



AUSTIN REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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In This Issue

- February Meeting
- President's Letter
- Membership
- Welcome Home Former President & Mrs. Bush
- Legislative News
- Lincoln Day Dinner
- The Power of Words
- Caring for America
- Member Nametags
- The Best VEEP Ever?



February Meeting

Karen Hughes will be our featured speaker!



Thursday, February 5, 11:30 – 1:00

Hills of Lakeway Country Club

26 Club Estates Parkway, Austin, TX 78738

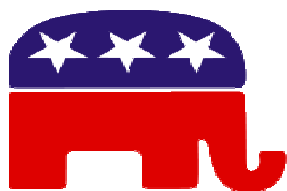
RSVP: meetingRSVP@AustinRepublicanWomen.org or call Diane Fulton 512-328-4352

Luncheon cost is \$16. Due to limited seating, ARW members who send in their checks will have priority.

President's Letter

I am excited about having the privilege of serving as your president for 2009. This is a very important year for Republican women. This year is for rebuilding, showing strength and unity, and becoming Citizen Lobbyists. With this new President, the 111th Congress, and the Texas State Legislature in session, we need to be watchful and active in contacting our legislators regarding bills that affect us all. Please see the contact information in the Legislative News section of this newsletter.

On January 20th, a group of ARW members participated in the Waco reception that welcomed President and Mrs. Bush home to Texas. It was such a wonderful experience, seeing all of the people there to show their appreciation and support for "our" President. It was an awesome sight to see the 747 with United States of America proudly displayed along the side land and taxi up to where we were. President Bush, Laura, Barbara, Jenna, and the new son-in-law were all there. In his short speech to those there, the President said that he did what he believed was right and didn't do it because of the polls. After his remarks, he greeted the crowd personally. One of our members, Anne Barlow, got to shake hands and speak with him. One must agree that he and Laura are wonderfully gracious people. We wish them all the best.



We have two goals for this year. One is to build our membership and therefore our strength. The second is to make our voices heard. We must prepare for 2010 and put more Republicans back in state and federal offices. Then on to 2012! All of us on the board of ARW are excited about this year and look forward to seeing you at our events. We have many interesting speakers lined up for our luncheons and hope to see you there.

Membership

Austin Republican Women's membership chair would like to thank all of our existing members who have renewed, as well as those women who have just become members. We are excited about having so many new women, even some who volunteered to be on committees in their first year, who want to be involved. Our committee chairs welcome your help, too. Choose one of interest and contact that committee chair. Our goal this year is for each member to bring in a new member. We Republican women shall show our strength in numbers and let our voices be heard.

If you have not done so already, please send in your membership today.

Forms are available online at: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org.

Welcome Home Former President & Mrs. Bush

On January 20, former President & Mrs. Bush traveled from Washington D.C. to Midland to Waco and then to Crawford for a few relaxing days. In the 2,000+ people in Waco, there were at least 10 people associated with the ARW members there to welcome them home. ARW attendees included Diane Fulton, Gretchen Munday, Anne Barlow, Jan & Jim Story, Carlene & Chuck Denman, Mary & Edward Joseph, and Lisa Foster.



Legislative News

"In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."
--Ronald Reagan, first Inaugural Address on January 20, 1981

Let us be Citizen Lobbyists and our voices be heard. Call these local numbers for your US Senators and Congressmen, and let them know your thoughts.

United States Congress:

Senator John Cornyn	469-6034
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison	916-5834

TX Congressmen:

Michael McCaul District 10	473-2357
Lamar Smith District 21	306-0439
Lloyd Dogget District 25	916-5921
John Carter District 31	246-1600

To follow bills in the US Congress, go to: www.house.gov or www.congress.org.

To track bills online in the 81st Texas State legislature, go to www.capitol.state.tx.us/MyTLO/alerts/bills.aspx or www.legis.state.tx.us.

To find your state legislator, go to: www.capitol.state.tx.us.

The following list identifies our six state Representatives and our two state Senators, as well as their contact information. Phone calls and visits to offices are always best, and if you want to talk about a specific bill, talking to a legislative director or chief of staff is the best way to do it. Please contact both Republicans and Democrats.

