

Cy-Fair Republican Women

NEWSLETTER

August 2005

Jan's Jottings

What an exciting time this is, growing and developing a brand new Republican Women's Club and getting to know and become friends with so many wonderful people in the process. The enthusiasm for what we are doing is a wonderful thing to see. We are very fortunate to have so many people ready to step up and take on the responsibilities and hard work required to build Cy-Fair Republican Women into an effective and influential grass roots political organization. As we grow and get more established we will be more and more effective in being able to educate ourselves and others on important issues and be a strong grass roots team to help elect more Republicans.



There are so many important issues going on all around us right now. The Texas Legislature, now in its second special session this year, has certainly been struggling with the school tax and education reform bills. Donna Smith Cude, our Legislative Chairman, has noted some of the highlights of these and other issues in this newsletter. We will also have Representative Corbin Van Arsdale report on this year's legislative session at our September meeting. Have your questions ready!

We have been expecting to have a U.S. Supreme Court nomination for a long time. It has been a major issue in both of the last two Presidential elections. Now it has finally happened and it appears that President Bush has made an excellent choice. As women, I am sure that many of us may have liked to have seen another woman nominated to the court. But, first and foremost, I believe we want the very best person possible in that seat on the bench. By all accounts John Roberts has the intelligence and temperament to be exactly the kind of person we expect to see in that position. I hope Republicans will stand united behind the President's nominee.

We have again been reminded how important this war on terror is by the recent bombings in London, Turkey and Egypt. Our hearts go out to those who have lost friends and family due to these horrific acts. The terrorist groups are worldwide and threaten any democratic and free

way of life around the world. Whenever you see one of our servicemen or women and/or their families, remember to say thank you for their service to us and our country. They are a constant reminder that freedom is not free.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting on August 9. Pass on this newsletter and bring a friend. See you there!

**TUESDAY EVENING
AUGUST 9, 2005**

at the home of Rita Parrish
12406 Francel Lane
(in Longwood - Key Map 328X)

6:45 p.m. Social, 7:15 p.m. Meeting

**Please RSVP by August 6 to Jan at
J.ott@wcthou.com or 281-859-6464**

**Please Note!! This is a gated street
- if the gate is not open, scroll
down to Parrish on the screen and
follow the instructions. If you have a
problem, Rita's phone number is
281-376-1616**



Our speaker for the meeting will be from TxDOT. The Texas Legislature established the Texas Highway Department in 1917 to administer federal funds for highway construction and maintenance. Its responsibilities increased in 1975 when the Legislature merged the agency with the Texas Mass Transportation Commission to form the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation. In 1991, the Legislature combined the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, the Department of Aviation and the Texas Motor Vehicle Commission to create the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

You will want to hear about transportation projects for our area, many of which affect all of us every day. Have your questions ready for any transportation related issues you want to hear more about.



CFRW UPCOMING DATES
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



August 6 ---- RSVP for August meeting
September 13 ---- CFRW Meeting/Lunch - 9:30
September 20 ---- Greater Houston Council
September 21 ---- CFRW Board Meeting



MINUTES
July 12, 2005
CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN

The meeting was called to order by president, Jan Ott at 10:10 a.m. in the home of Bonnie Falton, 17307 Laguna Trail Drive.

Mary Atchison gave the invocation, followed by the pledges. District Director for TFRW Senatorial District 7, Pat McCall, was introduced, and new members were recognized.

Guest speaker Emily Munoz, Harris County Republican Party Outreach Committee Chairman, spoke to the club on outreach efforts directed to the minority communities in Harris County. Twenty-five per cent of registered voters in Harris County are Hispanic, and the HC GOP is opening a satellite office on Telephone Road to better reach this population. Two upcoming HC GOP events that Cy-Fair RW can participate in are a Patriot Day event to be held on Sept. 12 with keynote speaker Ari Fleischer speaking at the Ronald Reagan Dinner, and a Sept. 6 event to kick-off the reelection campaign for the HC GOP chairman to be attended by Governor Perry. Club members can register at harriscountygop.com to receive e-mail announcements about upcoming events.

The minutes of the June 21, 2005, meeting recorded by Stephanie DeHondt, Deborah Cooper and Jan Ott as secretaries pro-tem were approved. The treasurer's report was presented. Kay Waghorne announced raffles for today's meeting, with the drawing held at the end of the meeting. The raffles were won by Colleen Gilbert, Zina Holland, and Pat McCall. It was noted the newsletter can be mailed if you do not use e-mail, and can be so noted on membership forms. Deborah Cooper is reviewing several restaurants to use for next month's meeting. Publicity announcements about the formation of Cy-Fair RW have been placed in the Sun, Kreneck newsletters, Katy and other area papers.

Federal and State legislature activity was discussed.

A motion was made by Mary Atchison to amend the by-laws as follows: Section 2 (f) duties of the treasurer: "She shall ensure that adequate records are kept to satisfy the requirements of the Texas Ethics Commission and Texas election laws, and shall file all reports required by them in a timely fashion. She shall submit her financial records to the internal review committee for an end of the year review no later than December 31". The motion was seconded and passed.

The Texas Department of Transportation will hold meetings July 28, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Katy ISD Merrill Center and on August 8 at the Magnolia Community Center to discuss the Trans-Texas Corridor.

Noting that the next general meeting will be August 9th at 6:45 p.m., Jan adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by
Kitty Berger, Secretary

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Thank you to Bonnie Falton for having us to her home and to Deborah Cooper and Kitty Berger for providing the delicious food for lunch at the last meeting.





LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State legislation:

During the regular session, the Texas legislature passed two major pieces of legislation intended to benefit businesses in the state as well as to attract out of state businesses to our state. They were House Bill 7, workers' compensation reform, and SB 8, asbestos lawsuit reform.

There were many factors driving HB 7, including the fact that it costs 6 times more to treat a workers compensation patient, than a patient with a similar malady that was not work-related. Workers' compensation premiums are becoming astronomical, and in many instances, it is the small businesses who are suffering the most. HB7 reformed the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, by eliminating that commission and replacing it with a single commissioner who is now overseen by the Texas Department of Insurance. The TDI has done an excellent job of overseeing the insurance industry in Texas and it is expected to do the same in the comp arena. Additionally, and most importantly, the bill permits employers to establish a network system of physicians that suits their particular needs. It allows companies to "shop" for the physicians of their choice if they are dissatisfied for any reason. There are exceptions to employees having to use the network in cases where employees live outside the area, in cases of life-threatening injuries or illnesses, or in situations where chronic pain has been diagnosed. Let's keep our eye on whether this new system will finally bring the workers' compensation system in our state under control!

Senate Bill 8 reformed the asbestos litigation crisis. Guess what? Under the new legislation, a plaintiff must actually show they have been injured to be able to file suit for asbestos injury. Further, the plaintiff must have actually seen a legitimate physician and been given a diagnosis before he can sue. Previously anyone who was exposed to asbestos, whether or not actually injured, was permitted to file suit. Sounds like a step in the right direction.

Pending Bills:

In response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision on eminent domain, the legislature is set to pass new legislation to amend the Texas State Constitution. Under the proposed amendment, the government's right to take property for "public use" is being redefined to clarify that public use does not mean that the government can take property to get more revenue. We can expect to be voting on this issue in the fall.

HB2, the school finance reform bill, was set to be passed by the First Special Session, but Senator John Whitmire of the Heights filibustered and time ran out. You can expect that it will be taken up in the Second Special Session, which began on July 21st. Here are some of the main attributes to House Bill 2:

- Teacher Pay Raise: Average \$2,000 increase in 2006, with another \$500 increase in 2007.
- Incentive pay based on student achievement.
- More money for classroom instruction: 65% of funding must be spent on direct classroom instruction by 2009/10

- provisions for low-performing school intervention
- state-paid college entrance exams and college preparation exams
- School to start the day after Labor Day and end no later than June 7, effective for the 2006-07 school year.
- Elections to be held in November in even-numbered years.

Federal legislation:

Currently, Congress is on break. Thus, nothing much is happening other than the discussions concerning the nomination of John Roberts to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Republican National Lawyers' Association has given a ringing endorsement of Judge Roberts. It is this author's opinion from reading excerpts of cases he has decided that he will give deference to legislation passed by the will of the people and will not legislate from the bench.

Federal Movement on Immigration Issue:

Senators are finally heeding the call from concerned Republicans to get serious about improving our immigration system. Our own Senator John Cornyn has introduced a bill along with Arizona Republican, Senator Jon Kyl. This bill calls for illegal aliens to be allowed five years of temporary legal status before they would be required to return home, from where they could apply for a new guest-worker program open to any foreigner who qualifies. In addition, the bill calls for additional border enforcement efforts and 10,000 additional agents to conduct employer checks and enforcement actions against employers who hire illegal aliens.

Republican Senator John McCain has joined with Democrat Ted Kennedy and filed a bill to increase immigration workers by 400,000, while offering illegal aliens the opportunity to pay a fine and be placed on a multi-faceted track to citizenship status.

Representative Tom Tancredo of Colorado, Republican, has introduced a bill which improves enforcement mechanisms only.

It remains to be seen which of these bills, if any, will gain any traction in Congress. At least it's a start!

*Submitted by Donna Smith Cude
Legislative Committee*

NEWS AND NOTES



Publicity: We are excited about our initial response to the club and are looking for ways to grow our membership. We have put articles in the Katy and 1960 area Krenek newsletters, the 6 Sun newsletters and Longwood newsletters. If anyone has any other ideas for publicity please let Kay know.



Ways and Means: Fund raising for our group is underway. We will hold a "selection raffle" for 3 different items at each of our meetings. Tickets are \$1 each or 10 for \$5. You then put your tickets in the selected basket for any item or items you would like to win in the raffle. This event seems to be big hit. "Unique" raffle item donations are accepted.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
Affiliations:
National Federation of Republican Women
Texas Federation of Republican Women
Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN
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HOUSTON, TX 77095

Stay informed! There is seemingly unlimited news and information on the internet; here are just a few interesting web sites that may be of interest.

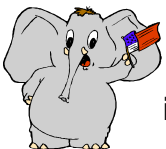
<http://thomas.loc.gov/> - Acting under the directive of the leadership of the 104th Congress to make Federal legislative information freely available to the Internet public, a Library of Congress team brought the THOMAS World Wide Web system online in January 1995, at the inception of the 104th Congress. Texts of bills are updated several times a day.

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> - Updates on what is going on in the Texas legislature.

<http://www.texaspolicy.com/> - The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-partisan research institute guided by the core principles of limited government, free markets, private property rights, individual liberty and personal responsibility. The Foundation seeks to improve Texas government by producing academically sound research on important issues offered to policy makers, opinion leaders, the media and general public.

<http://www.ghcrwpac.org> – Greater Houston Council

<http://www.tfrw.org> – Texas Federation of Republican Women



The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery.

—Winston Churchill