



Cy-Fair Republican Women

NEWSLETTER
September 2009

A Minute with Mary



Our August Social was an awesome event! I am forever amazed and thrilled to be a part of such a vibrant group of women. I want to thank all the ladies who helped with the planning, decorations and set up – Millie Alford, Suzanne Davis, Kay Waghorne, and Pam Waldren – thanks a bunch! I also want to thank State Representatives Dwayne Bohac, Bill Callegari and Gary Elkins for joining us to give an update on the last legislative session and on things to come. We are truly lucky to have such fine men serving us in our State House of Representatives.

I apologize that our planned forum with the candidates, who at the time of our meeting had declared their intentions to run for Harris County Republican Party Chairman, did not take place as planned. To clear up any confusion, both Mr. Ed Hubbard and Mr. Jared Woodfill were invited via e-mail at the end of June to take part in our August meeting. We were hopeful that both candidates would ultimately be able to participate, so we announced, both on our Web site and in our newsletter, that each of the declared candidates would take part. We were pleased to hear from Mr. Hubbard at our meeting and would have liked to have heard from Mr. Woodfill as well. We are sorry that he was not able to attend.

Let me be very clear, the ultimate outcome of the evening is in no way an endorsement of either candidate by our club, our Campaign Activities Chairman or me.

In the course of the events that led up to our August Social and any misunderstanding that may have resulted between CFRW and those associated with the HCRP, a statement was made that stood out to me – “it is deeds, not words that matter”. There are a lot of issues today, nationally, locally, and within our own party, that make me upset and angry; and, I know that I am not the only one. However, it would seem that too many people on



CFRW UPCOMING DATES MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- September 8.....CFRW Meeting
(10:30 a.m.) Carrabba's Italian Grill
- September 10-13..NFRW 35th Biennial Convention
Orlando, FL
- September 15.....Greater Houston Council General
Assembly Meeting, Houston, TX
- September 17.....CFRW Board Meeting
(1:30 p.m.) Hearthstone Country Club
- October 2.....CFRW High Heels and High Tea
(11:00 a.m.) Luncheon and Fashion Show
Houston National Golf Club
- November 13-15..TFRW 27th Biennial Convention
Galveston, TX

both sides of the aisle and at all levels have forgotten that civil discourse and civil disobedience should be just that – CIVIL. It saddens me that too many of us have forgotten that we can disagree with a person or idea or institution without using rude, disparaging, foul, or down right false words. With the advent of around the clock news, blogs, tweets, and Facebook, it is the responsibility of all of us to remember that regardless of our position on anything, we should strive to be truthful and respectful to both our friends and our foes. We can get so much more done when we are informed and present our views in an intelligent, courteous manner. I know it makes much better press and sound bites to hear someone rail against whatever the topic of the day is, but it is disturbing to me that so many people resort to harsh words and/or untruths in an effort to support their own views. It is my opinion that if your “deed” is your words, then you better make certain you know about what you are talking.

“To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; to be credible we must be truthful.”

- Edward R. Murrow

Mary Moss



SEPTEMBER MEETING



**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

PROGRAM

MELINDA BIERSDORFER

Supervisor

**Harris County Community Supervision and
Corrections Department - North Region**

JAY GUERRERO - US Senator John Cornyn staff

**MARTY MORRISON - Tax Assessor/Collector staff
Deputization of Voter Registrars after meeting**

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

**Location: Carrabba's Italian Grill
7540 N. Hwy. 6
Houston, TX
(Copperfield area)**

Lunch available by Reservation only

PLEASE RSVP:

**No later than Noon on
Friday, September 4, 2009**

Online at www.cfrw.net

Julie McCracken: 281-398-2687

or

juliemc23@sbcglobal.net



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MELINDA BIERSDORFER



Melinda Biersdorfer has worked for the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department for eighteen years, most recently as a Supervisor for the North Region. Prior to this position, Melinda was a Regional officer, worked in residential boot camp which later became YMAC (cognitive program), and was Assistant Supervisor in Baytown. Her interest lies in gangs, drug cases and domestic violence cases.

Melinda chairs the Employees' Relation Committee, is a Certified State Officer (regular and residential), a trainer for the department (defensive driving), conducts New Officer training, Region training, and case management training.

A native Houstonian, Melinda graduated from Bellaire High School and Texas A&M, received an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from North Harris County Community College (now Lone Star College) and a Master's Degree in Sociology (focusing on Criminal Justice) from University of Houston – Clear Lake.

Mother of two grown children and grandmother of two, Melinda enjoys Texas A&M football, Astros' baseball, riding horses, her pets, movies, theater, the beach and fishing.

