



THE REDWOOD

The Official Newsletter of The Woodlands Republican Women

January 2023

TFRW Region 17

Senate District 4

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**Previous Editions of
The Redwood available [here!](#)**

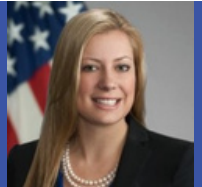


From the President

Jessica Hart Steinmann

832-535-7332

#KEEPIRED



Greetings and Happy New Year my fellow Republican women!

The holiday season serves as a reminder to be grateful for the things that matter, like our freedom, protecting our families, and our constitutional rights. We encourage you to raise your VOICE and continue our efforts to save our country from the radical Left.

I am thrilled to be taking on this mission as President of The Woodlands Republican Women for 2023. We will build on the fantastic strides made in 2022 by our past president Lisa Gilmore. I am excited about all the programming and campaign efforts we are planning to make this year even better for our club!

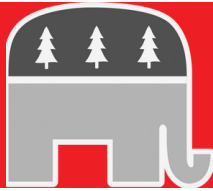
For those of you who do not know my background, I am a lawyer by trade, starting at Bracewell in Houston before serving with the Harris County Republican Party. Following those jobs, I was proud to serve Senator Ted Cruz as his Houston Regional Director before joining the Trump Administration as a senior official with the U.S. Department of Justice. I am now serving as executive staff and the General Counsel for America First Policy Institute, overseeing the group's legal affairs and litigation, designed to protect our freedom and religious liberty.

I was raised in Clear Lake but was also fortunate to live overseas for a while during my childhood. However, I was so happy my husband Brandon (our newly-elected Montgomery County Clerk) and I were able to return home to Montgomery County to start our family. Our newborn son, Luke Alexander (3 months), has been such a blessing.

We have a great year planned and a fantastic group of women to help lead the club. I look forward to working with all of you to help grow our Republican party here in The Woodlands!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at presidentTWRW@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to help with or lead any of our club's committees.

God bless you, and may you be prosperous and happy in 2023!



Mark Your Calendar



TWRW 2023 Luncheon Schedule

January 17

February 21

March 21

April 18

May: Date, Time, & Location TBD

No Luncheons in June or July

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 14

December 12

*Monthly luncheons are at
The Woodlands Country Club Palmer Course
100 Grand Fairway
The Woodlands 77381*

*RSVPs must be paid online in
advance, [here](#).
Thank you!*

Noteworthy Events

January TWRW Executive Board Meeting
Date, Time, & Location TBD

February 3
TFRW Legislative Day
Austin, TX
~ details on page 7 ~

February 4
TFRW 1st Quarter Board Meeting
Austin, TX

March 24 - 25
NFRW Spring 2023 Board Meeting
Alexandria, VA

March 28
Greater Houston Council
"Original" Nuts 'N Bolts Workshop
Mendenhall Center

May 16
Greater Houston Council
General Meeting for Club Presidents,
Club Delegates, and Club Members
Mendenhall Center

September 28 - October 1
NFRW 42nd Biennial Convention
Oklahoma City, OK



January Luncheon - Tuesday, January 17
TWRW Welcomes Brandon Waltens, Texas Scorecard
11:30 am - 1:00 pm at [The Woodlands Country Club Palmer Course](#)
[100 Grand Fairway, The Woodlands 77381](#)
RSVPs MUST BE MADE BY 4 PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, ON WEBSITE

Cindy Heiser
VP of Programs



RSVP HERE



Brandon Waltens
Managing Editor Texas Scorecard

Brandon Waltens serves as the Managing Editor for *Texas Scorecard*: "Real News for Real Texans." After managing successful campaigns for top conservative legislators Matt Rinaldi and Briscoe Cain and serving as a Chief of Staff for Representative Cain in the Texas Capitol, Brandon moved outside the dome in order to shine a spotlight on conservative victories and establishment corruption in Austin. Brandon is a graduate of Baylor University and currently resides in the Austin area. @bwaltens

Following is a November 30, 2022, article from Brandon Waltens in *Texas Scorecard*:

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick Previews Priorities Ahead of Legislature's Return
Property tax relief, increased teacher pay, and electric grid reform are just a few of the priorities Patrick said he would like lawmakers to consider in the upcoming session.

