



Cy-Fair Republican Women Newsletter

www.cfrw.net



www.youtube.com/CFRWTexas

VOLUME 5
MAY 2015



What a great Legislative Day!

Twelve (12) CFRW members journeyed to Austin to participate in TFRW Legislative Day. Mary Moss, Joy Gregory, Alice Gullett, Jan Ott, Rita Parrish, Micheline Hutson, Pam Waldren, Clarissa Chavez, Lori Bartley (new member) left on Wednesday and had a great trip to Austin. Mary Kay Brady and Gail Schubot joined us via the bus provided by our dear friend Rep. Patricia Harless. We had dinner at the beautiful and delicious Capital Grille Restaurant.

We were all up early Thursday morning and made it to registration and a light breakfast provided by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. We boarded buses and traveled to the Capitol. Micheline and new member, Lori Bartley, represented us as they joined the **Rally against Human Trafficking** on the steps of the Capitol. What a sight it was to see the House Gallery filled from wall-to-wall with Republican Women dressed in RED.

The House members applauded us and we applauded them right back. Each club's name was announced. After our visit to the Capitol, we returned to the AT&T Conference Center and looked over the baskets at the auction. Our Auction Item was awesome! A big thanks to Alice Gullett on making it look "just right." I think ours was one of the best ones there. It had a Beach theme and included everything a woman needs for a day of R & R. YES, I did high bid the *Frozen* basket created by Smith County. My Granddaughter will love it!

Our TFRW Sponsors read like a "Who's Who" in Texas politics: Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Land Comm. George P. Bush, Speaker of the House Joe Straus, Sen. Jane Nelson, Rep. Patricia

Harless, Senator Joan Huffman, Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, Sen. Donna Campbell, RR Com. Ryan Sitton, Comptroller Glenn Hegar, National Committeewoman Toni Anne Dashiell, Vice Chair. RPT Amy Clark, Atty. Gen. Ken Paxton, RR Com. Chair Christi Craddick and RR Com. David Porter. The break-out sessions were very informational. I attended the **Border Security Session** and learned that more than \$800 Million will be allocated to hire more border patrolmen and new equipment. We all need to keep our security forces in our prayers. There is a very dangerous and daunting job. Due to the stormy weather, most of our ladies headed back to Houston amidst some very black clouds and torrential rains. Thankful everyone made it home safely.

Jan and Rita attended the Patron Event at the Governor's Mansion and they enjoyed getting to go upstairs this visit. The Governor and his wife were there. I had planned to go, but all that walking at the Capitol got the best of me. I had to reboot for the next day. On Saturday, Jan, Rita, and I attended the TFRW Board Meeting. Jan was there in her official capacity, and Rita and I were visitors. At lunch, we were privileged to hear the Annex Security authors of **13 Hours**. It was fascinating and heart-wrenching to hear first-hand what happened in those hours. It is truly a black day in the history of our country.

I hope that even more members will be able to go to our next Legislative Day. It is such a motivating time. We want to invite friends and members to our **10th Anniversary Celebration on July 14**. It will be a great day for CFRW. We'll have some special guests, so please plan to be there. We're also preparing for our TFRW State Convention coming up in November in Lubbock. Our friends from Lubbock are working so hard to make it a fun and memorable occasion. The NFRW Convention will be in Phoenix, AZ in



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Programs ~Jan Ott

2015 - 2016 CFRW Executive Officers Committee Chairs

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Recording Secretary: **Vivian Marlatt**
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Treasurer: **Mary Moss**
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Campaign Activities: **Joy Gregory**

Parliamentarian: **Judie Stokes**

Membership: **Alice Bennett**

Hospitality: **Nancy Roberts**

Legislation: **Rita Parrish**

Caring for America: **Mary Kay Brady**

Historian: **Pam Waldren**

Literacy Program: **Gail Schubot**

Awards: **Micheline Hutson**

Registration: **Sharon Edwards**

Chaplain: **Mary Ellen Harrington**

Grassroots: **Sandra Vinklerek**

Ways and Means - **Debby Freiden**

Webmaster: **Beth Mayer**
bethmayer59@att.net



Let's Get Involved with Education Join Us for Our Speaker from the Texas State Board of Education – **Donna Bahorich**

Donna Bahorich is the District 6 State Board of Education member and brings to her job experience in business, education and politics.