We look forward to hearing Melinda speak about her experiences working in the field of criminal corrections within Harris County.

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

BE A DEPUTY VOTER REGISTRAR

Please plan to stay a little while after lunch at our September 8th meeting. A representative from Leo Vasquez's office will be on hand to deputize anyone who would like to be a Deputy Voter Registrar. It should only take about 30 minutes and will allow you to register new or recently relocated voters.

~ Mary Moss



MEMBERSHIP - Joy Gregory



Great news! Welcome two new members, **Eva Wolf** and **Jeanie Hardin!** We now have 67 members and hope to have more in the next month. We have had several visitors that have attended more than one meeting, so let's encourage them to join. Remember to invite your friends to our High Heels and High Tea on Friday, October 2, 2009.

If you have joined the club recently and have not received a handbook, please let me know. I will have updated membership rosters and bylaws at the September meeting. Make sure you see me so you can update your handbook. I will also have a sheet of corrections to be added to your yearbook.

HOW CAN I BECOME A CFRW MEMBER?

CFRW membership applications are available online at www.cfrw.net. Please feel free to download a copy, complete the form, submit it and share copies with your friends.





MINUTES

CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN GENERAL MEETING

August 11, 2009

Mary Moss, President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Community Center at 13209 Sunbright Drive, Houston, Texas. Chaplain, Suzanne Davis, led the invocation and pledges to the American and Texas flags. Mary stated that both candidates had been asked to attend our forum, but Mr. Woodfill was not available.

Rita Parrish, Programs Chairman, introduced Mr. Ed Hubbard who is running for the position of Chairman of the Harris County Republican Party. He spoke for ten minutes on how he thinks we can reinvigorate the Party. He feels that we need a revolution in how we approach the organization of the Republican Party in order to make it more effective. Traditionally, Republicans are in the suburbs. We need to develop urban policies that will help us get the urban vote. We also need to expand our base by reaching out to minorities.

He thinks we should reunite the party through our shared values and principles. He would restructure the party so that information would flow better. He encouraged us to seek out our neighbors and invite them to be a part of the Republican Party in order to expand its growth. Out of the more than 600 Harris County elected positions, Republicans ran for 200. We need to get involved at the grass roots level.

We had a fifteen-minute Q&A session with Mr. Hubbard after his talk. This discussion focused on how we can get more people into the Republican Party.

Rita then introduced State Representative Dwayne Bohac who stated that we need to unify and grow the Party by finding solutions to the problems that affect our citizens. He indicated that Republicans were able to pass the following: A balanced budget that left \$9 million in the bank; a bill that removed taxes from school supplies; a bill that increased the tax base on small businesses from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000; a bill that creates a pathway for the University of Houston to become a Tier I University; and, a bill that prohibits the use of Eminent Domain for private economic development.

Rita Parrish then introduced Mr. Gary Elkins, local State Representative, who indicated that Acorn would be doing the next U.S. census. He fears that there will be a counting of illegal immigrants and duplications made that will diminish the effectiveness of the Republican Party. We need a Republican majority in the Texas State House (we now have 76 Republicans and 74 Democrats) when the district lines are drawn. We must get more Republicans elected in order to get conservative legislation passed. Elkins suggested we need alternative media due to the current media bias toward Obama. He suggested we follow him through Twitter and Facebook.

Rita then introduced State Representative Bill Callegari. He indicated that the past session was not a good one for Republicans. Many of the bills passed by the legislature took away individual freedoms. There was a five-day slow down by the Democrats, which prevented Republican bills from being passed. There were 1400 bills passed and a lot of them were special purpose bills—bills that affect one or so persons. He urged us to be vocal and work to get Republicans elected.

Another Q&A session followed in which the lottery, gambling casinos (both men are against gambling in Texas), and school taxes and funding were discussed. We were told that a property tax law was passed that limits tax appraisal increases to ten percent for each two-year period.

Mary Moss then announced that there would not be a business meeting and reminded us about the High Heels and High Tea event in October and that the newsletter deadline is Monday, August 24, 2009. Mary then adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Doris Jones
CFRW Secretary





LEGISLATIVE



The Texas Department of Public Safety announced that new driving laws have been passed which will affect Texas drivers of all ages effective September 1, 2009. This information is especially timely as our children begin a new school year. Here are a few of the bills which were included in HB 2730. For more complete information go to www.txdps.state.tx.us from which the following portions are quoted:

Seatbelts:

“HB 537 requires all occupants of a vehicle, no matter their age, to be secured by a safety belt, no matter where they are seated in the vehicle...prohibits a motorcycle operator from carrying a passenger under the age of 5 unless the child is seated in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.”

