



President's Message

Dear ARW Members,

It has been a very busy election season with the primary elections, participating in the Travis County Precinct Conventions, the various County Committees, and the GOP Senate District Conventions.

Several of our ARW members volunteered in many areas, as precinct chairs or as part of the County committees involved in the Rules, Resolutions, Credentials, and Nominations. Every time you looked around you could find an ARW member volunteering and helping out!

A big round of applause must go to them, our members who gave their time and continue to help to ensure that this election is a win for the GOP.

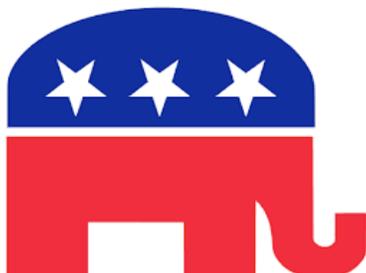
Now we look forward to the State GOP Convention in Dallas that will take place on May 12th through May 14th and the run-off election of several Republican candidates on May 24th.

We in ARW have a very impressive group of members with a vast knowledge of the conservative core principles and a determination to help pick Republicans for every office in 2016. Therefore, I continue to urge everyone to stay involved by getting to know the candidates and participating in the elections activities.

ONWARD TO VICTORY IN 2016!

Rossy Fariña-Strauss, President

Austin Republican Women



April 6, 2016

Vol. 8, No 4

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Newsletter comments, questions & suggestions are welcomed.

newsletter@austinrepublicanwomen.org

ARW UPCOMING EVENTS

April New Member Social | Thursday, April 21 | Home of Cindy Wilson| A Tesla car will be available for a test drive.

April Troop Packing Party | Saturday April. 30 | Chiropractic Clinic of Linda and Dr. Mike VanDeWalle.

May Luncheon | Thursday, May 5th | Austin Country Club.

June Social | TBD

July Social | TBD

August Luncheon | Austin Country Club.

September OKTOBERFEST | Thursday, Sept. 21st

October Luncheon | Thursday, Oct 6th | Austin Country Club.

November Luncheon | Thursday, Nov. 3rd | Austin Country Club.

December Christmas Party | Thursday, Dec 8th

Formal events announcement and RSVP can be found at: austinrepublicanwomen.org.



ARW March Luncheon with Matt Mackowiak

2016 ELECTION DATES and INFORMATION

Information on the 2016 Elections can also be found at: <http://sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/2016-important-election-dates.shtml>

2016 Election Dates

Primary Runoff

25-Apr Last day to register to vote
16-May 1st day early voting
20-May Last day early voting
24-May VOTE

Election

11-Oct Last day to register to vote
24-Oct 1st day early voting
4-Nov Last day early voting
8-Nov VOTE

Information on the Upcoming Conventions and Candidates

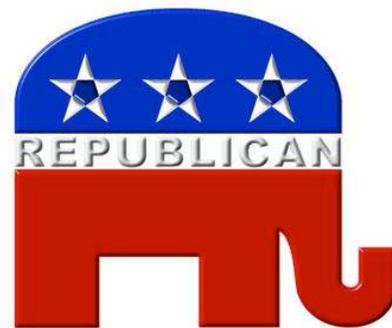
The Travis County Republican website includes information on the convention process.

<https://sites.google.com/site/tcrpcon/system/app/pages/sitemap/hierarchy>

The Republican Party of Texas website has information on the candidates running for office. <http://www.texasgop.org/elections/>

The Texas Secretary of State website has everything you want to know from registering to vote to the candidates running for office. <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/candidate-filing/cf-report.aspx>

The Travis County Clerk's website has information from what is on the ballot to polling locations. <http://traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=Elections>



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Robbi Hull, 1st V and Trina Dillard, 6th VP Legislative

