



TEXAS FEDERATION OF  
REPUBLICAN WOMEN

TEXAS



"INSPIRED  
WOMEN  
UNITING  
TEXAS"

Star

S P R I N G I S S U E 2 0 1 5



@ Marc Friedland Photography

### *President's Message ...*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO TFRW for 60 years as a Federated State!

While we are all excited for spring to get here and the bluebonnets to make reappearance on our Texas landscapes, there are others among us who seem to be preparing for a different direction. Please know that the election of 2014 was NOT just about that one election. No, no. It was just a warm up for 2016, and believe me there are more than bluebonnets at stake here.

Spring reminds us of an awakening. A rebirth, and a reminder that winter is done and our long-winter's nap is over. Yes, it's a wake-up call to action. Our senses have been alerted (by the pollen, perhaps?) that a change is coming and we must be prepared to handle what comes next.

The direction of Texas depends on how well we are able to get out our base. All of our good Republican voters need to hear the call and get ready to unite in our mission to keep Texas Republican Red.

This is the time for us to prepare our roadmap which will serve as a guide leading up to 2016. We must be proactive now for there are a lot of "steps" which need to be followed in order for

*(President's Message Continued Page 2)*

## Everything is bigger in Texas.

*Tom Mechler, Chairman, Republican Party of Texas*

Everything is bigger in Texas. This truth is embodied in the role the Texas Federation of Republican Women play in the structure and landscape of Texas politics. Texas is a state in which women play an invaluable role in guaranteeing the success of the Republican Party. Over the years, I have been a first-hand witness to the dedication and commitment of these ladies, and I am continually impressed by and grateful for their contributions to our Party.

I would like to personally thank the Texas Federation of Republican Women for their efforts to keep Texas red. I would also like to thank them for their support of my campaign for Chairman over the past few months. I am most grateful to this tremendous group for entrusting their confidence in me by supporting me in this new role. I promise you all, I will not let you down.

We enjoyed incredible successes in 2014, but our fight is far from over. As we look toward 2016 and beyond, we will seek to advance the technological capabilities of the party, reach out to the next generation, engage new com-

*(Continued Page2)*

## "there is strength in numbers...."

*By Kim Chambers, TFRW Vice President Membership*

Since 1955, passionate, conservative women, just like you, have joined the Texas Federation of Republican Women to become involved and influence the direction of this great state.

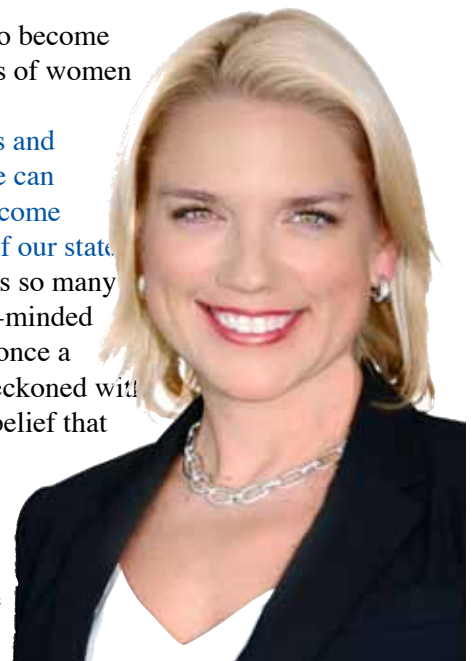
Nowadays there are so many ways to become politically active. So why do thousands of women each year choose to join TFRW clubs?

Because there is strength in numbers and politically savvy women know that we can have a much broader impact when we come together to work for the greater good of our state.

Being a member of a TFRW club has so many benefits. We're not just a group of like-minded women wearing red and having lunch once a month. We are a political force to be reckoned with!

TFRW holds fast to the underlying belief that people such as you must be part of the process to make government work effectively. Which is why TFRW not only encourages its members to work at the grassroots level, we give you the tools necessary to accomplish this.

*(Continued Page3)*



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(Tom Mechler- continued from page one)

munities, expand our outreach efforts, and work to put a Republican in every elected office in the state. Every office is a priority. No office is out of reach. To be successful in the years to come, we have to build on the past accomplishments of the party by expanding our reach in areas such as minority engagement, party unity, fundraising, and youth outreach. To be successful, our vision must be defined by a sense of unity and a commitment to outreach.