“SB 61 amends the existing statute regarding child passenger safety seats. The bill requires that any child younger than 8 years of age be restrained in an approved child passenger safety seat unless the child is at least 4 feet, 9 inches in height...”

Driving:

“HB 55 makes it illegal to use a wireless communication device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used...”

“HB 2730 increases the penalties for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger by adding an automatic driver license suspension period for first-time offenders and an increased suspension period for repeat offenders...”

Driver license:

“HB 2730 requires that all applicants under the age of 18 take the driving skills exam to receive a driver license. The law also requires that a provisional driver license (under 18) or instruction permit expire on an individual’s 18th birthday, removes the requirement that a provisional driver license or instruction permit be renewed annually and increases the fee for those licenses from \$5 to \$15. It also extends the current phase-two restrictions for holders of a graduated driver license from 6 months to 1 year. These restrictions include limited night driving, prohibited use of wireless communication devices and a limited number of passengers.”

“HB 339 increases the total hours of behind-the-wheel driving instruction a teen receives from 14 to 34 hours after TEA develops criteria for curriculum. (Goes into effect May 1, 2010)”

“SB 328 gives DPS the power to suspend a minor’s driver license if they fail a breath or blood alcohol test while operating a watercraft...”

Crime:

“HB 558 allows minors to be charged with public intoxication.”





WAYS AND MEANS - Millie Alford



Our High Heels and High Tea Fashion Show and Luncheon is just around the corner on October 2nd, and we are going to have a wonderful time. We have a great vendor schedule already and our tickets are selling like hotcakes. I have received an order for four (4) Premium Sponsorships @ \$500.00 each. Please be sure to contact Kay Waghorne if you have not yet received your tickets. We also have a great list of silent auction donations. We could still use a few more if you know someone who might be interested in supporting our club. We will have a High Heels and High Tea Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 1st. I will e-mail the meeting place and time, so please put that date on your calendar if you have volunteered to help. Even if you didn't sign up, you are welcome to attend the meeting and offer your suggestions and great ideas.

We have new CFRW denim shirts available, and an order will be placed for our red CFRW t-shirts after the next meeting on September 8th. If you are interested in placing an order for either of these, please see me before or after the meeting. I will have the denim shirts at the next meeting.

The TFRW State Convention is November 13-15, 2009, in Galveston, and I have been very busy soliciting vendors. Our club will be participating as a vendor. We will have a Convention Preparation Work Day soon to prepare our homemade goodies for our booth. We will have a prime location and hope to sell all of our products. The prep day will be at the lovely home of Jan Ott, the date of which is to be announced at the next meeting. I will have the schedule ready for sign up at that time. We will need two (2) ladies present in the booth at all times and we estimate the shifts to be about three (3) hours. Hopefully, each volunteer will only have to "tend the booth" for one shift. Thanks to Judi Stokes for preparing the Christmas stocking kits for our booth. She will have the kits at the next meeting with instructions on how to decorate them. Please take a couple so we can complete them in plenty of time.

We still have Peter Barnes' children's books and our CFRW *Life of the Party Cookbook*. We will have our cookbooks at the TFRW Convention booth, if they haven't sold out before then. Thanks to everyone for offering to help with both the luncheon and the State Convention. A special thanks to Kay Waghorne who is doing a fantastic job with the tickets and Mary for providing the information we need. I appreciate everyone who makes Cy-Fair Republican Women such a great club!

CALL TO TFRW 27th BIENNIAL CONVENTION

The TFRW State Convention is going to be held in Galveston, TX, on November 13-15, 2009. Currently, our club can have five (5) delegates and five (5) alternate delegates and as many guests as want to attend.

If you would like to be a part of the Convention and have not already told me, please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend. We will be voting on the delegates and alternate delegates at our September meeting and I would like to have everyone interested in attending on the ballot.

Whether you are a delegate, alternate delegate, or guest, it will be a fun and informative weekend. If you are planning to attend Convention for the entire weekend or a portion of the weekend, we will need help manning our booth at the Convention. So please make plans to come sometime during the weekend to help. If you have any questions, please let me know – Mary Moss – 281-550-9415 – moss311@sbcglobal.net.