With everyone in Washington paying attention to the primaries rather than passing legislation, we thought we'd take this opportunity to share some legislative trivia. Fifty years ago, the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, was enacted to give members of the public a right to access records held by the executive branch of government that, although not classified, would not otherwise be available to them. In recent years, however, the government has increasingly used loopholes and other tactics to deny, delay, or redact the disclosure of information required under the law. Indeed, according to an Associated Press analysis, President Obama, who promised to have the "most transparent administration in history," set a new record in 2014 for "censoring government files or outright denying access to them" under FOIA. It was the Administration's second year in a row setting that record. Now here's the shocker: Congress actually is making progress on a bipartisan plan to fix FOIA and improve the public's access to public information. On March 15th, the Senate unanimously approved legislation that would expand public access to government documents and records under FOIA and make it easier for citizens, journalists, businesses, and anyone else to access the information on the Internet. The bill, the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 (S.337 sponsored by Sen. Cornyn), essentially codifies an executive memorandum that was released by President Obama on the first day of his presidency, calling on federal agencies to use a "presumption of openness" when deciding whether or not to approve FOIA requests. Don't you just hate it when your own language comes back to bite you in the --ss!

Since the Bill has passed in the Senate, it's up to the House of Representatives to see it through. Let your representatives know that you believe in your right to access records dealing with the people's business. You can look up your representative and contact information at the link below.

Robbi Hull, 1st VP

Trina Dillard, 6th VP Legislative

For a complete list of Congressional Representatives, go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/City.aspx?CityName=Austin>

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Austin Republican Women - Contact ARW President, Rossy Fariña-Strauss at: president@austinrepublicanwomen.org.

Travis County Republican Party - Contact Elections Recruiter Michael Morris at 512-302-1776.

The Travis GOP Job Bank: <https://sites.google.com/site/travisgop/job-bank/>

The Texas GOP also has volunteering information at: <http://www.texasgop.org/take-action/>

The Mighty Texas Strike Force at: <http://www.texasgop.org/strikeforce/>

TFRW continues to need volunteers for the **TRIBUTE TO WOMEN LUNCHEON** that will take place on **MAY 13TH** in **DALLAS** at the RPT convention. If you would like to volunteer email Karen Newton at: vpfinance@frw.org.

MAKE YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS COUNT!

March Volunteer Hours are Now Due

By Sharon Edwards, Chairman, Campaign Chair

Recording Your Volunteer Campaign Hours!

DID YOU REMEMBER?

It is the first of another month and time to report your volunteer hours for January - March, our first quarter of the year. That means those hours you spent on a **political campaign** calling and licking envelopes. Or perhaps you attended a **political workshop**, traveled to an **ARW, TFRW or NFRW** meeting, or helped with *Get Out The Vote*. [See my February article for more information].

Your volunteer hours count with ARW as well as TFRW [Texas Federation of Republican Women] and help us compete for some coveted awards! If you have a question about what constitutes volunteer time, don't hesitate to contact me.

Please make a note to send those volunteer hours to me on the first day of each month - mark it on your calendar now.

Fill out the Monthly ARW Individual Campaign Hours Reporting Form available at: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org.

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

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CARING FOR AMERICA

REPORTING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HOURS

Many of us, besides volunteering for a political event, also volunteer at schools, hospital, food banks, churches, wounded warrior, veteran and troop support groups or other community events or entities. The hours that are spent doing these activities are important and count towards awards that are given by The Texas Federation of Republican Women.

Please let us know at the end of each month where and how many hours you volunteer for community entities by emailing Sharon Dismore and Jeanie McClam at: caring@austinrepublicanwomen.org

**“A woman is like a tea bag, you can not tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.”
First Lady, Nancy Reagan.**

CARING FOR AMERICA - TROOP SUPPORT

By Sharon Dismore, Chairman, Caring for America Chair

THE TROOP PACKING PARTY IS APRIL 30th!

We will be having a packing party to send boxes of needed supplies to our troops in harm's way on **Saturday, April 30th**.

Needed items include; disposable razors, wet ones (any personal wipes), soap, hand lotion, anti-itch cream, toothpaste, shampoo, trail mix, beef jerky, ground coffee, pocket snacks, soup mix, microwave popcorn, and books (to name a few things).

Please remember that approximately 5% are women, so personal hygiene products are also needed.

At the **April 7th** luncheon and **April 21st** new member social, we will have a container to collect items and/or monetary donations, which we will use to purchase items or assist with postage.