I am tremendously grateful to Steve Munisteri, who worked tirelessly for five years to establish a Party that was both impactful and intentional in all of its actions. The Party made great progress in those years, but I believe we can take it to the next level. I fully believe that if we continue to work together, as a team, we will not only meet these goals, but we will exceed them.

I encourage you all to keep fighting. Our successes of the past could not have happened without your efforts, and our future goals cannot be attained without your support. My challenge to you is this: speak boldly and work diligently in defense of your values. The best way to ensure future victory is to start working now and to do so in your communities. I encourage you to connect with your County Party and your local Victory Field Staff in these efforts. We are not just fighting for 2016; we are fighting for the future of Texas.

I am thankful for the continued dedication of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, and I look forward to working alongside each and every one of you in this fight for Texas conservative principles.

God bless you and God bless Texas.

(President Message-continued from page one)

us to be effective in our goal.

TFRW must show up for this election. WE must vote. WE must attend our conventions and be an active and vocal participant in the election process.

Let's start at the beginning. Membership. We have the ability to swing the entire state of Texas if our membership is engaged and at their peak in numbers. In order to do this, we must not only reach out, but also reach back to pull in those around us who have chosen to become passive. It's up to clubs throughout Texas to identify and mobilize these voters. It all begins with our numbers, so let's work hard to recruit, re-enlist, re-energize our members. This is exciting! Our election process is something our mothers and grandmothers fought to give us, let's not let them down – we must show how much we appreciate their hard work to get us where we are now.

Next, we must be aware of our important conventions and deadlines leading up to the 2016 election, get them on our calendars today, and make plans to attend. They are as follows:

**Tuesday March 1, 2016 Precinct Primary & Convention**

**Saturday March 19 Senatorial/County Convention**

**May 8-15 State Republican Convention, Dallas TX**

**July 18-21 National Republican Convention, Cleveland OH**

These dates are important for us to participate in. TFRW women across the state will lead the way for others, proving that active, informed and tuned-in Republican voters can control the convention process. This is our responsibility ladies, and we cannot win without TFRW being that beacon of light for all others. If not us, who will lead the way? And what direction will they take?

Inspired Women, Uniting Texas – this is our motto, and we will continue to lead Texas with inspiration and clarity into 2016.

God Bless Texas

*Jody Rushton*



(Kim Chambers - continued from page one)



Below are just a few of the events TFRW members are invited to attend:

**Get Out the Vote Seminars – work smarter, not harder, during the Election Season**

**Campaign Management Schools – teach potential candidates and campaign staff**

**Leadership Day – hands on, real world training on political and professional skills**

**Legislative Day at the Capitol – meet your elected officials and attend workshops**

**TFRW Convention – meet candidates and have fun with other Republican women**

**Strike Forces – groups of volunteers targeting races in Texas and other states**

TFRW is a PAC: a Political Action Committee. And we take the “Action” part serious. Which is why we provide so many training and service-oriented opportunities for our members. TFRW members are a source of trained, coordinated, year-round volunteers actively supporting Republican candidates and conservative causes.

In the 2014 election cycle, TFRW members donated \$610,000 and over 630,000 volunteer hours to Republican campaigns. This made a difference!

Over two-thirds of elected officials in Texas are now Republicans. These thousands of Republican officials desperately need our help during the election. Every phone call made, block walk attended and dollar given helps further the Republican cause and helps to ensure a brighter future for this state and country.

**TFRW members truly are the backbone of the Republican Party.** We are the ones working every day to strengthen the Republican Party and advocate for Party initiatives. We are the high heels on the ground, the happy warriors, fighting to strengthen Texas.

TFRW President Jody Rushton’s theme is “inspired women, uniting Texas”. As TFRW members, we are not only inspired, but also empowered, to become effective leaders and volunteers.

Let us not forget that decisions are made by those who show up. TFRW members don’t just show up, we speak up and work for the greater good.

**Thank you for getting off the sidelines and joining a team of other dynamic, dedicated women. You are valued!**

*Editor’s Note: Did you know that the largest Republican Women’s Club in the country is located in the Great State of Texas? The Texas Star asked Immediate Past President of Midland Republican Women Rhonda Lacy to share some insights on building membership.*

## “Bringin’ in the Members”

By Rhonda Lacy

*TFRW Vice President Membership  
Immediate Past President  
Midland County Republican Women*



Membership?!? I can’t imagine any Republican or Conservative Woman in Texas NOT wanting to be part of this very remarkable organization called TFRW!

