



TO: TFRW Board of Directors
TFRW Club Presidents
TFRW Patrons
Subscribers

FROM: Theresa Kosmoski, President

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Mark Your Calendar

December 23 & 25 TFRW Office Closed for Christmas

December 31 End of Filing Period for TEC January Semiannual Report

January 1 Deadline to Submit 2017 Notice of Election of Officers (for JGT Award, CF-3) and 2017 PAC Treasurer Reporting Form

January 2 TFRW Office Closed

January 15 Deadline to Submit First 2017 Membership Submission (for JGT Award Bonus Points, CF-1B)

President's Message



It's been quite a year ...

I can hardly believe it is December and that 2016 is now nearly just a vision in the rearview mirror. It's been quite a year ... we've all worked so hard in this pivotal election year. We didn't win everything, but incredibly, we won the White House while maintaining our majority in the House and Senate.

I am STILL pinching myself.

Everyone in TFRW deserves a "UUUUGE" congratulations for the work that you did. I know that you were out walking blocks and making phone calls and sending postcards and working the polls and going out on Strike Forces and the myriad of things that must be done to be successful in elections. You really showed the world that **the women of TFRW know how to Make It Happen.** (continued on next page)

I couldn't be prouder of any group of people anywhere on this planet. At TFRW, the Board of Directors has accomplished so much with your support; here are just a few of the highlights:

- We've revamped our marketing and rolled out a **new, modern website**.
- We've provided **website templates for clubs** that might want a fresh look, too, but lack the expertise to make it happen at a reasonable cost.
- We've implemented a **long range "business plan"** to ensure the continued growth and success of our clubs and our organization as a whole.
- We developed **new marketing tools**, including several videos that clubs can use to market themselves.
- We worked with RPT, the TRCCA, and Victory 2016 to provide needed **grassroots training** all across the state of Texas..... and, clearly, it was successful.
- **Leadership Day** was an outstanding success and provided needed training for our clubs. Our **"Tribute to Women"** luncheon was an incredible event to honor our women.
- We've rolled out our **Candidate Development Program**, and our first cohort is nearly finished and well-equipped to meet the challenges of running for office.
- We worked our "One More" program, and ended 2016 with **increased membership** across the state.

None of these things could have happened without YOU and your support. I thank you for that.



Railroad Commissioner, Christi Craddick, tele-conferencing during TFRW's Candidate Development Program

Your TFRW officers spent a weekend in November working on our **2017 & Beyond Plan** and have developed great goals and action plans for next year. We must **continue our momentum** because there is more to do – and there are always important elections that require our talents and expertise.

2017 is our convention year, so it is critically important that our clubs get their membership numbers as high as they can as quickly as possible so that you have the best representation at convention. Our Convention Chair Kit Whitehill and her entire committee are already hard at work planning an event that will be wonderful and so very worth your time. Watch the President's Newsletters and Bullet Point Memos throughout the year for more information.

Thank you for all you do to make the Texas Federation of Republican Women the outstanding organization that we are. I am so grateful for the outstanding work that each of you put into 2016, and I am so excited about the journey that awaits us all in 2017. It will be fun, exhilarating, and joyful.....

Blessing to each of you and your loved ones as you enjoy the holiday season.

Theresa Kosmoski, President



Finance Committee

by VP Finance Karen Newton
vpfinance@tfrw.org * 210-863-5540

Gearing Up for November and Beyond!

I am so proud to be a member of the most powerful Republican women's organization in the country and so proud of all the hard work, dedication, and support our members gave to the Trump Campaign.

I was lucky enough to be part of the Trump Campaign as a supervisor at the **Trump National Call Center in San Antonio**. The call center operated August 29th through November 9th and was opened 68 days at an average of 11 hours a day, that's **11,968 hours!**

Here is why I am so proud:

- **172** Volunteers walked through the call center doors
- **169** were TFRW Members or Associate Members

Congratulations TFRW, and Ladies, do not forget to log your hours!



