



Cy-Fair Republican Women

NEWSLETTER
May 2009

A Minute with Mary



TFRW Legislative Day 2009 was a rare treat for those of us who attended. Fifteen stalwart ladies represented CFRW at the various functions associated with Legislative Day. It was an inspiring, informative, exciting, tiring and fun two days!

Several of us drove to Austin on Wednesday, April 15. After lunch we quickly got settled and made our way to the steps of our great Capitol to attend one of the many "Tea Parties" held across the nation. The afternoon was beautiful; the crowd was a mixture of old, young and everything in between. We had such fun reading the signs. Who says Republicans are stuffy? Some of them were extremely witty while others were downright funny. U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul and several state legislators gave rousing speeches lambasting the federal government's runaway spending. The crowd then followed the members of the armed forces who were in attendance down Congress Ave. to Lady Bird Lake for the symbolic throwing of the tea in the water. To take a line from movie credits – no animals (or the lake) were harmed in the protest. (The boxes marked "tea" had no real tea in them, but beach balls, so that they would float. Designated people in canoes retrieved the boxes). This was the first "protest" that most of us had ever attended. It's never too late to be a "radical"!

That evening several of our ladies attended a dinner hosted by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst. It was held in honor of the winning clubs in the Dewhurst General Election Campaign Hour Contest. CFRW won second place in the medium-size club category and received a check for \$750! Thanks to all of you who worked on campaigns in the general election. A special thanks goes to Pam Waldren, our past Campaign Activities Chairman, who kept such good records and filed all the necessary paperwork for us to win this award.

Thursday morning we attended a breakfast hosted by



CFRW UPCOMING DATES MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- May 12.....CFRW Meeting
Hearthstone Country Club
- September 10-13..NFRW Biennial Convention
Orlando, FL
- October 2.....CFRW High Heels and High Tea
Luncheon and Fashion Show
Houston National Golf Club
- November 13-15...TFRW Convention
Galveston, TX

State Comptroller Susan Combs. Then we were off to the Capitol to visit with various state representatives, sit in the galleries of the House and Senate to hear proclamations honoring TFRW, and tour our impressive Capitol.

During lunch we heard from Gov. Perry, Sen. Hutchison, Lt. Gov. Dewhurst, and members of the board of TFRW. After lunch there was an interesting panel discussion with four of the people vying for the Senate seat that Sen. Hutchison is expected to relinquish to run for governor - RR Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones, State Senator Florence Shapiro, past Sec. of State Roger Williams, and RR Commissioner Michael Williams. Then we attended various workshops dealing with reaching out to the younger generation, citizen lobbyist training, and the future of our Party.

A few of our members are Patrons of TFRW. They closed their day with a tour of the Speaker's apartment in the Capitol building. What a treat to see the behind the scenes workings of the Capitol building and the spectacular renovations of the Speaker's apartment.

TFRW Legislative Day is always a great event to attend. This year was no exception. I hope that all of you will try to make the next one in 2011!

Mary Moss



MAY MEETING



**TUESDAY
MAY 12, 2009**

**Time: 10:30 AM - Coffee/Social
11:00 AM - Speaker/Meeting
12:00 PM - Lunch**

**Place: HEARTHSTONE COUNTRY CLUB
7615 Ameswood Road
Houston, TX**

Lunch to be Served

Blue Cheese Cobb Salad
with Grilled Chicken
Assorted Bread

**PLEASE RSVP:
No later than Noon on
Friday, May 8**

**Online at www.cfrw.net
Julie McCracken: 281-398-2687
or
juliemc23@sbcglobal.net**

PROGRAM

**Guest speaker is Mr. Leo Vasquez,
Harris County Tax Assessor -
Collector and Voter Registrar**

(See following page for more info)



CFRW Board Members

President: Mary Moss
281-550-9415
moss311@sbcglobal.net
Programs: Rita Parrish
281-376-1616
reparish@hotmail.com
Ways & Means: Millie Alford
713-466-0731
mcaphd@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Betty Guthrie
281-370-3956
BLPGuthrie@aol.com
Recording Secretary: TBD