OK, so how do we get ALL of the thousands to join us?

(Continued page 4)

## SHARE YOUR LITERACY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Thanks to the clubs who are doing an outstanding job with your literacy projects. Won’t you please share your ideas!! Many clubs are looking for novel ways to participate in this worthwhile project. I have heard from some of you and am so pleased that clubs have appointed literacy chairpersons and are contributing to schools, libraries and other centers where books, magazines, etc. are needed. Keep up the good work! Please let me know if your literacy chairperson has changed; I would like to keep up with your activities.

**Check this out:** Last fall Carol Sewell, a TFRW member, updated and revised her book, *WE THE PEOPLE: KNOW THE PAST, UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT, SECURE THE FUTURE*. It has been released with a new title that better reflects the content and hopefully will attract more readers: *WHAT WERE THEY THINKING-ON TRUTH, LIBERTY AND LEGACY?* Both books have been approved for the NFRW suggested reading list. This book will be a good one to donate to libraries. If there are other TFRW members who have written books and would like them to be considered for the NFRW approved reading list, please notify me. We can make this happen!

**Thanks for all you do for literacy and I look forward to hearing from your clubs.**

Marie Maggio  
TFRW Literacy Chair

Let me offer some suggestions - AND, if you're reading this, PLEASE show it to your Club President and ask if she's read it. THEN share it with the rest of your club members, because, in all honesty, I bet we don't have too many who DO read this wonderful publication called the Texas Star, produced by our wonderful editor, Julie Faubel!

Now, about membership! We all want big club memberships, right? I've just stepped down as president of the largest Republican Woman's club in the nation - yes nation, not just Texas! Once we found out that Midland Republican Women's club was in the running with a California Club to be the largest club in the country, even our YOUNG MEN went out and lassoed their moms, sisters, aunts, co-workers with the statement, "NO California Club is gonna beat TEXAS!" It helped push us over the top. We topped out at over 450 women and a total of 600 including our associates, but that didn't happen just because of our young men. It just takes a hard, 'down in the dirt' commitment.

If you REALLY believe in our mission, if you REALLY have a passion for this nation and for saving HER by returning her to our forefathers' values, then it is NOT difficult at all to carry membership forms, our Republican Values cards, and share our message!

Have a club membership calling party! Get your board and other loyal workers together and phone bank your entire membership. THEN, everyone write down ten more possible people that you know who SHOULD be involved in Republican Women and commit to calling them very soon. You'll get some, I promise!

Have a membership STRIKE FORCE. Choose a neighborhood in town, take large printed postcards with pictures and information about your next meeting and your values card and leave both at the door. You don't even have to ring the doorbell! It's just 'boots on the ground' because; you have that PASSION to share our message with the masses. Our neighborhoods will also realize that Republicans cared enough to come by.

Another CRUCIAL POINT! I've found women feel like they can't join because they just don't have the time to commit to everything that we are doing. Alleviate their stress! We want to get the message across that we are not a

club who insists you have to put in a lot of volunteer hours in order to BE a member. We just want these gals to join and have access to the great newsletters and informative emails we put out on current legislation, and our Facebook and website pages on upcoming opportunities. We want them to connect with us so when it IS time to vote, they

will ask us and be an informed voter. AND, some of these peripheral members WILL become avid workers when their schedules lighten up, but in the meantime they are getting our message and learning because they have joined our club.

Another suggestion that worked with my club; Drop your membership dues to \$20. OK, you can't do that THIS year, BUT almost anyone will give you a '20 dollar bill' when they won't give you a \$20, a \$10 and a \$5, or write a check for \$35. Remember, we want as many women as possible to have the chance to know the TRUTH about what is going on in our Nation and

what we can do to counteract the evil.

Being a Republican women's club member is EMPOWERING! Our associate members agree! At Midland County Republican



Women, we supplement dues with a \$100 Patrons membership. Many clubs across Texas have created similar patron memberships. Another idea is to institute an 'Under 40s' \$20 membership this year to bring in the young women - AND ONCE YOU'VE GOT 'EM, MAKE SURE YOUR PROGRAMS ARE INFORMATIVE AND EXCITING so you can keep 'em!