Nathalie Swisher (left), Sarah Benichou, Donald Trump, Jr (center), and Karen Newton (right)



Freida Wright, Karen Newton, Vangie Cortinas, and Sarah Benichou (left to right)

TFRW Club	Number of Volunteers
Alamo City Republican Women	128
Alamo Heights Republican Women	12
Bexar County Republican Women	10
Clear Creek Republican Women	1
Mission Hills Republican Women	6
New Braunfels Republican Women	4
North Hays Republican Women	3
San Antonio Republican Women	5
Total TFRW Volunteers	169



Donald J. Trump and Karen Newton



Legislative Update

by VP Legislation Michele Samuelson
vplegislation@tfrw.org

The Election is Over, and the 2017 Legislative Session is Upon us!

Your legislators in Austin are already hard at work, determining their priorities for the 85th Legislative Session (which begins January 10, 2017). Pre-filing of bills began on Monday, November 14. As of this writing, there are 391 House bills filed, and 238 Senate bills filed.

For comparison, last session, a total of

- **8,094** House bills were filed and
- **3,262** Senate bills were filed;
- **1,203** total bills were signed by the Governor.

In other words, we have a long way to go!

SAVE THE DATE

April 5 Belles and Boots Gala, Austin

April 6 TFRW Legislative Day, Austin

April 7 TFRW Quarterly Board Meeting, Austin



To view what has been filed so far:

1. Go to <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Reports/General.aspx>, and
2. Make sure you choose **"85(R) – 2017"** in the drop down menu.
3. Then click on the link for what you want to know about (filed House or Senate bills are the only links that will work for now).

Legislative Priorities

As of this writing, here are the announced legislative priorities of the Texas Governor, Texas Lt. Governor, and Texas Speaker of the House.

Governor Greg Abbott: Governor Abbott has not released a list of specific agenda items for this upcoming legislature, but you can view his issue priorities in detail at <https://www.gregabbott.com/issues/>

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick: 2017 Budget Proposal, Property Tax Reform, School Choice, Sanctuary Cities, Photo Voter ID, Women's Privacy Act, Addressing Inappropriate Teacher-Student Relationships, Fetal Tissue/Partial Birth Abortion, Spending Cap, and Hailstorm Lawsuit Reform. (Source: <https://www.ltgov.state.tx.us/2016/11/14/lt-governor-patrick-announces-top-ten-legislative-priorities/>)

Speaker Joe Straus: Public and higher education, child protection, mental health, cybersecurity, and making sure Texas is the best state in the country to start a business. (Source: http://www.joestraus.org/newsletter_an_approach_that_works_for_texas)



Membership Update

by VP Membership Rhonda Lacy
vpmembership@tfrw.org * 432-553-1593

Membership Has Begun for 2017

LADIES! We are ALL membership gatherers. The TFRW 2017 NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR has begun and what an exciting thrill it is to have what is being called the strongest Republican Party nationwide with the Presidency, Congress, Governors, and State Legislators since the beginning of our Party in 1854.

NOW, is our chance. NOW is the time to return our nation to our good values.

NOW is the time to reach out to those of different cultures and backgrounds.

NOW, we need to bring in MANY MORE WOMEN in order to share, educate, and be ready for the tasks at hand. We all know it can change in one election cycle.

SO, with that, PLEASE follow this simple plan! **Re-up! Re-up! Re-up! NOW!**

NOVEMBER is the month to re-up at least **1/3 of your membership** [1/2 if you're a small or medium club]. **YES! MEMBERSHIP BEGINS IN NOVEMBER, NOT JANUARY.**

DECEMBER should be a joyous time of **Membership Events** bringing in the next **1/3 of your membership**. [last 1/2 for small and medium clubs]

JANUARY finishes with re-upping the last 1/3 former members!!! YES, we re-up early, because from FEBRUARY forward we can ALL concentrate on our ONE MORE challenge.

RE-UPPING YOUR ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP SHOULD begin in NOVEMBER and DECEMBER of EACH YEAR, NOT BEGIN IN JANUARY. The hardest part of the membership year SHOULD be at the END of each calendar year, not January.

