



President's Message

The wonderful team of ladies in our club helped make 2015, our 60th year as a club, a year of excellence. Thank you to our 2015 Elected and Appointed Board Members for leading each of your areas with such success ~ from receiving the NFRW Gold Club Achievement and the TFRW John Goodwin Tower Excellence Awards, the Newsletter Award, and to growing our club membership by over 10%, and raising excellent donations to fund our local primary candidates in 2016, and support our overseas and local troops with numerous shipments of supplies and gifts from our hands "sent with love", our club should be so proud of its successes. A huge thank you to all of our club members and associate members who sponsored and donated money to support our Republican causes throughout the year. To our Directory and Fundraising Event Sponsors, we could not have done it without your generous donations or the hard work of our club volunteers, THANK YOU again! And most sincerely, thank you for allowing me the privilege of leading this club of wonderful ladies; it has truly been an honor.

My congratulations go to President-elect Rossy Farina Strauss and all of the nominated officers who were elected on December 3rd and will take office in January. Rossy will be an excellent president and will lead our club with the determination and vision necessary in this upcoming election year. Thank you, Rossy, and to all those in elected and appointed positions who will lead and serve on the committees in 2016. Your commitment to ARW is appreciated by us all!

As we end this year with thanks and celebration, and head into an election year, I hope that we as Republican Women will unite! If we want our country to change, it is up to us to make it happen.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your families,

Carol Neal, 2015 President

December 12, 2015

Vol. 7, No 7

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Newsletter comments, questions & suggestions are welcome.

newsletter@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Thanks!

The TFRW Convention held in Lubbock, TX in November a huge Success!

By Carol Neal, 2015 President

In early November, The Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW) enjoyed a treat from our Lubbock TFRW clubs, who planned and orchestrated a wonderful convention with many elected officials in attendance who spoke to our group as part of the programming, including: **Governor Greg Abbott, Senator John Cornyn, Presidential Candidate Senator Ted Cruz, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Attorney General Ken Paxton, Comptroller Glenn Hegar, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, and former Governor Rick Perry.**

Thank you to those from our club who attended and participated at convention and helped make it such a success (in alpha order): **Kim Bailey, Dawn Buckingham, Michele Carlquist, Sharon Edwards, Diane Fulton, Robbi Hull, Carol Neal, Cheryl Porter, Sharri Siegwarth, and Gail Suttle.**

The next convention year will be in 2017, when both national and state club chapters will reconvene as groups once again.

For now, it's time for boots on the ground with our upcoming major election year! If you are interested in being part of the Strike Force that goes to concentrated areas both in state and out of state to canvas neighborhoods to talk to fellow Republicans about getting out to vote.