What IS your PASSION when it comes to our Nation? Yes, I know we're all praying and we're working hard to get our Pastors, Priests and Rabbis to also use their voices for our Nation's Judeo-Christian values. BUT WE, Republican Women, are the ones tasked with bringing in the grassroots and letting folks know how very important each person is, especially when we stand together as a unified force to support our conservative legislation and policy makers in Austin and in D.C. Go out there and 'get em' Gals! And then ALL of you show up in RED at the TFRW Legislative Day in Austin on April 16. See ya' with the thousands!



*Editor's Note: Jeanine Wehby is a member of Lake Highlands Republican Women in Dallas. She has always been civic-minded and focused on local government issues – the government closest to home. Her efforts in the mental health area come from a personal tragedy but the results and her continued involvement benefits many others. Jeanine doesn't just talk-the-talk, she rolls up her sleeves and goes to work to make things happen! We are pleased to share this story about an inspired woman uniting Texas!*



## One mom works through tragedy to make police better

*By Steve Blow Columnist, Dallas Morning News*

We hear a lot about mistrust of police these days. And Jeanine Wehby certainly has cause to be bitter. Instead, she gives us a fine example of making police better.

Jeanine is a can-do, plain-spoken sort who has been a fixture in East Dallas and Lake Highlands civic circles for decades. She seems younger than her 83 years. She has also known more than her share of sorrow. Her husband and two sons all died too young. But it's the death of younger son Keith that won't let her rest.

The one she describes as her adventurer and free spirit saw his life crumble after the suicide of his wife in 2004. "He just crashed," she said. "He cried and sobbed for one year." A depression descended that he could not shake in spite of significant mental-health treatment. In the spring of 2008, a neighbor reported to police that Keith talked of guns and violence. An officer and a mental-health specialist went to Keith's Old East Dallas home.

"I'm sure Keith was ugly to them," his mother said. "He did not want to go to Parkland."

In the immediate aftermath of his wife's suicide, Keith was restrained and carried to the psychiatric unit there. Though he was quickly released, the setting terrified him, Jeanine said. On the evening of April 1, 2008, police returned to the house with a mental-illness warrant for his detention. Things quickly escalated into a standoff, with SWAT officers surrounding the house. A neighbor called Jeanine to tell her what was happening. "I got to his street and there were a dozen police cars, an ambulance and SWAT trucks," she said.

She was stopped by an officer at the outermost perimeter, almost a block from her son's home. Despite her pleas, she was not allowed to go any closer or talk to anyone in charge. "I think I could have helped. I could have given them the phone number of his psychiatrist. I could have told them that it's just Parkland he feared. He might have been willing to go somewhere else," Jeanine said. Instead, all she could do was stand in the street, feeling angry and helpless as officers began bashing in doors and firing tear gas into the house.

"Keith took his life at 10:20. I heard the shot," she said.

Still, she was kept away until after 1 a.m. "I got up to the house and I saw them roll Keith out," she said.

The very next day, Jeanine went to work. She was determined to change police policy. "I didn't want this to happen to another mother," she said. Persistence eventually led to a meeting of more than an hour with then-Police Chief David Kunkle. And her efforts succeeded. Policy was changed. Procedure now calls for the police command-er at such scenes to consult with family members and seek useful information.

"It's such a simple thing," Jeanine said.

In fact, the department now stresses the importance of families providing as much information as possible about a person in mental crisis — especially in a 911 call. The more officers know in advance, the better the chance of a safe and productive outcome.

Beyond changing department policy, Jeanine began regularly telling her story to Dallas officers receiving training on mental-crisis calls. And if that weren't enough, she also began to volunteer weekly as a clerk at Dallas police headquarters. For her work with Dallas police, the Dallas chapter of NAMI — the National Alliance on Mental Illness — recently honored Jeanine with its Community Support Award.

Jeanine Wehby respects the work of police officers. But she knows too well that they're not perfect. She has shown us a path for working through tragedy to make things better.

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# TEXAS *Under the Stars*

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

**AT&T Center, Austin, TX**

**7:00 to 10:00pm**

- \* *Silent Auction*
- \* *Exciting Live Auction*
- \* *Buffet Dinner*
- \* *Dancing to the music of the Wild River Band*
- \* *Dressy Western Attire*

Sponsorships and registration available at [www.tfrw.org](http://www.tfrw.org)

## TFRW LEGISLATIVE DAY *2015*

**Thursday, April 16, 2015**

**8:00am - 5:00pm**

**AT&T Conference Center**

**Austin, Texas**

**Register online at [www.tfrw@tfrw.org](http://www.tfrw@tfrw.org)**





November's election results clearly demonstrated that you don't mess with Texas Republican Women! Armies of inspired TFRW members deployed across our great state to unite Texas voters and be sure Texas remained bright red! We allowed ourselves to celebrate and recharge and now we are energized and adding to our ranks as we look toward 2016 and beyond! Let's go "Round About Texas" to see what our clubs are doing.