Your Club President and Membership Chair have received lists of those ladies who have not re-upped with your club in the past few years. Statewide, **THOUSANDS** of ladies have fallen through the cracks. So, ladies, please consider the following:

- Ask your current AND incoming Membership Chairmen for a **list of ladies** that **YOU** can **personally** be responsible for helping to re-up for your club.
- Offer to be on your Membership Chair's team to call, go by, and personally pick-up membership dues/checks for re-ups and new members.

And for Membership Chairmen and Treasurers:

- ADD workers to your team. A good rule of thumb: add one team member for each 25 members total in your club. Each volunteer will be responsible for their 25.
- **Membership Chairmen/Treasurers** – TURN in Memberships MONTHLY or even BI-MONTHLY if you have a large group joining at one time. **Do NOT hold** memberships, even if it's ONE membership. This keeps our new members from access to our website or receiving TFRW or NFRW information.

Email me your favorite MEMBERSHIP EVENT ideas for November and December. I know you are having some great fun out there! One club is sharing a 'GIFT' with their members until Christmas by asking them to join for \$15. After that time, their regular membership dues will go into effect.

We've been Blessed, received God's Mercy, and may we not squander the opportunity that this Victory provides and move forward with a new zeal! Have fun signing up everyone.

Thank you, Ladies!



Treasurer's Update

by Treasurer Cindy Barberio Payne
treasurer@tfrw.org

Is it Treasurer Transition Time?

If your term as Club Treasurer is expiring, your goal should be to hand off all financial books and records in an organized and timely manner to the incoming Treasurer. Planning for a smooth transition and passing on knowledge and information saves time and effort, minimizes confusion, and provides closure for outgoing officers.



Checklist of Treasurer Transition Items

1. Schedule a meeting (or meetings) as soon as possible with the incoming Treasurer.
2. Provide a list of tasks required or written procedures for the Treasurer position.
3. Review account balances, budgets, cash flow, and other records as necessary.
4. Discuss upcoming payments and deadlines.
5. Deliver all banking supplies (checks, deposit slips, endorsement stamps, etc.).
6. Transfer software/computer files used to track income and expenditures.
7. Furnish passwords, account accesses, and authorizations as appropriate.
8. Assist with new Signature Cards at financial institutions (removing old signers and adding new signers).
9. Share any tips or techniques for making the job easier.

Remember to turn over ALL funds, accounting records, and related materials. These records belong to the club, and the incoming officers need to have all the tools necessary to take the reins and contribute to the club's efforts immediately. Organization and documentation are key to maintaining continuity and to ensuring success in 2017!

PUBLIC RELATIONS/TEXAS STAR EDITOR

The Most Improved Newsletter and the Best Newsletter Awards

Has YOUR Club Updated its Newsletter with the NEW AWARDS Requirements for 2016-2017?

The updated forms for the “Most Improved Newsletter Award” and the “Best Newsletter Award” are on the TFRW Website for your newsletter editor to download and review.

REMEMBER, the best communications tool in your club is your newsletter, whether hardcopy or as an E-Newsletter! Share copies of your newsletter with your friends, as a member recruitment tool, and your community library!

Here is a great opportunity to share with your members and your communities all of the hard work that Texas Republican Women are doing. Share your newsletters with your elected officials and other clubs!

What is the No. 1 Item missing from club submissions to date?

- Full name of club above, below, or in the masthead
- **INCLUDING** THE TFRW Region No: ____ AND THE Senate District No: ____



It's important to review the updates in the Content Requirements that must be in each newsletter and the Additional Content Requirements that must be in four (4) newsletters.

A Newsletter Awards Selection Committee appointed by the TFRW President will consider all newsletter awards applications.

Remember that each club must submit hardcopies of:

1. **Two** club newsletters from 2016 **AND**
2. **Two** club newsletters from 2017

when you submit your award application.