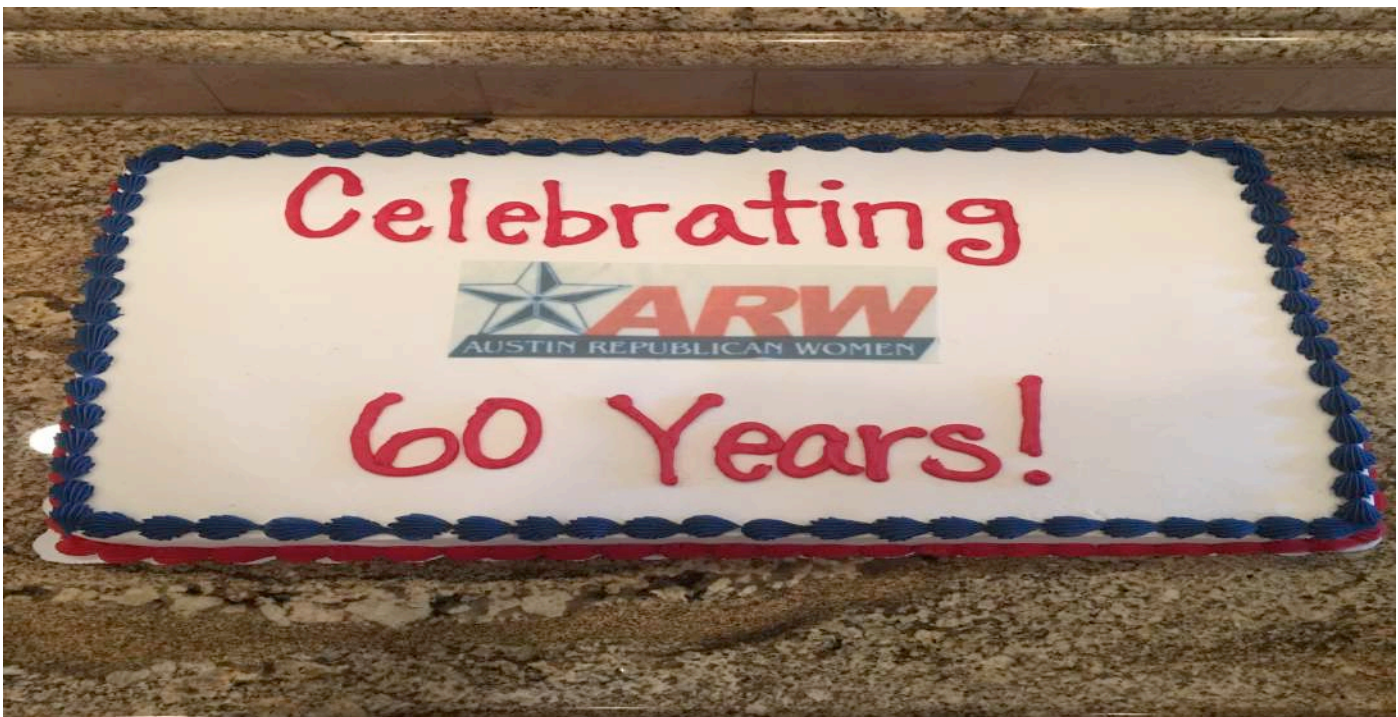


ARW Members at the TFRW Convention in Lubbock TX

ARW's 60th Anniversary - Christmas Party & Installation of Officers for 2016

By Carol Neal, 2015 President

A huge thank you to all who attended our luncheon in early December at the home of club member, **Cindy Wilson**. We are so grateful to have such a generous host for our 60th Anniversary Celebration. With delicious food provided by our board and club member volunteers, we celebrated in style. A sincere thanks to **Phil Johnson, Justice Texas Supreme Court** for leading our swearing in for our club's elected officers for 2016. We look forward to 2016 with President-elect, **Rossy Farina Strauss** leading our board and club members in our 61st year!





ARW Members Enjoying the ARW Celebration!



2016 ARW Officers Will Be Hard At Work During This Presidential Election Year and We Need Volunteers!

BY ROSSY FARIÑA-STRAUSS, 2016 PRESIDENT ELECT

CONGRATULATIONS and MANY THANKS to our 2016 officers for their commitment to continue the necessary work towards accomplishing ARW's mission and goals during this very important election year that is 2016! The GOP could not do it with out you!

Many thanks also go to our wonderful ARW Members that volunteered and participated with our Board during 2015! These ladies are always ready to get involved! Thank you!

ARW's grassroots work is ongoing, never ending and of the outmost importance during this Presidential Election year. And to insure that we are successful in electing a Republican to the White House we will be calling on you, our ARW members, to help us with the work.

Please come forward and let us know that you want to volunteer and be ready to work with us when we call on you. Together **WE CAN WIN** the White House in 2016!

Onwards to **VICTORY** in 2016 and the **Merriest of Christmas** and a **Happy 2016** to all!



The 2016 ARW Officers

The Republican Convention Process

By Carol Neal, 2015 President

Many of our members, in anticipation of next year's major election year are asking about preparing for and entering the Republican Convention Process. We are all directed to go to our own county's website. For those in Travis County, where our club is located, please go to: www.tcrp.org and click on the link entitled: **About the Republican Convention Process**: <https://sites.google.com/site/tcrpcon/>

DETAILS:

PRECINCT CONVENTIONS UPDATE: Travis GOP 2016 **Precinct Conventions** are to take place the SATURDAY after the Primary Election (3/5/16), between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. TCRP will have a full list of precinct convention locations on their site by Jan. 15, 2016. Please refer to this site for other important updates as we enter the 2016 election cycle.

SD/COUNTY CONVENTIONS UPDATE: The Travis GOP Executive Committee voted to host separate SD Conventions again for 2016. The names of Convention Chairmen and other information are detailed on the TCRP site and listed on the SD caucus pages, for more detailed information

Directory – Supplement to our 2015 Directory

Most of our members who have attended our club meetings and events this year have picked up their 2015 Directory. If you have not already obtained a copy and would like to have one, please contact Carol Neal at: president@austinrepublicanwomen.org

A final supplement to our Directory, which includes all remaining members and associated for 2015 will be sent by Carol Neal to all club members and associates following this newsletter by separate email.

UPCOMING ARW EVENTS

JANUARY CLUB LUNCHEON | Thursday, January 7 | Austin Country Club | Meet The Supremes, Criminal Appeals and 3rd Court of Appeals.

MAKE YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS COUNT!

By Sharon Edwards, Chairman, Campaign Activities

VOLUNTEER HOURS TO BE REPORTED FOR DECEMBER

It is that time again. I will soon be reporting the FINAL hours our members have volunteered for 2015! These are the hours you volunteer each month toward getting Republicans elected as well as activities such as gathering supplies and packing for our troops.

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR HOURS BY DECEMBER 18TH

Fill out the **Monthly ARW Individual Campaign Hours Reporting Form** available at: <http://www.austinrepublicanwomen.org>.

Download; complete the form and e-mail directly to me at: campaigns@austinrepublicanwomen.org.

CARING FOR AMERICA TROOP PACKING PARTY

By Caring for America – Sharon Dismore, Chair; Janie McClam, Co-Chair

On Saturday, November 14, 2015 ARW hosted the last Troop Packing Party for 2015. We collected many needed toiletries, sundries and other requested items to send to our troops in harm's way in both Afghanistan and Iraq, and for that we **THANK** all our Members that contributed to this important event.

Be ready again to join us in 2016 for our next party. Information will be coming out soon!



2015 ARW BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ARW President – Carol Neal (512) 431.5746

Immediate Past President – Michele Carlquist

1st Vice President – Rossy Fariña-Strauss

2nd VP - Programs – Diane Fulton

3rd VP – Fundraising – Rossy Farina-Strauss, Chair; Gretchen Munday, Co-Chair

4th VP – Membership – Patty Wimberley

5th VP – Campaign Activities – Sharon Edwards

6th VP – Legislative – Robbi Hull

Recording Secretary – Linda VanDeWalle

Corresponding Secretary – Marijane Smitherman

Treasurer – Michele Carlquist

Assistant Treasurer– Lisa Elledge

PAC Treasurer – Maureen Metteauer

Hospitality – Denise Lackey, Chair-Debbie Holzhauser, Co-Chair

Barbara Bush Literacy – Raquel Hernandez

Caring for America – Sharon Dismore, Chair; Janie McClam, Co-Chair

Awards – Vickie Bardin

Newsletter/Social Media – Rossy Fariña-Strauss, Chair

Historian – Rossy Fariña-Strauss

Parliamentarian – Anne Barlow