With just over a month until the Texas Legislature is slated to return, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick previewed his priorities for the upcoming session, including property tax relief, protecting the state's electric grid, and raising teacher pay. Patrick's announcement came in the form of a press conference shortly after the Legislative Budget Board approved the spending cap for the upcoming biennial budget. With the state facing an over \$27 billion surplus, pressure has grown for lawmakers to return the money.

Gov. Greg Abbott has stated that "at least half" of the money should go toward property tax relief, committing to put the state on a path toward the elimination of school property taxes. This plan was endorsed at the time by Patrick, who said the amount should be "at least half" of the surplus. Patrick's current proposal, which he warned were "general concepts" that he would like senators to think about before the start of the session, calls for an increase in the homestead exemption, a move he estimated could cost \$4-5 billion over the course of 2024-2025. "Much of what I'm laying out today is not specific

because it's really up to the members to write the bills in the Senate and the House," said Patrick. "It's good that the Legislature's back. We have an extraordinary opportunity, unlike we have never had before, to chart the future of the state of Texas and create a vision." Patrick did indicate, however, that more could be done. We need to do more than just the homestead exemption, whether it's a one-time dividend to taxpayers, and that's a little difficult to do constitutionally," said Patrick. "But we need a robust property tax cut for everyone in the state." Patrick did warn, however, that he did not want to bust the spending cap for property tax relief, saying it could set a "dangerous precedent."

On the issue of the electric grid, Patrick said more needs to be done to ensure a similar blackout like the one that affected the state during the winter storms in 2021 does not happen again. "We need to redesign the market to make sure there is enough generation and there's enough power," said Patrick. "We can't leave here next spring unless we have a plan for more natural gas power." "If you can't turn the lights on, you don't have a Texas miracle," he added.

On the issue of education, Patrick echoed his previous calls for increasing pay for current and retired teachers, as well as increased student aid to prospective teachers and school safety funding. Shannon Holmes, the director of the Association of Texas Professional Educators, the state's largest teachers union, said that while the proposal was "welcome," she was also cautious. "At the 30,000-foot level, those sound good. But the devil is always in the details, and we urge lawmakers to listen to the feedback of public educators as they craft these plans to ensure they are designed to ultimately provide maximum benefit for Texas students," said Holmes.

The Legislature will convene on January 10, 2023.

Article continues with Patrick's full list of priorities [here](#).

Membership

Beverly Briggs

VP of Membership
936-900-8430



I am pleased to embrace the role of VP of Membership for 2023. As a TFRW Large club in 2022, we have set a goal of Jumbo status for The Woodlands Republican Women in 2023! If you have any questions regarding TWRW membership, please feel free to reach out to me at my contact info in my byline.

Note: For greater detail of the TWRW membership classifications, please see TWRW Bylaws, Article IV Membership, [here](#).

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OR RENEW](#)

TWRW has four classifications of membership:

- **Primary** – a Primary member is counted in one RW club and is a member of TFRW and NFRW upon payment of the required dues.
- **Associate** – A Republican woman who is a Primary member of another federated RW club and wishes to support The Woodlands RW is eligible for Associate membership upon payment of the required dues.
- **Young Affiliate** – A Young Affiliate is a woman, age 13-17, who wishes to affiliate with a local RW club and may do so upon payment of the required dues.
- **Associate Men** – Republican men are eligible for Associate membership upon payment of the required dues.



MEMBERSHIP QR CODE



Volunteer Campaign Hours Reporting

Susanna Cronin
Campaign Activities Chair



Your campaign hours, by January 7th!

Please submit volunteer campaign hours worked from October 1 through December 31.

Thank you for paying attention to this important item. Please submit hours to me by email with the subject line: "TWRW Campaign Hours" at: SSovran@gmail.com.

Note:

- ▶ All time at TWRW meetings now counts.
- ▶ Paid hours also count, as long as they are not your main income source.
- ▶ Count time voting.
- ▶ Count time training to be a voter registrar.
- ▶ Count time registering voters and working the polls.
- ▶ Include prep and travel time!