We hope you can join us for the packing party from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the VanDeWalle Chiropractic Clinic located at:

11824 Jollyville Rd., #500, Austin-Texas 78759.

Thank you for your assistance in this worthwhile endeavor.

2016 MEMBERSHIP

WE CONTINUE TO ADD MEMBERS FOR 2016!

To become a new member or to renew your membership, please, print the application from our website at: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org. Please mail the completed form and the dues to arrive to us by no later than **April 18th**.

After April 18 we will not be able to add any additional information to the 2016 directory.

ARW 2016 DIRECTORY

ADVERTISING and HEADSHOTS DEADLINES EXTENDED TO APRIL 18th.

Thank you to all that have supported the directory by forwarding a donation and by purchasing an ad! ARW appreciates your tremendous support.

Advertisement space is still available. If you are interested in including your business information by purchasing an advertisement in the directory, now is the time to do so.

We are also continuing to collect headshots for the directory until **April 18th**.

To forward the directory headshots and to request information to place your advertisement please contact Rossy Fariña-Strauss at: president@austingrepublicanwomen.org.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM TFRW: March 19, 2016

CONTACT: Lisa Ziriak, 405-596-3873 or communications@nfrw.org for any questions.

National Federation of Republican Women Pledges Unity in 2016 Election

Republican Women Will Support Republican Presidential Nominee

ARLINGTON, Va. - More than 150 Republican women leaders from across the nation gathered at the National Federation of Republican Women's (NFRW) spring board meeting in Arlington on March 17-19, where they pledged to come together during the general election to support the 2016 Republican presidential nominee.

The NFRW board unanimously adopted a resolution calling on members to actively support and work to elect the 2016 Republican nominee for president, as well as all Republican candidates for federal, state and local office.

"The NFRW and its members have a 78-year track record of coming together in unity following a competitive primary campaign season, and this year will be no different," NFRW President Carrie Almond said. "We are united and have a common purpose: to completely reverse course and end the failed policies of President Obama and the Democrats. The way to accomplish this is to send a Republican to the White House, and we will enthusiastically, wholeheartedly stand behind our party's nominee."

[Read the full resolution.](#)

Founded in 1938, the NFRW has thousands of active members in local clubs across the nation, making it one of the largest women's political organizations in the country. The grassroots organization works to promote the principles and objectives of the Republican Party, elect Republican candidates, inform the public through political education and activity, and increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.

Party of Prosperity

Low taxes, sound money, and regulatory restraint: these were among the commonsense economic policies established by the GOP that brought about decades of prosperity after the Civil War. Republicans encouraged innovation and rule of law. Buttressed by Republican control in Congress, the McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and Taft administrations cleared away obstacles to economic growth. President Dwight Eisenhower and congressional Republicans appreciated the fact that the private sector, not government, is the engine of wealth creation. With his bold tax-cutting agenda, President Ronald Reagan revived the economy after years of Democrat malaise. Taken from: www.gop.com/history/

2016 ARW Board

ARW President – Rossy Fariña-Strauss

Immediate Past President – Carol Neal

1st Vice President – Robbi Hull

2nd VP - Programs – Diane Fulton

3rd VP – Fundraising – Patty Wimberley

4th VP – Membership – Michele Carlquist

5th VP – Campaign Activities – Sharon Edwards

6th VP – Legislative – Trina Dillard

Recording Secretary – Linda VanDeWalle

Corresponding Secretary – Sharri Seigwarth

Treasurer – Kelly Lux

Assistant Treasurer- Gretchen Munday

PAC Treasurer – Robbi Hull

Hospitality – Denis Lackey, Chair

Debbie Holzheaser, Co Chair

Gretchen Munday, Co Chair

Barbara Bush Literacy – Raquel Hernandez

Caring for America – Sharon Dismore, Chair

Janie McClam, Co Chair

Awards – Rossy Fariña-Strauss

Newsletter/Social Media – Tammy Beaver, Chair

Parliamentarian – Tammy Beaver

Historian-Irma Gonzalez

