



President's Message

Hello ARW Members!

Now that the elections are in full swing the GOP candidates need your help for a win in 2016!

Look around and you will find many ways to volunteer in the many races here in Travis County. The opportunities are endless from; precinct chairs to organizing block walks for candidates and assistance in voter's registration.

I urge you to get involved and be a part of this special and redefining time in our State and in our Country.

Remember that when you volunteer we want to know so that we can count your hours towards the Volunteer Hours Campaign. Please see page 3 for information on this reporting.

Below I am including information on the 2016 elections with website links to resources that you will find helpful.

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

<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>

Thank you for your continued support of ARW and know that I am looking forward to seeing you at our February 18th luncheon.

ONWARD TO VICTORY IN 2016!

Rossy Fariña-Strauss, President

Austin Republican Women

February 6, 2016

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Newsletter comments, questions & suggestions are welcomed,

newsletter@austinrepublicanwomen.org

ARW UPCOMING EVENT

February Luncheon | Thursday, February 18th|

Formal luncheon announcement and RSVP can be found at: <http://austinrepublicanwomen.org>

ARW February Luncheon

February 18, 2016

11:30 - 1:00

Home of Cindy Wilson

4801 Mirador Drive (in Escala)

Austin 78735

Lunch, wine, punch, tea

Cost \$25

Come and hear Congressman Lamar Smith, report on what is happening in D.C. with the committee he chairs and the others on which he serves.

Candidates for Congress Todd Phelps and John Murphy have also been invited.

Candidate Matt McCall spoke at the October luncheon.

March Luncheon | Thursday, March 3rd | Austin Country Club | Information to come.

2016 ELECTION DATES

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

Primaries

16-Feb 1st day early voting
26-Feb Last day early voting
1-March VOTE
5-March Precinct Convention
19-March Senate District/County Convention

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

We've just started the primary season, and you can tell things are going to move fast! Iowa's record turnout for a Republican caucus shows that Republicans are serious about turning this country around. One thing that unites us is our respect for our military men and women and their families. We want to be sure that they are not forgotten. The VA scandal that topped the headlines for so long in 2014 still looms over our heads. In April 2015, Senator Marco Rubio introduced the VA Accountability Act in the Senate (S 1082). The bipartisan bill would allow the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to remove or demote a VA employee because of poor performance or misconduct. In July 2015, the House passed its own version of the bill and sent that to the Senate (H.R. 1994). The House passing was met with an immediate veto threat from the President. In October 2015, Sen. Rubio called for an immediate vote on the bill, but Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D.Conn.) blocked this action. Since that time, the VA Accountability Act has been stuck in limbo. The time for action is now!

Here's what we have been asked to do by a number of our members, veterans, and related entities: PLEASE CALL YOUR SENATORS AND TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE VA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT. You can ask that the Senate call the bill for a vote or send it to a Conference Committee to iron out the differences between the Senate and House versions. But, please make it clear that DOING NOTHING IS UNACCEPTABLE. Our veterans deserve better.

Contact information is provided below. There is also a link that allows you to see the language of the two bills as passed by the House and as proposed by the Senate. There are also numerous articles about the bill if you'd like to do further research yourself. Let's show our veterans that we support them. Call your Senators today!

Senator John Cornyn

Central Texas Office: (512) 469-6034

<http://www.cornyn.senate.gov>

Senator Ted Cruz

Central Texas Office: (512) 916-5834

<http://www.cruz.senate.gov>

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

For information on the Legislature go to: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr1994/text/rfs>

"There's only one way to get real gun control: Disarm the thugs and the criminals, lock them up, and if you don't actually throw the key, at least lose it for a long time." President Ronald Reagan

MAKE YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS COUNT!

By Sharon Edwards, Chairman, Campaign Chair

Recording Your Volunteer Campaign Hours!

