Dear FCRW Members,

I am pleased to report that the FCRW Board members are hard at work on their duties as Officers and chairpersons of our various committees: Programs, Membership, Literacy, Fundraising, Publicity, and Scholarships. You can be proud to be a member of FCRW, an outstanding group of ladies determined to keep our county, state, and country RED and conservative, in order to preserve our Constitution and our liberties!

I am going to be calling the membership to urge each of you to join one of our committees and get more involved in our annual activities. Please be thinking about your talents and what you can do to help FCRW make a positive impact in our county and its communities.

This is one of JFK’s most famous quotes: “ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY”. If our current president and his fellow Democrats would adopt that attitude, we might be able to reverse the damage he has done so far. Since we know that is NOT going to happen, it is up to each one of us to work hard to restore and preserve the freedoms which Obama is slowly but surely attempting to take away from us.

Thank you,

Judy Cook

Recap of our 1st Quarter Monthly Meetings

Jan 19 – Our speaker was our former HD13 Representative, and newly-elected SD18 Senator, Lois Kolkhorst. She shared her brief but extremely busy experience, so far, in the Senate and explained how different it was from the House. She knows that, as our Senator, she will have more influence regarding issues that are important to rural Texans in SD18. (On Jan. 23 she was proven correct when committee assignments were announced by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. Lois was named to five key committees: Finance; Health and Human Services (Vice Chairman); Agriculture and Water; Education; and Transportation. These are the crucial issues facing Senate District 18).

Feb 16 – After dinner and socializing in a private room at Frank’s Restaurant in Schulenburg our general meeting was called to order. Our speaker was David Stall, Chairman of the Fayette County Republican Party and the person primarily responsible for turning Fayette County RED during the past few years. He discussed the importance of party affiliation, compared Democratic and Republican histories and platforms, and why so many elected officials and voters in Fayette County have recently come over to the Republican Party.

Mar. 16 – This meeting focused on education. The panel included Robbie Wehmeyer, a former Flatonia school board member; Deborah Bradley, a parent who home-schools her children, she was also a charter school organizer and, currently, a La Grange city councilwoman; Mary Bowen, a Teacher and advocate for textbooks (not online course material) and parent involvement; and Arnold Romberg a former computer scientist, a parent, grandparent, and current La Grange city council member.

NEXT MEETING: Apr. 20, at La Grange City Hall, 6:30 PM
Leighton Schubert Wins HD13 Seat

Within a three month period, Fayette County was involved in three special elections. They started just after the Nov. 4th general election, when Senator Glenn Hegar won the State Comptroller seat. This left his Senate seat in SD18 vacant. In the first special election on Dec. 6, Lois Kolkhorst won that seat with almost 56% of the total votes against 4 other candidates. With that win, Lois’ HD13 seat was vacated. That vacancy required a second special election which was scheduled for January 13. There were three Republican candidates and one Democrat candidate in that race. None of the candidates received over 50% of the total votes, therefore, a run-off election was needed between the two candidates with the most votes – Carolyn Bilski, former Austin County Judge, and Leighton Schubert, a real estate lawyer in Burleson County.

Fortunately, there was a lot of voter interest in this race and numerous candidate debates and forums were hosted throughout the district. The first forum was held in La Grange, hosted by the Fayette County Record. There were others in Hallettsville, Sealy, and Caldwell. While Bilski touted her 20 years of experience as Austin County Judge and political connections in Austin, Schubert relied on grassroots support, his education, and his desire to be the true voice of rural Texas; a fresh voice in Austin, honestly representing the interests of SD18.

Typically, special elections such as these, with only one office or issue on the ballot, draw very few voters. Voter turnout was critical and this last election brought out more voters than the Jan. 13 election. Leighton won with 57.14% of the 11,113 total votes! He won five of the seven counties: Austin (Bilski’s home county), Burleson, Fayette, Grimes, and Washington. Bilski took the remaining two counties, Colorado and Lavaca.