Donna was elected to the state board in Nov. 2012 and took office on Jan. 1, 2013. She serves on the Committee on School Initiatives, which oversees agenda items related to charter schools, State Board for Educator Certification rules, and the appointment of school board members for those districts located on military bases. Bahorich previously chaired this committee. She also is a member of the board's Ad Hoc Committee on the Long-Range Plan for Public Education.

After graduating from Virginia Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree in financial management, Bahorich went to work in the telecommunications industry. She was first employed by the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company, under the AT&T umbrella, and later transferred to Mountain Bell. She also served as a loaned executive to the United Way in her community.

In 1990, Bahorich earned a Master of Arts degree in counseling from Liberty University.

An active community volunteer, Bahorich served as a member of the West Houston P-16 Council; graduated from the Leadership Houston program, served as president of the Daughters of Liberty Republican Women; and is a member of the pastor's council at Houston Vineyard Church.



A Minute with Millie

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September, and there are a few of us planning to attend. With our **High Heels and High Tea** tucked neatly between these events, our Fall promises to be very busy! Please join us for all of these special occasions and consider becoming a Member if you're not already. We offer membership in a Special group of motivated Republican Women!





What about HB 2608?

House Bill 2608 was filed by State Representative Jim Murphy of Houston. The bill is designed to eliminate the Legislature's review of retirement benefits and approving changes that cities and pensions make for the local police, firefighters and municipal employees.

In a recent press release Jim Murphy stated, "The bill's concept is simple. It is about local control of expenses and taxes," said Murphy. "Why should state legislators tell local communities what to pay their employees or what to pay in taxes?"

HB 2608 wouldn't change pensions or benefits already earned. "The pensions of those already retired are fully protected as well as the benefits earned by those still working," added Murphy. "We value the service of these men and women and are committed to securing their retirement benefits." According to Jim Murphy's press release, "Most local pensions in Texas are locally controlled. HB 2608 would eliminate the special treatment some plans have been given while still mandating State oversight through the Pension Review Board. The Pension Review Board's role is to ensure actuarial integrity in local pension funds."

Representative Murphy says that he sees a "groundswell of support from across our state and this will grow as people become aware of the benefits of HB 2608. We appreciate this help in correcting a fundamental policy flaw that is a growing threat to both taxpayers and their valued employees."

There is opposition to HB 2608 which The Star Telegram addressed in an article on 04-17-2015 by Max Patterson. He considers the bill to be a "potentially damaging measure". He also says that members of the Texas Association of Public Employees Retirement Systems oppose the bill because they feel it would alter the structure of pensions in cities around the state. In Mr. Patterson's report, he says HB 2608 is "attempting to persuade a majority of legislators that the problems being experienced in Houston warrant wholesale change to the structure of pensions across Texas." He further states that the Star Telegram's view is that "Houston's problems with its pensions didn't stem from involving the Legislature. Decades ago, various leaders began short-changing the pensions of the money they needed to remain actuarially viable."

Patterson reports that TEXPER, which publishes a quarterly magazine about pension issues across the state and nation, "keeps an eye on the investment of local pensions. Our yearly research shows most pensions, when given a chance by their cities, do a great job of earning the investment returns needed to keep the promises their city makes to public employees."

Another report by Kimberly Reeves, Capitol reporter-Austin Business Journal, in an April 21, 2015 article says that "even members of the campaign to pass Murphy's legislation - which has a companion from Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston - did not know three weeks ago that Houston voters opted out of constitutional state provision to protect local pensions in 2003."

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Ms. Reeves also went on to say "What makes this topic especially touchy is Houston police officers also face a challenge most teachers in Texas already know. They are opted out of the Social Security system. That means the only retirement income police officers and firefighters in Houston will know is a pension." Additionally, she reported that Ray Hunt of the Houston Police Officers Union said "I know that this has been laid out for all of Texas, but this is something about Houston. This is about putting a squeeze on the Houston Fire Department."

According to Ms. Reeves, Representative Murphy is promising that the concerns the Houston Police Officers Union raised are addressed. In his testimony to the house, Murphy emphasized that Houston retirement systems will be protected as actuarially sound and properly managed by the state because of his committee's substitute of House Bill 2608.

Strong support for HB 2608 was expressed by the R Street Institute in Austin on April 20, 2015. Josiah Neeley, R Street's Texas director of this Washington based think tank, said "Local governments need to have control over their pension systems if they are to govern effectively. This bill will restore local control over public retirement systems and end the growing practice of making plans difficult to change by enshrining them in state law. It's important for stakeholders in the community to have a seat at the table when it comes to their own employee retirement plans," said Neeley.