### Republican Women of Wood County

joined with fellow Republicans at the Wood County GOP Annual Black & White Lincoln Day Banquet with Congressman Louie Gohmert.



**Rockwall Republican Women** welcomed newly elected Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk to the club's recent meeting and reports "It was so great to hear what she is planning to get Dallas County on the right track."



### Congratulations and welcome to TFRW's newest club **East Montgomery County Republican Women**

and Elizabeth Harrell who is serving as the club's first president.

### **Golden Triangle Republican Women**

hosted a panel discussion of members of the Texas Ninth District Court of Appeals.

**Kingwood Area Republican Women** has launched a patron program called Liberty Belles. Seven members signed up at the first meeting. **Montgomery County Republican Women's** recent member/guest event was titled "Wine-2-gether" and resulted in more than a "case" of new members!



### **Republican Women of North Collin County's** upcoming spring fundraiser

is almost sold out. The club is hosting two cooking classes with a favorite area caterer.

**Irving Republican Women's** President Elena Blake (right) received "Volunteer of the Year Award" from the Dallas County Republican Party. Pictured with Elena is **Lake Highlands Republican Women's** President Susan Fountain. **Preston West Republican Women** will host international bestselling author Ron Brackin who will discuss Islam, ISIS and Israel along with his book Son of Hamas.



**Northwood Republican Women** President Pam Meyer-



cord joined a distinguished group of TFRW leaders at the recent Region III Leadership Workshop.

**Coppell Republican Women** was named 2015 Club of the



Year by Dallas County Republican Party.

"I asked you to pull out all the stops, to walk a little longer, to give a little more, and to reach a little further out of your comfort zone. The result: Every statewide candidate in Texas won by double digits and we increased the number of Republican officeholders across the state and the U.S."

- **Glynis Chester, TFRW District Director SD8**



### **Lake Conroe Republican Women**

volunteers rang the Salvation Army bell at Walmart and collected over \$880. The club's Literacy





program also donated 89 books to 10 schools in 2 school districts.

**Nacogdoches County Republican Women** recently heard from Nacogdoches County Sheriff Jason Bridges. A number of elected county officials were on hand for the presentation.

**Northshore Republican Women** along with Montgomery County Young Republicans have helped form Willis High School Young Republicans. Thirty students heard from State Representative Will Metcalf and District Judge Tracy Gilbert at the club's first meeting.

Newly federated **Republican Women of Trinity County** officers were sworn in by Col. Roy Osborn, USMC – Re-



the Ft. Bend Museum where the club's booth celebrates American history



REGION VI

**Fort Worth Republican Women**

have added a second monthly meeting called "Second Saturday." Seeing the need for a different type of meeting from the usual luncheon at the Fort Worth Club, the club's Satur-



tired and the club's charter members were honored at the meeting.



REGION V

**Angleton Republican Women** delivered baby bottles filled with coins and cash to the Pregnancy Help Center for their annual Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser. **Bay Area Republican Women** collect for Meals on Wheels at every meeting and donate to Operation Uplink, which gives calling cards to soldiers, in the name of their speakers each month. **Clear Creek Republican Women** is celebrating its 15th year as a Federated club.

**Galveston County Republican Women** hosted a Lincoln Day Dinner fundraiser which featured Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Congressmen Randy Weber and John Culberson. Seven club members attended Greater Houston Council of Feder-



ated Republican Women's Nuts & Bolts leadership conference.

**Fort Bend Republican Women** recently celebrated the club's 40th Anniversary of being a TFRW federated club. The club will again participate in Children's Day event at

day breakfasts, are short, casual, social, and kid-friendly.

**Metroplex Republican Women** enjoyed Congressman Louie Gohmert recently. The congressman spoke about "what happens to 'good guys' when they get to Washington." Metroplex RW member Sharen Wilson was elected Criminal District Attorney for Tarrant County. TFRW clubs in the north central area of Texas are organizing a Council. **The Loan Star Council** will focus on communication, and support for political candidates.