Treasurer: Barbara Buxton
832-559-3855
barbarabuxton@comcast.net
**Past President &
Awards: Kay Waghorne**
281-550-1723
kwaghorne@msn.com
Parliamentarian: Jan Ott
281-859-6464
J.ott@wcthou.com
Membership: Joy Gregory
281-463-8203
joygregory@sbcglobal.net
Hospitality: Julie McCracken
281-398-2687
juliemc23@sbcglobal.net
Campaign Activities: Dawn Fobbs
281-463-4218
msdawn@sbcglobal.net
Legislative: Dawn Shull
281-376-2067
dshull@comcast.net
Caring for America: Debbie Brown
281-859-3239
diamond.deb@earthlink.net
Publicity: Pam Waldren
281-859-8162
pwroses@sbcglobal.net
Historian: Judith Stokes
281-304-6281
rlsdaystar@hotmail.com
Literacy Program: Mary Atchison
281-855-6706
mary@wcthou.com
Registration: Clarisa Chavez
832-814-4976
Chavezantos@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain: Suzanne Davis
713-562-4901
threedavishome@sbcglobal.net
Web: Kristen Govantes
281-712-1759
gandkgovantes@gmail.com





LEO VASQUEZ - Rita Parrish



Our speaker for this month's meeting is our new Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar Mr. Leo Vasquez. He was appointed in December, 2008, by the Harris County Commissioners Court to fill the vacancy left by resigning Assessor- Collector Paul Bettencourt.

Previous to taking this new position Mr. Vasquez served as chief financial officer for Cadeco Industries, a Houston-based coffee processor and distributor. He has also been a member of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Board and served for six years as a commissioner for the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation.

Mr. Vasquez said focusing on customer service and efficiency will be a priority. He also planned to meet with each department and with community stakeholders during his first 100 days in office.

He stated that he has enjoyed working behind-the-scenes in Republican politics and is looking forward to the opportunity to "see if I could do some more to help improve efficient government, smaller government and better government for Harris County."



CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES



ITS NOT TOO LATE TO BECOME A DEPUTY VOTER REGISTRAR

Many of us attended one of the Deputy Voter Registrar Workshops that were held last month. Thank you to all who were deputized. Now that we have several members who can be the official deputy registrars, we can start holding voter registration drives!

It's not too late to become a deputy voter registrar. Individuals or a group can go to either the downtown or the West Loop location of the Harris County Tax Office, Monday – Friday 8:30am -3 pm. You don't need an appointment, but they appreciate your calling ahead.

Harris County Tax Office Distribution Center (free onsite parking), 1155 West Loop North, Houston, TX 77055. Contact Marty Morrison – 713-680-4032 – marty_morrison@hctx.net

Harris County Administration Building (no onsite parking), 1001 Preston St., 2nd Floor, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77002. Contact Noemi Medina – 713-368-2333 - noemi_medina@hctx.net

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE ESD ELECTION - MAY 9, 2009

If you missed Early Voting for the upcoming ESD election, it's not too late to vote. Election Day is Saturday, May 9 from 7am – 7 pm. Our very own member, **Suzanne Davis**, is running for commissioner on the board for ESD No. 9. Most of us are in her district and I know that she will appreciate your vote. If you have any questions concerning the location where you are to vote, please call Suzanne at 281-894-8807.





MINUTES

CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN GENERAL MEETING

April 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Moss, at 11:00 A.M. at Hearthstone Country Club. Chaplain, Suzanne Davis, offered the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

Membership Chairman, Joy Gregory, welcomed guests. Program Chairman, Rita Parrish, introduced the speaker, Bill Moore, Head of Harris County Juvenile Courts, who presented an informative program and video on the issue of "Sexting" - a new form of cell phone texting being used by today's teens and pre-teens. He answered questions from the membership and guests on the importance of being aware of how our children and grandchildren may become involved in dangerous texting to their friends. He urged parents and grandparents to access www.websafety.com to learn more about protecting our children. Afterwards, President Mary Moss presented Mr. Moore with a Barnes' book for his signature. The book will be a gift to a school or library in the future.

The minutes were printed in the newsletter and were approved as printed. Treasurer, Barbara Buxton reported a balance of \$7,468.22 with deposits of \$811.00 and payments of \$756.59 leaving a balance as of March 31, 2009 of \$7,522.65. The report will be filed with the minutes.

Ways and Means Chair, Millie Alford, reported that plans for the High Heels and High Tea Fashion Show and Luncheon were going great and urged everyone to solicit vendors and silent auction items. She also reported that the vendors' applications for both High Heels and High Tea and the TFRW State Convention would be available by the next meeting. She thanked everyone who has been offering suggestions and those who have already volunteered for both events. Millie and Kay Wagborne have been attending the State Convention Committee meetings in Clear Lake each month. Millie gave a report on how plans are progressing.