The categories for both of the awards are based upon the size of the club's membership:

- **Small** – 10-30 members
- **Medium** – 31-60 members
- **Large** – 61-100 members
- **Jumbo** – 101-200 members
- **Super Jumbo** – 201+ members

**** For the “Round Texas” section of the Texas STAR, your club must identify by name and office any individual in a picture.**

Email your newsletter/press release and/or send a hard copy to me when you publish it. ******

Barbara Tague * TFRW Public Relations Chair/Texas Star Editor * pr@tfrw.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An Exciting New Year!

Wishing you all a wonderful and Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a very Happy New Year! There is so much for which to be thankful. It was so inspiring to see everyone come together to assure victory in this election!

December is the best time to not only reach out to your alliances and invite them to join your club, but also to renew contacts with former members who have not been active in the club for a while. The excitement of a Republican Victory will also assist us in recruiting additional new members.

It will indeed be an exciting new year. TFRW will present the Champion of Freedom event and award in 2017. Our local clubs will have an opportunity to participate, as we will have our traditional Basket Auction at Legislative Day, and all proceeds will go toward the funding of this event. So begin to plan your basket auction items and theme in January for your club's entry in the Basket Auction. More details to follow. Thank you, and Happy New Year!

Mary Mayo * TFRW Community Engagement Chair * community@tfrw.org

HOSPITALITY

Recent Hospitality Contributions

We close out the year with so many great clubs donating to Hospitality. Thank you!

New clubs donating during this past month:

North Shore Republican Women

Cy-Fair Republican Women

Republican Women of Greater North Texas

(Our apologies for not printing your correct name in the October issue.)

This is a reminder that your club receives BONUS points toward your 2016-2017 John Goodwin Tower Award for donating to Hospitality.

If you have not yet donated, do not despair! The points are offered for a one-time donation over the two-year award period.

We hope you will add your club's name to our generous donors in 2017 –

And thank you, to all the clubs who have, for your generosity!

These clubs will receive bonus points for the 2016-2017 John Goodwin Tower Award. Don't you want to join them?

Belinda Frisk * bfrisk@gvtc.com

Patti Johnson * pattihj@gvtc.com



<https://shop.trump2016.com/products/make-coffee-great-again-mug>

SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE

Social Media and Website Guidelines for TFRW Clubs

1. Always have more than one Website/Page/Group administrator. The current Club President MUST ALWAYS have the highest level administrator status in all sites, pages, or groups.
2. Keep your club contact information and meeting information current on your Website/Page/Group's "About" setting. If you check your page TODAY, does it have information about your next meeting or your Christmas party in 2013?
3. Remember the TFRW Bylaws – clubs cannot endorse in contested GOP primaries or in non-partisan races. Do not use your Website, Facebook Page or Group to promote one candidate over another (even if the candidate in question is a member of your club).
4. To prevent campaign staff from posting to your Website/Page/Group too frequently, require all posts to be approved and make sure this is monitored. If this is too time-consuming for your club, do not use the Groups feature in Facebook at all – set up a Facebook Page and limit posting to administrators.
5. Post a policy in the "About" section of your Page or Group requiring civil discourse. Ask that users be kind and refrain from using confrontational language – all language should be "family-friendly." Posts should be political in nature, and refrain from solicitations outside club activities. Above all, state in your "About" section that as a TFRW federated club, your club supports the entire Republican ticket, and posts should reflect that. If you have a repeat offender, we recommend:
 - a. Contact the individual privately, and ask that they remain civil.
 - b. If they continue to cause problems on the Page or Group, exercise the "ban" feature. If the individual is a member of your club, speak with her offline about the issue. If necessary, involve your board and District Director.
 - c. If the posts are of a threatening nature, report them to Facebook for action or to the authorities if they represent an immediate danger.
6. Do not post photos of any children unless you have express, written permission from parents and guardians.
7. Do not post personal or confidential information on Websites, Pages, or Groups.
8. If you ever have a question about whether something is appropriate for your page, err on the side of caution and refrain from posting it or approving it.
9. Remember that you are promoting not just your club, but the Texas Federation of Republican Women, our Republican candidates, message, and our party as a whole. Make sure you are sharing information that will be useful and interesting not just to your members, but to anyone who comes looking for your page.