House Members:

Dawna Dukes:	463-0506	EXT E1.504
Valinda Bolton	463-0652	EXT E2.716
Donna Howard:	463- 0631	EXT E2.810
Elliott Naishtat:	463-0668	CAP GW.16
Mark Strama:	463-0821	EXT E2.510
Eddie Rodriguez	463-0674	EXT E2.718

Senators

Kirk Watson	463-0114	EXT E1.712
Jeff Wentworth	463-0125	CAP 1E.9

Two bills to monitor now are:

Senate Bill 1 regarding the budget. This is the only bill they have to pass.
HB 47/Voter ID. It is important to contact the legislators now regarding HB 47/ Voter ID.

It is also extremely important that we contact Speaker Joe Straus immediately. We need to make sure that he appoints a chair of the Elections Committee who is favorable to the Voter Photo ID Bill. Please remember when you make your calls to be polite and courteous.

Speaker Joe Straus
Austin office: 512-463-0686
District office (San Antonio): 210-828-4411
Email: Joe.Straus@house.state.tx.us

Tell him two things:

- 1 - Ask that he appoint a chair of the Elections Committee who is favorable to the Voter Photo ID bill.
- 2 - Providing a photo ID for voting is important for keeping the election process honest.

Lincoln Day Dinner

The TCRP "Champions of Freedom" Lincoln Day Dinner on February 12th will be at the Renaissance Hotel. The event will include a silent auction and ARW has been asked to help provide items. Suggested items are political memorabilia, restaurant gift certificates, spa & salon service gift certificates, golf lessons, tennis lessons, golf gift certificates (popular with the men), airline vouchers, State of Texas items, etc. They simply need items that would excite people...we want them to bid! If anyone has any items to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.



If you would like to donate a silent auction item, please have it to the TCRP by February 9, 2009.

The Power of Words: ARW Participates in The Dictionary Project

There is no greater example of the power of words to inspire, educate, and motivate than those of "the Great Communicator" Ronald Reagan. It is in this spirit that the Austin Republican Women has joined the Texas Federation of Republican Women's community outreach initiative to promote The Dictionary Project across Texas.

The Dictionary Project was founded in 1992 with the goal "to encourage children to use dictionaries so that they will be able to use the English language effectively." The Project expanded its mission to provide dictionaries to all students in the United States. The dictionaries are gifts to the students, who can use the books to improve their vocabulary and learn to communicate effectively. In just the first year of the program, Texas Republican women donated more than twenty thousand dictionaries to disadvantaged youths in the State of Texas.

While dictionaries are typically distributed to third graders, ARW will expand this outreach and provide dictionaries to both third and fifth grade students at economically disadvantaged schools in Austin. Third grade students will receive dictionaries with important additional sections, including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and information about the American Presidents. Fifth grade students will receive an expanded version with sections on the branches of government, how laws are made, and important events in American history.

ARW will conduct classroom presentations to show students how to use their new dictionaries. These books will be an invaluable tool in both the classroom and at home, where many students have reported that their dictionaries are used as a resource by the entire family.

If you would like to make an individual donation to help ARW provide these wonderful dictionaries to Austin students, please contact Community Outreach and Literacy Program Chair, Ginger Loeffler, at 512-585-9180. Let's work together to show how much Austin Republican Women care about the future of Texas children.

Caring For America

In December, the Austin Republican Women sent almost 100 boxes to our troops! There will be three packing parties this year (March, July, and November). Please check back for more details. If you are a school teacher and would like to have your students write letters and make cards for our soldiers, please contact Terri Flow at tfflow0811@yahoo.com to get more information about what is needed.

Remember when you see a soldier to say, "THANK YOU."

Member Nametag

New for 2009: all members who would like a magnetic name badge to use for ARW member functions and other public/political functions now have the opportunity to purchase a nametag for personal use. The new membership applications going forward will have an option to order and pay for the new nametag (\$5.50). Our club order will be placed immediately after our meeting in early March. You can sign up at our March meeting or you can send your check for \$5.50, made out to Austin Republican Women, to our club's Corresponding Sect., Carol Cates, at 11706 Running Fox Trail, Austin, TX 78759. Please have all payments/orders to Carol no later than Friday, March 6th.