Membership Chairman, Joy Gregory, urged members to bring a friend to the next meeting to hear speaker Leo Vasquez. There will be a prize for the one who signs up the most new members. Guests will receive a gift as a token of remembrance of their visit.

Betty Guthrie reminded everyone to have their newsletter articles to her by Monday, April 27, 2009. President Mary Moss reported for Dawn Fobbs that we have volunteered 252 hours in Campaign Activities. Mary reminded everyone to bring the individual drink mixes for Operation Interdependence. It costs \$30 to mail a package to the troops. She suggested we continue to collect donations at the meetings for package postage. She also encouraged the crocheting of the beanie caps for the military.

Old Business:

President Mary Moss advised the group that a brief meeting would follow the regular meeting to coordinate carpooling to Legislative Day in Austin the next day. Mary asked if anyone else would like to participate in the Chamber of Commerce meetings and thanked Suzanne Davis for attending in March. The meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month and the cost is \$25.00. The RSVP is due the Friday before the meeting. It was suggested that we take flyers to the meetings to advise others about CFRW. Mary mentioned the Apostle Claver reception will be held at Barbara Buxton's home on April 29, 2009, 15614 Azalea Shores Dr, Houston, TX 77070, at 6:00-8:00 P.M. She also reminded everyone of the upcoming local Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar workshops. Interested members may also be deputized at the two Harris County Tax office locations. If anyone is interested, please contact Mary for the addresses of the offices. She encouraged everyone to try to become deputies. Suzanne reminded the members of the ESD Election being held on May 9, 2009 and encouraged everyone to vote.

New Business:

Kristen Govantes gave a report on the "Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce Salute to Law Enforcement" at Willowbrook Mall on May 2, 2009. She encouraged everyone to attend and offer support and requested we allow our name to be registered on their Website. The cost for a general sponsorship is \$150. This would offer positive advertising for our club.





MINUTES, continued



Our name will also be listed at the "Salute to Law Enforcement" as a sponsor. Barbara Buxton moved we include our name on the website. Barbara Dorsey seconded the motion. Discussion was held and the vote taken. Motion carried.

Millie Alford moved we give \$50.00 to support Suzanne Davis' Campaign for ESD. Barbara Dorsey seconded. Discussion was held and the vote was taken. The motion carried. Suzanne gave additional information on the voting places.

We reluctantly include a call for a new Secretary for CFRW. Barbara Dorsey has given her resignation due to a move from Houston. We thank her for her dedication to CFRW and appreciate all of the work she has done to make CFRW such a great organization. We will miss her and welcome her back for visits anytime. If you are interested in becoming our new Secretary, please contact Mary or a Board member. We encourage all members to get involved.

Mary mentioned the Yellow Rose RW Karoke Night Fund Raiser would take place on April 25, 2009, if anyone would like to attend. The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2009 and our Guest Speaker will be Leo Vasquez, Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector.

A drawing was held for the door prize. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Millie Alford for
Barbara Dorsey, Secretary



MEMBERSHIP - Joy Gregory



Our annual Membership Drive will take place at our May 12th general meeting. I want to encourage each of you to attend and bring one or more guests with you. Please let us know how many guests you are bringing as we are planning a little surprise for each guest. The member that signs up the most new members at our meeting will receive a gift from the club. You are doing a great job getting guests to the meetings and our membership is growing. Thanks, Ladies.

NFRW BIENNIAL CONVENTION

September 10-13, 2009 – Orlando FL

The NFRW Biennial Convention will be held in Orlando, FL on September 10-13, 2009. Anyone who would like to attend is welcomed. Forms can be found online at www.nfrw.org.

Since our club is only eligible to have one voting delegate and one alternate, we will need to vote at our May general meeting on whom the delegate and alternate will be. If you are interested in being a delegate or attending, please let Mary Moss know before our May 12th meeting.





WAYS AND MEANS - Millie Alford



I want to thank you for offering such great ideas for the High Heels and High Tea Luncheon and Fashion Show fundraiser. Special thanks go to those who have volunteered to help with the High Heels and High Tea. We encourage new members to get involved. Your help would be appreciated in several areas: registration, vendors, fashions, silent auction, and others. Friday, October 2, 2009, is our date. We have reserved The Houston National Golf Club as the venue. We will have High Heels and High Tea tickets ready by the June meeting, so start thinking of whom you would like to invite!