Did you know the time **you** volunteer each quarter to help Republicans get elected are reported to the Texas Federation of Republican Women [TFRW] quarterly? That means hours volunteered by ARW members to the Republican Party of Texas and the Travis County Republican Party at state, local and national levels.

Types of Campaign Activities include ARW or political fundraisers, Get Out the Vote, work during the elections, time spent at home doing mailings/phoning/clerical, planning and conducting certain political workshops, travel to ARW/TFRW/NFRW meetings, organizational work, volunteering for a Republican candidate, running for office, presenting political speeches at civic clubs, serving as a precinct chair, and work at political conventions. It even includes cooking for political events!

See your ARW Directory for a more complete list under "Volunteer Information". If you are in doubt about an activity or have another question, please contact me via email at: campaigns@austinrepublicanwomen.org

Who is eligible to report volunteer hours? You are if the time volunteered is a campaign activity as defined above. For clarification, male associate members report their hours to their wife's PRIMARY club [this is when she may belong to more than one club and is a candidate or elected official]. She will report her hours to her PRIMARY club also.

This is an exciting year with the flurry of activities surrounding the election of a new president of the United States. There are many opportunities for volunteering in that election as well as many local and state races. I suggest you keep a calendar of your hours volunteered each month along with identification of where/what you did and email them to me per the instructions below.

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.

Volunteer hours for January are now due!

2016 MEMBERSHIP

By Michele Carlquist, VP Membership

2016 Membership Drive in progress!

Have you joined Austin Republican Women for 2016 yet? If you aren't sure, please contact me to check. It is always a little confusing at the beginning of the year. I am calling upon members from last year, all former members from years past, member's husbands (for Associate membership) and any friends, neighbors or acquaintances that would like to support Austin Republican Women. PLEASE JOIN TODAY!

Of your dues to ARW: \$20 goes to ARW and the remaining \$15 is given to the Texas Federation of Republican Women for your membership with them. Please have your husbands, or even friends from another Republican Club join as ARW Associate Members. Their \$15 dues say 100% with ARW; we don't have to pay TFRW any of it, making Associate Membership an easy way for our club to get a little extra money.

2016 is an election year for many local and state candidates, so we need your help. We will be contributing to their campaigns so we can Keep Texas **RED!**

If you have already renewed or joined for 2016, thank you so much for supporting ARW! If you haven't joined yet please mail your Membership Forms for the New Year to me as soon as possible.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ARW!!!

It is now time for the annual ARW Membership renewal!

If you are not yet a 2016 member, please, print the application from our website at: <http://www.austinrepublicanwomen.org> and mail it in to arrive by Feb 10, 2016.

ARW 2016 DIRECTORY

ADVERTISING and HEADSHOTS DEADLINES

Each year there is an opportunity to further support ARW causes by placing an advertisement in the Member Directory, this year the deadline to receive your advertisement and payment is **MARCH 15**. Various sizes are available starting at a cost of \$5.00 to include your name to the Support Our Troops ad and up to a cost of \$425.00 for a two (2) page color 8x10 centerfold ad.

For additional information and to place your advertisement please contact; **Rossy Fariña-Strauss** at:

<http://presidentaustingrepublicanwomen.org>

Or by calling me at: (512) 794-1088

Directory headshots will also be accepted until **MARCH 15**, for inclusion in the 2016 ARW Member Directory.

Please email your photograph to; president@austinrepublicanwomen.org

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

Grand New Party

It began in a little schoolhouse in Ripon, Wisconsin, in **1854**. A small group of dedicated abolitionists gathered to fight the expansion of slavery, and they gave birth to a Party dedicated to freedom and equal opportunity.

The name “Republican” was chosen, alluding to Thomas Jefferson’s Democratic-Republican Party and conveying a commitment to the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Party was formally organized in July 1854 by thousands of anti-slavery activists at a convention in Jackson, Michigan. And it was no accident that two years later, in **1856**, the first Republican National Convention took place in Philadelphia, where the Constitution was written. From: <https://www.gop.com/history/>