Status of this bill: (as reported on LegiScan.com)

Date	Chamber	Action
2015-04-20	House	Left pending in committee
2015-04-20	House	Testimony taken/registration(s) recorded in committee
2015-04-20	House	Committee substitute considered in committee
2015-04-20	House	Considered in public hearing
2015-04-20	House	Scheduled for public hearing on...
2015-03-23	House	Referred to Pensions
2015-03-23	House	Read first time
2015-03-09	House	Filed





Legislative Day at the State Capitol - April 16th, 2015

Jan Ott and Rita Parrish visit the Governor's Mansion



Governor Greg Abbott - fun moment with his puppy Pancake



~ CFRW LADIES....TURNING AUSTIN RED ~





George W. Bush Library Visit





GENERAL MEETING MINUTES April 14th, 2015 ~ by Rita Parrish

President, Dr. Millie Alford began the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Linda Llewellyn, standing in for Mary Ellen Harrington, gave the invocation and led us in the pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags.

Jan Ott, 1st Vice-President, introduced our speaker, Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hickman. His topic was on the problem of Human Trafficking in our area.

The business meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m.

Dr. Millie Alford introduced our guests.

Awards Chair Micheline Hutson made an announcement about the Rally Against Human Trafficking to be held on April 16 at Legislative Day, the HB10 bill relating to certain criminal and civil consequences of trafficking of persons, compelling prostitution, and certain other related criminal offenses and NFRW targeting Human Trafficking.

Officers' Reports

1st Vice-President, Jan Ott confirmed that our May speaker will be Donna Bahorich with the Texas State Board of Education

The minutes from the March 10th Regular Meeting were approved as printed in the April Newsletter.

Treasurer, Mary Moss reported that as of April 2015 we had a starting balance of \$15,159.84 and available balance of \$15,199.84. The Savings acct balance is \$4,282.86. Next deadline to turn in expenses to the TEC will be 4/29/2015 and the report will go in on 5/01/2015.

2nd Vice-President, Edith Gibson is taking orders for bling shirts via email or in person. She is still accepting auction items for the High Heels & High Tea along with volunteers. There is a planning meeting scheduled next week on Thursday, April 23 at 11:30 am at Hearthstone CC.

Committee Reports

Membership Chair, Alice Bennett reported that as of today we have 57 renewals, Associate women 5, Associate men 6.

Caring for America Chair, Mary Kay Brady encouraged everyone to bring items which Operation Interdependence needs to send to our military. She said the organization was in need of instant drink mixes to put in water, sunscreen (small tubes) and any small snack items that would fit in a quart size Ziplock bag. They would also love to receive \$15 donations for shipping. If you would like to help out, to go to their location and help stuff bags to send overseas.

Campaign Activities Chair, Joy Gregory reminded everyone to turn in their campaign hours and reported that CFRW has recorded 1656 hours in the first quarter.

Hospitality Chair, Alice Gullett presented information concerning the July 14th meeting which will mark Cy-Fair Republican Women's 10 Year Anniversary. All past CFRW Presidents will be in attendance and will have their memorabilia scrapbooks on display! Special menu and festive decor will be planned.

Parliamentarian, Judie Stokes gave a presentation on proper parliamentary procedures which is Protocol-Article III, By-laws for all CFRW members and can be found in your Membership Book.

Grassroots Chair, Sandra Vinklarek, reminded everyone to join the Grassroots Campaign.

Old Business

Clarissa Chavez presented a report on the March 25th Field trip to the George Bush Library on the SMU Campus in Dallas.

New Business

Legislative Day in Austin – April 16, 2015

Next General Meeting: May 12th at 10:30 A.M. Please make reservations.

Deadline for May Newsletter articles is April 24th.

Millie Alford announced that there will be an additional Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar Training on April 22 in Kingwood. Millie will be going and would encourage anyone else interested to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Parrish in the absence of Secretary Vivian Marlatt.