We ask that everyone try to offer at least one name of someone who might be interested in being a vendor for this event. Please e-mail me at mcaphd@yahoo.com or call me at 713-466-0731 (H) or 214-315-6203 (C). The vendor application is now available and a copy is attached. I will have copies at our May general meeting. Feel free to print one and take it to your local hair salon, boutique, nail spa, or post it at your grocery, etc. We have space for more than 25 vendors, so please don't be shy. The success of our High Heels and High Tea depends on the participation of each member.

We have been busy working on the plans for the TFRW Biennial Convention in Galveston on November 13-15, 2009. The Vendor Booth Applications will be part of the PreCall package which will be sent to all the TFRW clubs this month. I will also have them at our May 12th meeting, so if you'd like to pressure, I mean *encourage* your friends to participate as a vendor, we would love to have them. The booth cost is \$300.00 for regular booths and \$450.00 for corner booths. All RW clubs will receive a HUGE discount of \$100.00, as will any organization that helps veterans or military members.

We still have *Life of the Party* cookbooks for sale! They would make great Mother's Day gifts for special family and friends. We plan to display them at the CFRW booth at the TFRW Convention in November. We have the Peter Barnes Collection of autographed children's books which would make a great gift for the little ones in your life. Each autographed book is \$18. Buy any 5 titles and receive a \$10 discount (5 @ \$18 = \$90 less \$10 - TOTAL PRICE \$80). If anyone is interested in getting a cookbook or ordering a denim shirt (\$30) or red sequin t-shirt (\$35), please let me know. I will be placing an order soon, so please contact me if you're interested.



CARING FOR AMERICA - Debbie Brown



I am happy to be taking over the responsibility of Caring for America and am trying to learn about the opportunities we have through Operation Interdependence (OI)! I visited Jerry Harmon, the Houston Area Manager of OI the first week of April and delivered several bags of travel size shampoo, soap and other toiletries. As I watched the volunteers stuffing Ziploc bags with items for our soldiers, I had tears in my eyes. These items are really going to the front lines to make a difference in the lives of men and women who sacrifice so much for us. It seems like such a small thing to offer toothbrushes, granola bars, and powder Gatorade packages to people that are so important! However, the philosophy of OI is "less is more". The idea started with a Marine who noticed many soldiers never received letters or care packages from home. So Chief Warrant Officer Renteria thought a message from home with a small treat would lift their spirits as they spend many hours in foxholes or in makeshift camps. Thus, Operation Interdependence was founded December 2001. Another interesting fact I learned from Jerry is that the boxes from OI go directly to the front lines without waiting in inspection lines because such great care is provided by the volunteers while packing the donations! Jerry said, "soldiers know the routine and gratefully grab the Ziploc bags from large barrels, depending on their need - toothbrush, razor, shampoo, small game or snacks".

Speaking of letters, one of the most important things a soldier receives with their C-Rat (civilian ration) from OI is a letter or note expressing gratitude and prayers for their safety. I am requesting letters from everyone I know through email contacts, church organizations and schools. I am talking to elementary school principals to try to enlist help from young people who can make a difference for our dedicated service personnel. If you know of a group that could help with letters to thank our soldiers or collect (sealed) items such as granola bars or other snacks that go directly to the front line to benefit our soldiers, please contact me at 281-859-3239.

Throughout the year, we are collecting knitted or crocheted beanies to be worn as insulation from heat or cold and as cushioning





CARING FOR AMERICA, continued



underneath the hard helmets worn by our troops. To get directions to make the beanies please e-mail Debbie at the address below. We are asking for a note to the recipient be submitted with each beanie. If you know of someone who knits or crochets and would enjoy this project, please pass on the information. Awards will be given at TFRW Convention for clubs donating the most beanies. To date, we have donated 43 beanies. Great job!

In April, we collected boxes of individual serving flavor packets (like Crystal Light) to be added to water for drinks for our soldiers. I delivered 10 boxes of multiple packages of tea, Gatorade and Crystal Light in addition to donations of toiletries and snacks. Our group also collected over \$75 for shipping C-Rats (civilian rations) boxes in April. Great job! Items needed in May are rolls of clear wide tape to seal boxes (3M preferred) or small games such as cards or crossword puzzles and unsharpened pencils. Please bring them to the meeting or call me.

