



AUSTIN REPUBLICAN WOMEN

January 2011

Volume 3, Number 1

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and congratulations to all of you for contributing to the Republican Party's many wins in the recent state and national elections. I posted a new welcome message on the ARW website that describes ARW members as the boots on the ground, and sometimes the "high heels on the ground". This is certainly true and you deserve to be recognized for your efforts!

I also humbly thank you for electing me to be the 2011 ARW President. With this honor comes much responsibility and I'm excited to begin. This year my focus will be to grow our membership numbers by at least 10% and to focus our volunteer efforts on our military and veterans.



There is definitely strength in numbers and with 2012 looming over the horizon, we need to engage and educate voters in Austin. The more members we have, the better we can get the word out about Republican candidates and our philosophies. Also, we will need to raise money to support our local 2012 Republican candidates and that work begins by growing our membership and encouraging our members to take part in fundraisers and activities that ARW sponsors.



Over the years, ARW has particularly focused its efforts on serving the needs of our military in action and also reaching out and assisting our wounded warriors and their families. 2011 brings a renewed emphasis on this effort and I'm looking forward to continuing our current projects, like our Troop Pack Parties, and beginning some new traditions.

I appreciate your support and look forward to working with you to lead ARW to another successful year.

- Kim

REMINDER: 2011 Membership fees are now due. \$35 provides full privileges of membership in ARW, Texas Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women. Membership forms are available at the next meeting or online: www.AustinRepublicanWomen.org .

Join us for our February Luncheon!

Thursday, February 3
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Sullivans - Colorado & 4th
Cost: \$25 (choice of three entrees)

Our speaker will be Mr. Chad C. Sweet, Co-founder and Managing Principal of The Chertoff Group in Washington DC.

After having helped to fight the threat of Communism during his tenure at the CIA, Mr. Sweet left the Agency in the early 90s and began a career in finance. He returned to public service after 9/11, which he personally witnessed from his Goldman Sachs office in New York.

At the Department of Homeland Security, Mr. Sweet worked directly with Secretary Michael Chertoff to restructure and optimize the flow of information between the CIA, FBI and other members of the national security community and DHS. He also supported the Secretary during numerous operations to detect, disrupt and respond to terrorist plots both in the United States and overseas.



Following the Inauguration of President Obama – during which DHS helped confront a potential terrorist plot – Secretary Chertoff and Mr. Sweet returned to private life and founded the Chertoff Group, where they continue working to help companies and political entities manage a broad range of risks.

Mr. Sweet graduated with honors from Columbia University and resides in New York City. He regularly appears on Fox News regarding National Security.

RSVP by Tuesday Feb 1 at noon to: Denise Jenkins
meetingsvp@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider volunteering at the Assistance League of Austin (ALA). Not only will you be volunteering for a great cause, your time spent volunteering with the ALA gets counted as official TFRW volunteer hours. Please visit www.alaustin.org to learn more about this wonderful Austin association. Sign up forms will be available at the February luncheon.

“The mission of the Assistance League of Austin is to enable children and adults in the Greater Austin community to achieve a higher quality of life by providing for specific identifiable needs.” This is an easy, fun, and gratifying way for our members to give back to our community and to increase our volunteer hours.

Many ARW members are already working as volunteers at the ALA. Your hours will count retroactive back to Jan. 1st so please email me at peggymorse@ymail.com with your name and volunteer hours.

Peggy Maxwell

WOMEN OF WOUNDED WARRIORS

Join the *Women of Wounded Warriors* in honoring the mothers, wives and daughters of our Wounded Warrior Marines.

Who: ARW members will have the opportunity to honor the mothers, wives and daughters of our Wounded Warrior Marines located at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) with a celebration in their honor.

When: Thursday, February 24, 2011 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Saks Fifth Avenue, North Star Mall, 7400 San Pedro Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78216



When we think of those injured and suffering from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, we typically think of those who have directly served overseas. We often forget those closest to our soldiers who serve as well. For the U.S. Marine Corps, BAMC is reserved for the worst injuries Marines receive in these wars, from severe burn injuries to amputations. When this happens, Marines have to heal and learn how to live with their injuries. This emotional and physical healing and rehabilitation process can take years to accomplish. Wives, children and parents suffer alongside their loved ones through this process.