High Heels and High Tea (H3T) Auction and S.W.A.G. Bags

High Heels and High Tea, our club event slated for October 23rd, 2015, is our one Cy-Fair Republican Women's fundraiser. Our purpose is raising money for the upcoming election cycle. Although CFRW cannot donate to primary candidates, we donate to Republican candidates in the General Election. CFRW's singular focus is electing Republicans. Our combined efforts allowed CFRW to donate \$10,000.00 in the 2014 election cycle. Please consider donating Auction items and S.W.A.G. (Stuff We All Get) items. Some of the wonderful items donated in 2013 were: Restaurant Gift Cards, Christmas Tray Set, Men's Gift Set, Women's Gift Set, Vase, Candle Holder, Ginger Jar, Tea Sets, Antique Lamps, Spa Basket, Scrapbooking/Craft Items and Wine Glasses. Please thoughtfully consider a contribution. You may bring items to the Program or to our Board meetings. Items may also be dropped at my home 11007 Wortham Blvd. Plainly label all items with Donor's name, Address, Phone number and Dollar value of the item. Our goal is 200 S.W.A.G. bags for distribution at H3T. If a small voice is telling you to help with this project, we have empty committee slots. All help will be thankfully accepted.

Please remember that we cannot accept any corporate donations. Micheline Hutson (713) 825-7720 cell and mhutson@sbcglobal.net.

MAY 2015 GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 12th

Please RSVP at www.cfrw.net by no later than Tuesday, May 5th

Rally Against Human Trafficking

April 16, 2015

Micheline Hutson

As part of 2015 Texas Federation of Republican Women Legislative Day, Cy-Fair Republican Women were invited to rally on the south steps of the Capitol. CFRW members Micheline Hutson and Lori Bartley attended at 9:00 a.m. in support of **HB 10: Relating to certain criminal and civil consequences of trafficking of persons, compelling prostitution, and certain other related criminal offenses; to the prevention, prosecution, and punishment of those offenses, and to compensation paid to victims of those offenses.**

This bill was passed by the Texas House of Representatives on March 25, 2015 and referred to the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, chaired by Senators John Whitmire and Joan Huffman. At this writing, no action has been taken by this committee.

Attendees listened to presentations by law enforcement, victims' advocates and sponsors of HB 10. The National Federation of Republican Women is focused on anti-human trafficking legislation in the states and at the federal level. The Republican Party was founded to combat slavery in 1856. Human Trafficking is modern slavery. This is not a "third-world problem". This is not just a "prostitution" problem. It is an "FM 1960 problem".





Cy-Fair Republican Women

2015 Membership Application

DATE: _____ OFFICE USE: IN PERSON MAIL/ EMAIL

PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION	PUBLISH IN DIRECTORY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Home Address: _____	Cell Number: _____
City, St, Zip Code: _____	Work Number: _____
Precinct #: _____	Home Number: _____
Occupation: <i>(Required for PAC Report)</i> _____	Email Address: _____
Position Title: _____	Spouse Name: _____
BEST WAY TO REACH YOU	NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/>
Cell: <input type="checkbox"/> Work: <input type="checkbox"/> Home: <input type="checkbox"/> Email: <input type="checkbox"/>	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?

CFRW REFERRALS – WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE TO KNOW ABOUT US?					
Name	Email Address	Tel #:	Newsletter by Email:		Relationship to New Member
			Y	N	
			Y	N	

MEMBER TYPE				
Name Badge Order	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement	\$15.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Active	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$30.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate Woman (Active member of which Rep. Women's club?)	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$20.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate Man	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$35.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

GETTING INVOLVED! - - CHECK ANY MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact me with more information on activities at CFRW

Please list talents/skills you possess: (Computer skills, presentation/speaking, meeting/event planning, etc.)

Please make check payable to **Cy-Fair Republican Women**

Mail check and this form to:
 Alice Bennett
 7311 Muirfield Valley Lane
 Houston, TX 77095

Total Amount Due:
 Please circle Cash or enter Check #:
 Date Received:

For more information regarding membership, please contact Alice Bennett at 713-412-0141

Political Advertising Paid for by Cy-Fair Republican Women, PAC – Corporate Contributions are not permitted.
 Contributions are not deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal Income Tax purposes.



Solicitations made by Federal candidates and officeholders at this event are limited by Federal law. The Federal candidates and officeholders speaking tonight are soliciting only donations of up to \$2,400 from individuals and up to \$5,000 from multi-candidate political committees. They are not soliciting donations in any amount from corporations, labor organizations, national banks, Federal contractors, or foreign nationals. "This is not a club endorsement, club president endorsement or campaign chair endorsement, only candidate information to help you make an informed decision and get involved with the candidate of your choice."

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

Affiliations:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN
14723 Shorebrook Drive
Houston, Texas 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



Share the Vision...Join Republican Women