REGION VII

**Guadalupe Republican Women**

were very "happy" with its recent "Happy Hour" member-



ship event where 20 attended. The club, as part of its Caring for America project, donated funds to the Marion High School Library to purchase a series of books about historical Supreme Court decisions.

**West of the Pecos Republican Women** covered a lot of ground recently holding two Meet & Greet events in different parts of Brewster County for local candidates with one in Alpine and a second in Terlingua. **Caldwell County Republican Women** logged over 900 campaign volunteer hours last quarter. The club's hard work resulted in the



election of Republican County Judge Ken Schawe who will preside over the Democrat commissioners court.

**San Patricio County Republican Women** took a brief break to attend the inauguration festivities in Austin before returning to work to educate, grow its membership and get



more Republican voters registered to vote. Also check out Legislative Chair Diane Matallanes' Report on the "ABC's of 2014" ([www.spcrw.org](http://www.spcrw.org)). **Brush Country Republican Women** enjoyed hearing from David Zapata, Hispanic En-



gagement Director for the Republican Party of Texas.



**Grayson County Republican Women**, "Where members connect, develop and lead!" model



fun elephant scarves at a recently meeting. **Cooke County Republican Women's** newsletter features 3 members each month the page is called "Meet the Members. **Greater El Paso Republican Women** community project is the Rescue Mission of El Paso and **West El Paso Republican Women** are supporting House of Hope. Both clubs participate in



welcoming new citizens with a copy of the US Constitution and held voter registrations drives.



**Kendall County Republican Women**

"First Responders Valentine Day Appreciation For Your Service to Our Community" project. Valentine gift trays of homemade



goodies delivered to 13 county agencies.

**New Braunfels Republican Women** conducted all necessary business, but limited other non-essential business at their January meeting (and announced this beforehand) and found attendance to be better than in the past few months.

**San Antonio Republican Women** held a Spurs Night in recently. Club members created a special banner to take to the game and had over 120 people attend as a part of their special night at the Spurs! **Bexar County Republican Women** held a casual membership mixer, which happily coincided with a bartending convention in San Antonio, so "celebrity" bartenders were on hand for their mixer! Clubs in SD 14 joined together to fundraise for St. Jude's Hospital in their annual charity walk in Austin. **Northwest Austin Republican Women** completed nine Caring for America projects, one for each meeting held in 2014, and have scheduled one for each month in 2015.



**Star Republican Women's** Treasurer

Beverly Graham (left) welcomed new member Jennifer Smith recently and the club made sure Jennifer got involved – she is the new Historian for the club.



**Republican Women of Kerr County's** Literacy Commit-

tee delivered 800 Dictionaries to third grade students in all of the school districts in Kerr County and to students at Kerrville Families & Literacy English as a Second Language (ESL)



class. **Central Texas Republican Women** recently teamed with students of South Belton Middle School to host lunch for "Warriors on Wheels." The wounded veterans were on a seven day ride thru Texas raising awareness for the Wish for our Heroes Organization. This nonprofit actually awards wishes to both active and retired veterans. CTRW's outreach efforts have resulted in increased membership.

**Republican Women of Hood County** added a Voter Registration Certification program to it recent meeting agenda.

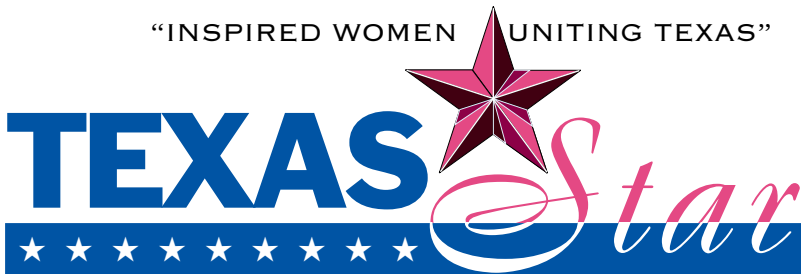


## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 15** Belles and Boots Ball: Texas Under the Stars AT&T Conference Center, Austin
- April 16** TFRW Legislative Day AT&T Conference Center, Austin
- April 17** TFRW Quarterly Board Meeting AT&T Conference Center, Austin
- May 21-23** Southern Republican Leadership Conference Oklahoma City

## TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

"INSPIRED WOMEN UNITING TEXAS"



The Texas Star is the official publication of the Texas Federation of Republican Women and is e-mailed quarterly to its members. It contains information about the Federation, its member clubs, and issues important to the political arena.

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HAVE MORE  
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