Brooke Army Medical Center

On the evening of the *Women of Wounded Warriors Celebration*, Saks Fifth Avenue clears out an area of the store for these women. Saks provides food and drinks, and numerous employees volunteer to make the evening a success. Lancôme Cosmetics provides makeup artists and the Saks Salon provides hair stylists, giving each woman an entire makeover right on the spot.

As an ARW member, you can support the women of our Wounded Warrior Marines several ways, including volunteering your time with these women, donating money, giving an item or service to be raffled, or providing a goody bag surprise (for 25 women). If you would like to contribute to this event, please contact Stephanie Barnes at swimexperience@gmail.com or 512-217-8652, or Angelique Salas at ForexAngel@me.com or 913-306-6900. Gift cards, raffle gifts or goodie-bag surprises are all needed and are welcome.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you and God Bless!

Kelly Hoag
Co-Chair, Caring for America
512-618-3946 or jkhoag@yahoo.com

ARW Legislative Update – January 2010

Brace yourself ladies, this legislative session is going to be a doozy!



Governor & Mrs. Perry at the Inaugural Gala

On Tuesday, January 11, 2011, the 82nd Legislative Session began. Our legislators, Governor Perry and Lt. Dewhurst certainly have their plates full as they face a 140-day session that will deal with some major issues, including redistricting and a challenging state budget shortfall. But with challenges comes opportunities!

Republicans have a super-majority in the house, a strong majority in the Senate, a Republican Speaker and Lt. Governor running both legislative chambers, and of course a Republican Governor holding the veto pen, so the stage is set for our most successful session ever. Finally – because of our many years of hard work to build this majority – Republicans will lead the charge to reign in government spending. We also hold the pen to draw political districts, which will be in place for the next 10 years.

We also have the opportunity to support their efforts and give our elected officials encouragement to do the right thing for Texas! Over the next few months, the ARW legislative committee will monitor hot button issues such as the budget, redistricting and voter id and will send a weekly report of what has happened at the Capitol. We will also look for ways to empower you to get involved through a “Call to Action” section of our report, which will include writing letters to the editor, testifying at the Capitol, calling your legislators and much, much more.



If you would like to join our efforts, please email Suzanne Bellsnyder at legislative@austinrepublicanwomen.org with your thoughts and suggestions.

TFRW Region IX Leadership Workshop

Saturday, February 5, 2011

Courtyard by Marriott; 750 IH 35 North, New Braunfels

\$17 per person. Networking Lunch Included.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Workshop – 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The 2010 election was a great start – but 2012 is around the corner! Let's get our TFRW clubs ready to hit the ground running!

- * Hear from TFRW leaders who will provide tools to increase your club's effectiveness
- * Exchange ideas with women who hold the same position in other clubs
- * Get answers to all your club-related questions straight from the expert

Learn From These Outstanding TFRW Leaders:

Rebecca Bradford
TFRW President

Rebecca Williamson
TFRW VP Programs/SREC

Amy Clark
SREC, SD #21

Melissa Goodwin
Justice, 3rd Court of Appeals

Holly Hansen
TFRW Public Relations Chair

Jan Kennady
NFRW Parliamentarian

Rachel Woods
TFRW Leadership Development

Lynn Schwind
New Braunfels RW President

Topics Include:

● Role of the Club President ● PAC ● Communications and Messaging ● Membership ● Programs ● Parliamentary Procedure ● Awards ● Social Networking ● Leadership Skills

Registration

Make checks payable to Canyon Lake Republican Women (CLRW)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Occupation _____ Email _____

Mail form and check by February 1st to:

Karen Baker
2540 Connie Drive
Canyon Lake, TX 78133

For more information contact:

Jennifer Lambert
jenlambert@att.net
(210) 651-7378

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Senate a Microcosm of Texas

by Jeff Wentworth
State Senator, District 25

The 82nd Legislature convened in Austin on Tuesday, January 11, for the 140-day biennial session. Family and friends joined us for the day filled with ceremony and tradition.

Those newly elected or re-elected to another term in the Senate were sworn into office by Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court Wallace Jefferson. A new president pro tem was elected and sworn in, and Governor Perry came by to say a few words about the session.



But just who are the 31 members of the Texas Senate? They hail from Amarillo to Brownsville, El Paso to Tyler, and from the West Texas desert to the Gulf Coast. They are a microcosm of Texas.