Legislative

Ann Herbek
Legislative Chair



From Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities Report

"The Biden administration took power in January 2021 and has threatened our American institutions and civil liberties more than anyone could have imagined. Medical freedom and religious liberty have come under attack. Parents concerned with Critical Race Theory and the sexual grooming of public school children have been branded as domestic terrorists by the Biden justice department, while the public school establishment has fought legislative efforts to remove obscene materials from school libraries and curriculum. Gender ideology and a broken culture have spurred an exponential increase in gender identity disorder while pediatric gender modification medical practices continue.

Even though strides have been made we need to do much more to address parental rights, the protection of children, and the infiltration of "woke" culture into virtually every American institution."

From Ann: Inflation is out of control, the southern border is in crisis mode, and crime is surging. Our lawmakers will need our input and support to resolve these issues. Please take advantage of the programs and opportunities we share so you can make a difference at our State Capitol!

Meeting Memories: December 20th Luncheon with Senator Brandon Creighton



Thank you, Senator Creighton, for installing the 2023 Elected Board of The Woodlands Republican Women

Congratulations to our incoming 2023 Elected Officers!

Jessica Hart Steinmann, Cindy Heiser, Beverly Briggs (not pictured), Patty Carter, Lisa Dunton, Dianne Holmes



Lisa Gilmore, outgoing President of TWRW, a fearless leader who will be greatly missed. Thank you for your service, Lisa, and we look forward to seeing your future endeavors and maintaining a close relationship!



Texas Federation of Republican Women's Legislative Day, February 3, 2023 Austin, Texas

*Plan
to
attend!*



The following is from the December, 2022 edition of *TFRW Today*.

Legislative Day Update **Robbi Hull, VP Legislation**

I hope that this update finds you all feeling blessed. We have so much to be thankful for following the November election!

We held all of our statewide offices and gained a seat in the state house and in the state senate, we are spreading the Republican philosophy and making gains in South Texas, and most importantly, the good Lord let us get up this morning. As we enter the season where many of us celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ while other of our members celebrate Hanukkah, my hope is for the gift of peace and unity for our members, their families, and their friends.

I also hope that each of you will give yourself a gift: Registration for Legislative Day! **Legislative Day is on Friday, February 3rd**, and it will be a day of training and presentations by an amazing cast of Republicans with extensive experience in Texas government. We recognize that Biden's inflation has impacted us all, so we are holding our registration cost at 2021 levels – **Early Bird registration for Legislative Day and Luncheon will be \$85**. Hotel rates at the AT&T Conference Center are \$219 per night excluding taxes and parking. This is the lowest price available in the immediate area, so you'll want to book your hotel room as soon as possible. We will be sending out the registration and hotel reservation links for Legislative Day soon.

For those who can schedule to arrive early on Thursday, February 2nd, we'd love for you to meet us at the Capitol for recognition in one of the Legislative Chambers and to get a group picture. You'll also have time to visit your local representatives. More specific details will be coming soon regarding Thursday's activities.

The 2023 Legislative Session will be fast and furious. The Regular Session begins on January 10th and runs for 140 days through May 29th. The last day to file a bill (the 60th day) is March 10th, but thousands of bills will be filed prior to the beginning of the session. Returning incumbents began filing bills on November 14th, so hundreds of bills have been filed. See [Filed House Bills](#) and [Filed Senate Bills](#).

As an organization, TFRW primarily will follow bills relating to Education and Election Integrity. These two legislative priorities may encompass dozens of bills, so we will keep you posted about the ones we are following that are moving (to committee hearing and beyond). And, Legislative Day training will prepare you to follow these bills and as well as those in which you have a personal interest and show you how to share your opinions and feedback to committees and representatives handling those bills. **So register early and join us in Austin in February 2023!**

I'm excited to share my knowledge and the knowledge of our speakers with you as we continue to build strong leaders for Texas.

I wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas and Hanukkah.

Texas Federation of Republican Women Candidate Development Program



The following is from the December, 2022 edition of *TFRW Today*.

Candidate Development Program Trasa Cobern, Candidate School Coordinator

The 2022 General Election is over, and TFRW women running for office did extremely well! Of 40+ statewide candidates who are current members of a TFRW club, at least 28 were elected, with a couple of races still being tallied when this article went to print. That's a success rate of roughly 70%!