CARING FOR AMERICA - Debbie Brown



When folks go through challenges, they will often say, “there is always someone worse off than we are”. As we struggle to stay out of the sweltering August heat in Houston, TX, I am thinking of our soldiers. A recent e-mail read, “According to the weather reports, it is our understanding that it is 122 degrees in Baghdad, Iraq right now — and the low will be 95 degrees!” Wow! I cannot imagine what our soldiers are going through in Iraq, Afghanistan and many other parts of the world, dressed in thick combat fatigues, body armor, and carrying the heavy weight of equipment in the blistering heat. Our troops need prayers for strength, endurance, and safety in these extreme weather conditions. We are blessed to have one of the finest volunteer military personnel in the world protecting the freedoms we enjoy in the great USA. While many Republicans and Democrats may not agree with the direction our current President is taking the country such as closing Guantanamo, possibly prosecuting CIA agents that interrogated terrorists in order to protect us, passing the proposed Health Care Bill, debating the growing Stimulus Debt, etc., we do agree it is extremely important to support our men and women serving in the military! The Cy-Fair Republican Women actively support our military. We collected over \$150 last month from members and visitors to pay for shipping of Civilian Rations through Operation Interdependence. We also collected two large bags of sample size toiletries, candy, granola bars and baggies. However, the most important thing we can offer a soldier is our support and prayers for safety. If you have time to write a note to thank a soldier, I will be happy to make sure it is delivered to someone who needs to hear about how much we appreciate their sacrifice.

September 11, 2001, is a day we will never forget. Over 2,993 innocent Americans were crushed or burned to death in downtown Manhattan, the Pentagon and in a corn field in Pennsylvania. Our Nation came together to support one another during this horrific terrorist attack. We were one nation under God, both Republican and Democrat. We will never forget what happened on that frightful day and the many firefighters and emergency personnel that courageously worked day and night to save over 7,000 wounded Americans in this brutal attack. Our military continue to fight bravely to protect the basic freedoms we enjoy such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom to vote. Many folks in other countries can only hope and dream about the benefits some of us take for granted in America. There are people that hate what we stand for and have been attacking us for decades, but we are winning the war on terrorism. We are advancing freedoms in other countries so men and women can express their opinion and vote in national elections. We have not had a terrorist attack in America in eight years. There are more security checkpoints at the airports, and it is safer to fly now than it was eight years ago. We still have a lot of work to do to protect our homeland and it is so important to become informed and discuss political issues with our friends and neighbors. I am particularly concerned about the influx of immigrants that do not learn English and take advantage of our generosity through the health care system. We need to seal the borders in Texas and encourage legislation that will help immigrants learn English and contribute financially to the health care system, school system and Social Security. The next election in Texas for Governor is so important. Find out what the issues concerning our communities are and become involved. Volunteer at the local schools to help with ESL classes. Help a local conservative representative or judge get reelected. Find a Tea Party group to learn about the Constitution and our first amendment rights. Walk neighborhoods and encourage folks to take advantage of the opportunity to vote. Call, fax and write your local and national representatives to tell them how you feel about issues concerning your family and future generations. A good place to learn about issues is the Cy-Fair Republican Women’s organization. We welcome you to join us to listen to speakers, ask questions and get involved!

Items needed for the month of September for Operation Interdependence are sandwich size baggies, individual Gatorade and tea packets, Chap Stick and sample size toiletries, such as toothpaste, shampoo, lotions and razors. Unsharpened pencils and crossword puzzles or other types of paper games and playing cards are always needed. And don’t forget your letter of thanks! If you have items that cannot be shipped, such as aerosol cans, they will be delivered to the VA hospital. Financial donations made payable to Operation Interdependence are tax deductible. If you have access to rolls of clear tape (3M preferred for the long journey) or old cell phones and accessories, please bring them to our meetings.

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.

GOD BLESS & PROTECT THEM!





Tickets on Sale Now



*High Heels and High Tea
Fashion Show, Lunch and Blind Auction*

*Presented by
Cy-Fair Republican Women*



Friday - October 2, 2009 - 11:00 AM

*Houston National Golf Club
16500 Houston National Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77095*

Tickets:

Individual - \$50

Table Sponsor - \$500

*(Table of Ten - The Table Host/Sponsor will be listed in our Program,
And the group will receive preferred seating)*

Deadline for Ticket Sales is September 18th

*To order tickets please contact
Kay Waghorne at www.kwaghorne@msn.com
Or for more information call 281-550-1723*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Affiliations:

National Federation of Republican Women

Texas Federation of Republican Women

Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

Political advertising paid for by Cy-Fair Republican Women.

Contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Cy-Fair Republican Women
14102 Blazey Drive
Houston, TX 77095

IMPORTANT LINKS:

<http://www.CFRW.net> – Cy-Fair Republican Women

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

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

<http://www.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.sos.state.tx.us> – Texas Secretary of State Web Site offers more information

on proposed constitutional amendments.