One member, a family practice physician, played drums professionally 40 years ago with Ike and Tina Turner's band. A Panhandle senator is a member of the Harley-Davidson Owners Group. Another is a flight instructor, while another served his country as an officer in the U.S. Navy submarine fleet.

As for the nuts and bolts, the Senate is composed of 25 men and six women (more women should run for the Texas Senate), 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats, 29 incumbents and two new members.

The senators combined have more than 70 children and 29 grandchildren. Two members are former public school teachers, and another teaches at the university level. Four are retired, except for their Senate service, and five, myself included, are military veterans.

One of our new colleagues, a retired U.S. Army Officer, was injured while on duty at the Pentagon on 9/11 when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building. He and his wife founded and operate a non-profit to assist and encourage critical burn survivors and wounded servicemen and women.

The senators' civic involvement and volunteerism are remarkable, and they share a calling to public service. Nine had served on their city council or commissioners' court before their election to the Senate. One was twice elected judge to a criminal district court, and one served 17 years as a county attorney. Half of the senators served in the Texas House of Representatives before their election to the Senate. We call those members "House-broken."

Texas legislators are part-time public servants. The good people of Texas pay us \$600 a month, so we have other professions and jobs when the Legislature is not in session. As you might expect, 12 of the 31 are attorneys. Other occupations or industries represented include farming, construction, pharmacy, engineering, oil and gas, steel, advertising, broadcasting, financial services, real estate, and small businesses.

The longest-serving senator has been here 27 years. Among the 29 of us who are not serving our first term of office, we have a combined 341 years in the Senate.

To learn more about the senators in the 82nd Legislature, please visit the Texas Senate Web site at www.senate.state.tx.us/.

The Race is on...

Republicans Announce Candidacy for U.S. Senate Seat

Recently, long-standing U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison announced she will not seek re-election in 2012. On the heels of that announcement, many prominent Texas republicans have declared their intention to run for her seat. ARW will follow this important race closely, starting with introductory profiles of the candidates:

Roger Williams

Experience: Mr. Williams served as Texas Secretary of State, the chief election officer for the state. He also served as the state's Chief Liaison for Texas Border and Mexican Affairs as well as Chair of the state's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Response Strike Force. Mr. Williams has vast campaign experience and was recently endorsed by President George H.W. Bush.

Campaign Website: www.rogerforsenate.com



Ted Cruz

Experience: From 2003-08, Cruz served as the Solicitor General of Texas, the chief lawyer for the State before the U.S. Supreme Court and all the state and federal appellate courts. Cruz was the youngest Solicitor General in the nation, the longest serving Solicitor General in Texas, and the first Hispanic Solicitor General in Texas.

Elizabeth Ames Jones

Experience: Jones was sworn in as Railroad Commissioner in 2005. She was first elected in 2000 to the Texas House of Representatives where she served as Chairman of Budget and Oversight for the Energy Resources Committee.

Campaign Website: www.jonesfortexas.com



Michael L. Williams

Experience: Recently resigned seat as Railroad Commissioner to focus on Senate race. Mr. Williams was elected statewide three times as Commissioner and is the first African American in Texas to hold an executive statewide elected post. He previously served under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Campaign Website: www.williamsfortexas.com

David Dewhurst

Experience: Current Lieutenant Governor. In 1998, Dewhurst became the first Republican since Reconstruction to be elected Texas Land Commissioner. He is a veteran and a longtime community leader in his hometown of Houston.

Campaign Website: While Lt. Governor Dewhurst has not officially announced his candidacy, he has long been a favorite for the seat.



2010ARW Board - Contact Us

Kim Chambers, President
president@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Denise Jenkins, 1st Vice President
1stVP@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Diane Fulton, 2nd Vice President
programs@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Ronda Karam, 3rd Vice President
fundraising@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Carla Robinson, 4th Vice President
membership@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Peggy Maxwell, 5th Vice President
campaigns@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Suzanne Bellsyder, 6th Vice President
legislative@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Kathy Webster, Corresponding Secretary
correspond@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Michele Carlquist, Treasurer
treasurer@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Jeannie Cheung, Recording Secretary
recording@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Stacy Odom, PAC Treasurer
PAC@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Courtney Forsell, Newsletter Editor
newsletter@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Websites

Austin Republican Women: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org

Travis County Republican Party: www.Traviscountygop.org

Travis Republican Advisory Committee PAC: www.gopTRACPAC.org

Texas Federation of Republican Women: www.TFRW.org

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