercising their rights, and I will respect that.

I hope that Chase realizes that the members of TFRW are also free to exercise their rights. I am cancelling all of my personal Chase accounts, and I highly encourage you to do the same.

Theresa

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Our PR Journey Began in Philly

TFRW’s Public Relations Journey began in Philadelphia, PA, at the 39th Biennial National Federation of Republican Women Convention.

Where at the NFRW Public Relations Awards,

“The Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW) was awarded the highly coveted Public Relations Award during the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) 39th Biennial Convention held September 14-17 in Philadelphia.”

FIRST PLACE TROPHY WINNER – BEST OVERALL

Texas Federation of Republican Women

Then continued in Dallas at the 31st Biennial Texas Federation of Republican Women Convention

“TFRW is proud to be the recipient of the NFRW Public Relations Award and the Traveling Golden Eagle Trophy, said TFRW President Theresa Kosmoski. The women of TFRW are dedicated to raising the TFRW brand awareness on all levels, local, state, and national.”

Entries from state federations across the country were judged by an independent P.R. firm on quality and breadth of public and media relations efforts including: news releases, website, social media, member communications, newsletters, coalition building, media training, media appearances, events, and marketing collateral.

We would like to offer, “Congratulations to all TFRW 2017 Newsletter Awards Winners!”

MOST IMPROVED NEWSLETTER

Medium Clubs, 31-60 Members
Texas Strong Republican Women

Large Clubs, 81-125 Members
Northwest Austin Republican Women

Jumbo Clubs, 101-200 Members
Village Republican Women

Super Jumbo Clubs, 201+ Members
Bexar County Republican Women

BEST NEWSLETTER

Small Clubs, 10-30 Members
The Yellow Rose of Texas Republican Women

Medium Clubs, 31-60 Members
Republican Women of Northeast Texas

Large Clubs, 61-100 Members
Metroplex Republican Women

Jumbo Clubs, 101-200 Members
North Shore Republican Women

Barbara Tague | Public Relations Chair/Texas STAR Editor
PO Box 20, Tomball, Texas 77377 | 713-851-0737 | pr@tfrw.org

AWARDS

Congratulations to all of the Incoming Club Officers!!

It's never too early to share the job descriptions for the various officer positions with the newly elected board. PLAN, PLAN, PLAN.... Get those officer lists and your membership submissions with the service charge in on time!!

Congratulations again, to the Liberty Belles RW of SD 3, winners of the first TFRW Shooting Star award for newly federated clubs. Now to spotlight our two finalists, Cherokee County RW and Lost Pines RW.

Some of the take home ideas are having tiered memberships. To help raise funds for a newly formed club, Lost Pines RW has a basic (\$35), gold (\$50), and diamond (\$100) levels. They also were very quick in logo branding and getting on social media and publishing a website, while utilizing Mail Chimp for their newsletters. They have also joined the area Chambers to get more exposure for their club. But I really like the Pizza & Politics event, meeting at a local wine bar that serves pizza. The fee is a bit higher for non-members. Just another incentive to join and it keeps the invite rather social.

Cherokee County RW also knows how to keep it social while hosting their August meeting at their VP's home supplying BBQ meat from a donor and having everyone bring a side or dessert.

And both of these clubs stress rejoining in October for the next year's membership! Way to get a jump start. I hope all clubs are thinking ahead.

It has been a great pleasure serving as your Awards Chair these past two years. I look forward to working with you all in a different aspect in the near future!

Michelle Martin | Awards Committee Chair | awards@tfrw.org

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Installation of Officers

Ceremonies for the induction of new officers are recommended for Local Clubs and the state federation. Such ceremonies give opportunity to express appreciation to outgoing officers and to instill a deeper sense of responsibility in new officers. The members may be given a separate charge so that they will also assume their share of the responsibility of the work of the Local Club.

Installation programs may be adapted from this basic outline to meet local requirements. Be sure to arrange for pictures of the new officers for your local and state news media.

(continued on next page)



TFRW President's Pin

(continued from page 9)

The outgoing President gives a short talk, introducing the incoming President and officers.

The installing officer may give a brief talk citing the objectives of the Local Club and charging the new officers with their responsibilities to the club and to Republican citizens in their community.

Some Local Clubs have found the following presentation effective:

“You, the newly elected officers of the (name of Local Club) are about to enter upon your respective duties. In accepting these posts, you are assuming a leadership role among Republicans, and therefore, you are setting an example, one that requires the best energy and devotion of which you are capable.