The Texas Federation of Republican Women is invested in helping Republican women get elected, at every level, from Justice of the Peace to School Board Trustees to Congressional Representatives. We will support you and aid you if you choose to run.

NOW is the time to think about running in 2023 for Municipal and School Board races, or in 2024 for county/state/national races. If you are even entertaining the thought of running for an elected office, I strongly encourage you to apply for the 2023 cohort of the TFRW Candidate Development Program.

This program brings in national, state and local level elected officials and experts to speak to our group, and works through action steps that can help you to plan out your campaign in advance. Shellie Ferguson, Precinct Chair from Wise County Republican Party and member of the 2021 Summer Cohort, said that after completing the course, "The TFRW Candidate Development Program empowered me with the tools and knowledge I needed to step up and run for an elected office. It was a great experience collaborating with like-minded women who fostered confidence and still to this day [offer] their unwavering support."

The 2023 cohort will occur on Thursday nights via Zoom, June 1st through July 27th, with the week of Independence Day off. Speakers will be announced prior to the beginning of the course.

Applications will be available on the TFRW website beginning February 1st and will be due, along with your taxes, on April 15th. The application is fairly simple and straightforward, with a short essay and several references required, one of whom must be a TFRW member. The applicant must be a member in good standing of a TFRW club at the time of application.

Ladies, running for office is not for the faint of heart, but we know that our TFRW sisters are bold advocates for our Republican beliefs. More qualified women need to run, and by "qualified," I do not mean those who have a long list of resume items. While those are sometimes helpful, what I refer to are the intangible qualities of character, grit and determination. As Teddy Roosevelt stated in his famous speech, *Citizen of a Republic*:

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena...who does actively strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause...his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

If you want to run for office, DO IT! But go in with your eyes wide open and all the tools available in your tool belt. The Candidate Development Program will help you. If you want to ask questions, feel free to reach out to me at 817-901-0571 or trasa@trasarobertsoncobern.com. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing your applications in February!



[CLICK IMAGE FOR DECEMBER 20, 2022, GENERAL MEETING MINUTES](#)





2023 TWRW EXECUTIVE BOARD

If interested in serving with TWRW, please reach out to the committee chair. Thank you.

Position	Name	Email
President	Jessica Hart Steinmann	PresidentTWRW@gmail.com
First VP of Programs	Cindy Heiser	Cpheiser15@gmail.com
Second VP of Membership	Beverly Briggs	B.briggs57@icloud.com
Third VP of Ways & Means	Lisa Dunton	Sjdunton@prodigy.net
Treasurer	Patty Carter	Pattycarter@kw.com
Secretary (recording)	Dianne Holmes	DGHolmes817@yahoo.com
Secretary (corresponding)	Brenda Johnson	Brenda.johnson56@icloud.com
Americanism	Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs	Sekulagibbs103@gmail.com
Awards	Amy Van Horn	Amy2rd@gmail.com
Bylaws	Beverly Briggs	B.briggs57@icloud.com
Campaign Activities	Susanna Cronin	Ssovrn@gmail.com
Caring for America	Alison Henderson	Henderson.alison@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain	Dr. Ashley Prince	Info@princehealth.org
Courtesy and Gifts	Brenda Key	Panthercreek2@sbcglobal.net
Courtesy and Gifts	Glenda Key	Mistybreeze2@sbcglobal.net
Greater Houston Council	Vacant	
HS Young Rep. Club/Scholarship	Vacant	
Historian	Vacant	
Hospitality	Ann Herbek	Aherbek814@att.net
Legislative	Ann Herbek	Aherbek814@att.net
Literacy	Janell Volke	Janellvolke@me.com
Newsletter	Dawn Allen	Dawn@wordenthusiast.org
Outreach	Rebecca Smith-Nash	Rebecca@counselingcentermoco.com
PAC Treasurer	Jessica Hart Steinmann	PresidentTWRW@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Sheri Hummer	Ssdhummer@aol.com
Past President	Lisa Gilmore	Lisahgilmore@gmail.com
Publicity	Eva Ray	123ecray@gmail.com

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