AMERICANISM

Daily Observances: December 2016

December is a month of **multicultural holiday celebrations**. The religions and traditions of our ancestors still prevail in our country. After all, America is a “melting pot of civilizations” from all over the world. One cannot visit Disneyland without hearing the lyrics, “It’s a small world after all.”

Twenty-four days before Christmas, **Advent** begins with lighting the first of four candles on each Sunday on the altar surrounded by a wreath of green.

December 6th is **St. Nicholas Day**, first celebrated in Germany and Poland and other European countries with a Mass or worship service. Children await a visit from St. Nicholas to place a gift under their pillows if they were good and a piece of coal and a stick if they were bad. In the Netherlands, children put out a clog filled with hay and a carrot for St. Nicholas. That sounds like cookies and milk for Santa and treats for the reindeer.



December 13th is a **Church Feast of St. Lucia**. She comes with sweets and lights in the Scandinavian countries. This has become the Christmas candle-light services in America.

December 24th, according to the Hebrew calendar for this year is the beginning of **Hanukkah**, commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. It is observed for eight nights and days. Each night, one of the eight candles of the menorah is lit by the Shamash. The festivities include playing with the dreidel and eating Latkes. The giving of gifts is only practiced in America.

December 24th is **Christmas Eve** and December 25th is **Christmas Day** which commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. The exact date of the birth of Jesus is not known, but the Catholic Church has been celebrating the 25th since 336

A.D. The Gregorian calendar determines the date. When the journey of Mary and Joseph ended in Bethlehem there was no room at the Inn. When Jesus was born, he was placed in a manger in a barn and a star shone overhead for all to see. Christmas trees, decorations, gifts, nativity scenes, and mistletoe are all identified with this holy event. The hymns and music are part of the celebrations all over the world. Churches everywhere resound with “Silent Night,” “Joy to the world,” and “Oh Come All Ye Faithful” to name just a few of everyone’s favorites.

December 26th – January 6th is **Kwanzaa** (African American) began in 1966-67 by Maulana Karenga. It ends with a feast and gift giving with family and friends.

January 6th is **Epiphany** commemorating the visit of the Maji to the Christ Child.

Jeanne O’Neill and June Rentmeester Americanism Co-Chairmen

Significant Days in December

- 7 National Pearl Harbor Day*
(Fly flag at half staff until sunset)
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 21 Winter Begins
- 25 Christmas Day*

* Fly Your American Flag

Please provide the form for the 2016-2017 Americanism Award to your clubs (on page 11). We would like to see as many clubs as possible participate in this award! You may also find the form by [clicking here](#) and in the members’ section of our website.

TFRW Americanism Award

*Please provide this form to your clubs.
We would like to see as many clubs as possible participate in this award.*

2016-2017 TFRW Americanism Award

What has your club done to celebrate and embrace Americanism?

- Have you supported the troops?
- Have you presented a program on the Constitution or Flag Protocol?
- Have you done community service?
- Have you participated in local parades?

Submit this completed form along with an outline of your activities for Americanism programs or projects to be considered for the 2016-2017 TFRW Americanism Award. Please also submit documentation such as photos, news articles, records, and programs. This may be submitted in paper form or e-mailed. These are to be submitted with a postmark no later than September 3, 2017.

Please send to:
June Rentmeester
440 Independence Parkway #2129
Plano, Texas 75075-8039
or e-mail it to johnren1936@gmail.com

Name of Club: _____

Club's Senate District # _____

Name and address of member submitting for club award:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Size of Club (*One award will be given for each Club Membership Level*):

- Small Club - 10-30 Members
- Medium Club - 31-60 Members
- Large Club - 61-100 Members
- Jumbo Club - 101-200 Members
- Super Jumbo Club - 201 Members and Up

Thank You!

June Rentmeester * 469-585-8387 and Jeannee O'Neill * 214-215-7730 * Americanism Co-Chairmen



TEXAS FEDERATION
of
Republican Women

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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.

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