The Best Veep Ever?

By James Crabtree on RealPolitix.com – January 16, 2009

Forty-six men have held the office of the Vice President of the United States. On January 20th Joe Biden will become the 47th, but already his outsized ego wants you to know that, "I'm the most experienced Vice President since anybody." The only thing larger than that display of pomposity is Biden's ignorance about the office. Luckily for him the media didn't widely report his remarks, which may already show how irrelevant the man has become. Let's hope it stays that way.

One wonders if Biden has ever heard of the names of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, John Calhoun, Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, and George H.W. Bush. All had life experiences and accomplishments far grander than Biden's upon assuming the office of Vice President. The position has been often maligned and sadly the average American might at first glance let Biden's audacious arrogance pass due to a disturbing unfamiliarity with history. It was the 32nd Vice President, John Nance Garner, who once famously said that the office was, "Not worth a warm bucket of (expletive deleted)." This was coming from a man that had previously wielded power as the Speaker of the House. The closest Biden has gotten to true power has been pontificating in committee rooms and on the floor of the senate for over half of his life. This is not mere hyperbole. Biden was elected to the Senate at the age of 29, took office at 30, and is now 66 years old. He must surely know, after his disastrous runs for

the presidency in 1988 and 2008, that he will have little chance to become president barring a tragedy. With that in mind, he is now determined instead to tell everyone how great he will be in the number two slot.

In a display of brazenness, Biden did not resign immediately from the Senate upon being elected Vice President. He instead took the oath to begin his seventh six-year term in office when Congress reconvened earlier this month. This forced his handpicked successor, who was chosen because he will not run for reelection in 2010 but rather will step aside for Biden's son Beau, to now move into the office several weeks late. And for what reason? Biden's ego of course. He stated that he wanted to say he'd served seven terms in the Senate. Never mind that all previous Vice Presidents that served in the senate, such as Gore, Quayle, and Mondale, immediately resigned their seats and began focusing on becoming Vice President. They obviously must not have possessed the "confidence" that Biden has in his own abilities.

There have been some truly honorable and heroic men that have served as Vice President whom history has forgotten. One of which was Henry Wilson. Wilson was an orphan that lived a childhood of true poverty and destitution. As a young man he began to work in a shoe shop as a cobbler and ultimately educated himself and eventually entered politics. As a senator he was known for his intelligence, his diligence, and his devotion to end slavery. When he became President Grant's Vice President in 1873 he was heralded as the simple "Cobbler from Natick, Mass." The small humble 10 foot by 10 foot shoe shop in which he once worked is now a lonely landmark.

Charles Dawes was our 30th V.P. and gained fame for earning the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on WW I reparations. During the war he had served in the Army and was famous for telling a congressional committee that was looking into military finances afterwards that, "Hell and Maria, we weren't trying to keep a set of books over there, we were trying to win a war!" His statement sat well with patriotic Americans and from then on he was known as "Hell and Maria" Dawes. He was also a self taught pianist and composer and his well know tune of "Melody in A Major" became a posthumous number one hit in 1958 when lyrics were added and it was retitled "It's All in the Game."

Charles Curtis was America's first Native American Indian to rise to high prominence in office. As a child he was raised by his maternal grandparents on the Kaw Reservation in Kansas. He worked his way through college and became a successful lawyer. Once elected to congress he proved to be very popular and he served as Senate Minority Whip from 1915-1924 and Senate Majority Leader from 1925-1929 where upon he was elected to the Vice Presidency. He died at the age of 76 in 1936 and has been largely forgotten.

There have been two Vice Presidents, Aaron Burr and John Breckinridge, that were later indicted for treason and one, Spiro Agnew, that was forced to resign from office in disgrace. While Biden has not done anything to lump his name in with those scoundrels, he still has a long way to go to rise to the level of Wilson, Dawes, and Curtis. In fact, it's doubtful he even knows who those three great Americans were, though he seemingly expects us to know that he's the greatest of all time. If Biden would spend some more time reading about the history of his new office and less time bloviating on his grandeur he may find some much needed humility.

Websites

Check out our website for up to the date information: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org

Travis County Republican Party: www.Traviscountygop.org

Texas Federation of Republican Women: www.TFRW.org

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