If you have any old cell phones (batteries attached) and accessories, please bring them to our meetings to be donated to Cell Phones for Soldiers. If it is more convenient, you may drop off unwanted cell phones to Liberty Tax locations. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding ways that we can help in our community, please contact Debbie Brown at diamond.deb@earthlink.net.



LEGISLATIVE - Dawn Shull



Now on its way to the House, the Texas Senate has passed **SB 362** which would require voters to present photo identification at the polls either during Early Voting or on Election Day. Some other bills the Senate recently passed:

SB 175 would restrict the number of top 10% students that must be accepted at state universities/colleges to 60% of the freshman class.

SB 197 and **SB 199** would provide for more **financial literacy** training in our public schools.

SB 7 would streamline CHIP and Medicaid systems.

SB1569 would change the way unemployment is figured to increase the amount received and also would extend benefits to part-time workers and those forced to quit for extenuating family circumstances.

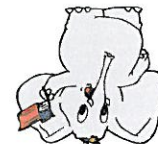
SB 117 authored by our State Senator Dan Patrick would make it illegal for a lawfully detained person to refuse to identify themselves to a police officer.

SB 11 is an omnibus anti-gang bill that enhances penalties for a variety of gang-related crimes.

HB 1819 authored by Rep. Dwayne Bohac would require the city of Houston to keep pressure on apartment owners who fail to keep tenants safe and units up to code with strict and permanent building inspections. Rep. Bohac has filed **HB 2352** which would increase annual pay for teachers, counselors and librarians by \$3000. He also filed **HB 3342** which amends and strengthens the Graffiti Accountability Act of 2007 by significantly increasing penalties for repeat offenders. Rep. Allen Fletcher has authored **HB 3769** which would severely punish those involved in fraudulent (Ponzi) schemes in Texas and would empower the Attorney General with additional means to find and prosecute offenders. Rep. Bill Callegari's proposed **HB 2939** would create a hurricane research and testing center to develop ways to lessen damage that occurs during major storms. You can follow the progress of any of these bills at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>.

Both houses have passed budget plans, the House plan is 178.4 billion, the Senate's is 182.2 billion. In her May report, Marilyn Davis, TFRW VP Legislation, points out the differences: *The House proposal includes \$1000 bonuses for state employees making less than \$100,000 a year, retired teachers and retired state employees. The Senate proposal does not. The House budget provides less money for road bonds, cancer research/prevention bonds and estimated Medicaid caseloads and costs than the Senate budget. The Senate budget bans state funding for embryonic stem cell research.* Marilyn also writes that with six weeks left in the legislative session 7,326 bills have been filed. Of those the Senate has passed 455 bills and the House 184, *BUT only one bill has made it through both bodies and rests on Governor Perry's desk.*





Important links:

- <http://www.CFRW.net> - Cy-Fair Republican Women
- <http://thomas.loc.gov/> - 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 produces academically sound research on important issues.
- <http://www.ghcrwpac.org> - Greater Houston Council
- <http://www.trw.org> - Texas Federation of Republican Women
- <http://www.sos.state.tx.us> - Texas Secretary of State web site offers more information on proposed constitutional amendments.

Cy-Fair Republican Women

12406 Francel Lane

Cypress, TX 77429

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

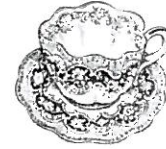
Affiliations:

National Federation of Republican Women
Texas Federation of Republican Women
Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

Pol adv paid for by Cy-Fair Republican Women



High Heels and High Tea



*Fashion Show Luncheon
Presented by the Cy Fair Republican Women
Friday, October 2, 2009
Houston National Golf Club
16500 Houston National Blvd.
Houston, TX 77095*

Vendor Booth Information and Silent Auction Item/ Sponsor

Name and Address of person responsible for booth: \$50.00 each + donation of Silent Auction Item of \$50.00 value.

Phone: _____ FAX: _____ E-Mail: _____

Additional workers: (Please include names, addresses, and emails for each person participating.)

Silent Auction Item (and Sponsor if different from Booth.)

Name and Address:

Item: _____ Value: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____ E-Mail: _____

*Ways & Means Chair: Dr. Millie Alford, 713-466-0731
mcaphd@yahoo.com*

Payment Received: _____

Booth Number: _____