In accepting this post, do you promise to exert every possible effort to conduct Local Club activities that will attract women in your community who believe in the Republican Party and its principles, and in electing Republicans to all levels of government?”

To that end, I ask you to raise your right hand and repeat after me your oath of office:

I solemnly swear / to live up to the provisions / of the governing laws of the Texas Federation of Republican Women / and the bylaws of (Local Club name) / and to discharge all duties incumbent to my office / to the best of my ability.

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic, as well as the governing laws of the National Federation of Republican Women; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely and without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of which you are about to enter; So help you God.”

The officers respond to this oath: “I (or we) do”

Members of the Local Club also may be asked to give loyal support to the new officers, to attend club meetings regularly, to pay dues promptly, to serve when called upon, and in all ways to support the programs of the Local Club.

Turning directly to the audience, the Installing Officer declares:

“We of the National Federation of Republican Women believe that the responsibility of any organization is borne by the members as well as the officers. Would all of you, therefore, stand, raise your right hands, and take the following oath:

Do you as members of (Local Club name) promise to give your loyal support to the new officers, to attend the meetings whenever possible, to pay dues promptly, to serve when called upon and in all ways to support this organization and the Republican Party?”

Response: “I do”

You are now starting upon a new year of activity in the Federation. Our activities are “operation unlimited.” We know that as individuals, as Local Club and State Federation members, and as a part of the National Federation, you will do your best to support the Republican Party and its candidates.

The Installing Officer then declares the women duly installed as the new officers of the Local Club or Texas Federation, naming each one with her title, and shaking her hand in congratulation.

The incoming President responds, commending the outgoing officers on their administration, naming highlights of their regime. She may also wish to present the outgoing President with a token of appreciation for service on behalf of the Local Club or Texas Federation. The outgoing President presents the gavel to the new President.

The Local Club determines when to present the President’s pin that is available from TFRW in Austin. It may be given at the beginning or end of a President’s term.

AMERICANISM

Holiday Symbols

Christmas

Bell

One of the first bells was the bell of St. Patrick of Ireland. When it was first rung it was to bring his parishioners to prayer and worship of the Lord. Prior to this, they used gongs, trumpets, and drums. From there, turrets were built for the bell, and as more bells were added, a bell tower accompanied all churches throughout Europe. As the Spanish came to the New World, they brought with them the missions and bell towers. An addition to modern times is bell choirs which have added to the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services.

Candy Cane

The candy canes of the 1400s were white and can still be found on Christmas cards in Europe today. In 1670, a choir-master at Cologne Cathedral was practicing for a living nativity scene and decided to give the children of the choir candy canes to keep them quiet while the rest of the choristers practiced. The peppermint flavor is reminiscent of the gifts of the Magi. It is possible that in the Mid to 19th century in the Swedish town of Granna (the peppermint capital of the world), the red stripe was added.

Christmas Tree

One of traditions of the Christmas tree was attributed to Martin Luther. While walking through the woods near his home, he was enamored by the snow shimmering on the branches of the trees. He chopped one down, took it home with him, and decorated it with candles (they didn't have fire regulations in those days). The German carol "O Christmas Tree" or "O Tannenbaum" obviously had its origin in Germany.

Gifts

St. Nicholas was the Archbishop of Myra, Turkey, in the 4th century. Word spread after his death of his gift giving and generosity. By the 12th century, people throughout Europe, in honor of his death in the month of December, gave anonymous gifts in his name.

Nativity Scene and Manger

In the book of Luke, it was said, "that Jesus was laid in a manger as there was no room for him in the inn."

Hanukkah

Menorah

A menorah is usually displayed on a mantle, fireplace, or in a window. It has receptacles for nine candles, one for each night of the eight nights of the holiday and a shamash to light the other candles. Each night, one additional candle is lit until the menorah is fully lit. The decorating colors are blue and silver. Sprigs of fresh evergreens and chocolate coins wrapped in silver or gold foils (called gelt) surround the menorah on the mantle.

Dreidel

On Hanukkah, it is customary to play with a "dreidel" (a four-sided spinning top).

Flying the Flag

December

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day (flag flown at half staff until sunset)
- 25 Christmas Day

Jeanne O'Neill and June Rentmeester | Americanism Co-Chairmen



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