CONGRATULATIONS, Leighton!!
The beautiful dining hall *(top photo)* in the Texas Czech Heritage Center *(second photo)* was filled to capacity for the first quarter SD18 meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2015. Senator Lois Kolkhorst *(third photo)* was the first of several guest speakers, including newly elected HD13 Representative Leighton Schubert *(bottom photo)*; Justice Gregory Perks, 13th Court of Appeals Place 3; Kent Gruesendorf, who spoke about pending legislation supporting school choice; Greg Stuessel, who gave us a lesson on the U.S. Constitution; Dr. Robin Armstrong, candidate for RPT Chairman; and Eric Opiela, who informed us about the South Texas Property Rights Association and their efforts to protect the health and property of Texans.

As with all the SD18 meetings which our SD committeewoman and committeeman, Becky Berger and Ben Zeller, have organized, this meeting was very interesting and informative. The morning’s donuts, muffins, juice, and coffee were provided by FCRW President Judy Cook. Now that Lois is our SD18 Senator, she has graciously taken on the responsibility of sponsoring the lunch meal. This one was catered by Legal Tender BBQ, located on Hwy 77 North and received excellent comments.

After the lunch break antique Republican Elephant mugs were awarded to the youngest and oldest attendees. The winner for youngest was Blaine Johnson, age 7, granddaughter of Virginia and Wilson Huffer of Fayette County. Virginia tells us that Blaine’s favorite T-shirt is the John Cornyn “Keep Texas Red” shirt. Gwen Brown, age 85, of Austin County was the second winner. The mugs were donated by Len Waska, an associate member of FCRW.

*The next quarterly SD18 meeting will be hosted in La Porte (Aransas County); date and location to be determined.*
FCRW Increases 2015 Scholarship Amounts

Each year FCRW awards a scholarship to one graduating college bound (including 4 year, 2 year or vocational schools) senior girl from each of the five high schools located in Fayette County. Those schools are La Grange High School, Round Top-Carmine High School, Fayetteville High School, Flatonia High School, and Schulenburg High School. These are merit scholarships based on the applicant’s academic achievement, conservative goals and values, leadership and participation in school and community organizations and activities, recommendations from teachers and community leaders, and three short essays written by the applicant. Since the program began in 2011, each of these five scholarships has been for $250 and they have been funded in their entirety by a yearly fund raiser, which has been the Tribute to Women brunch, held in July.

Last fall, the FCRW board voted unanimously to try to increase the amount of each scholarship by soliciting scholarship-designated donations from FCRW members and anyone else in the community interested in advancing the educational opportunities of young women in Fayette County. As a result of this effort and thanks to the generosity of some of our members, each of our five scholarships in 2015 will be for $400 instead of $250. Of course, our yearly fund raiser will remain the bedrock funding source for the scholarship program, but ongoing, year round donations, designated for the scholarship program will enable us to maintain our current $400 award level and hopefully be able to increase it in the years to come.

The deadline for completed scholarship applications is April 15th and an ad hoc committee of FCRW members will meet in late April to review the applications and select the winners. If you are interested in finding out more about the scholarship program, seeing pictures of past winners, or would like to serve on the ad hoc selection committee, please visit the FCRW web site at fcrwtx.org and click on Scholarship Application or contact the Scholarship Chairman, Carole Bourlon, at crbourl@aol.com or 979-247-4050.

Carole Bourlon

Senator Lois Kolkhorst Appointed to Five Key Senate Committees

On January 23rd, Lois posted the following on her Facebook page:

“Today, committee assignments were announced by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. I am honored and so pleased to be named to five key committees: Finance; Health and Human Services (Vice Chairman); Agriculture and Water; Education; and Transportation. These are the crucial issues facing Senate District 18. I want to thank Lt. Governor Patrick for his confidence.”

Lois welcomes your opinions on pending legislation. Contact her at:
The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst
P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-0118 or Loisfortexas@gmail.com
FCRW’s Chain of Literacy Support Remains Unbroken

In support of the annual Barbara Bush Library Project FCRW donated two books to each of the four Fayette County public libraries in March. The following books were chosen by the Flatonia Public Library, presented to Evelyn Miller; by the Schulenburg Public Library, presented to Cindy Lytle, Thadious Polasek, and Donna Holub; by the Fayette Public Library, presented to Carol Jenkins;

For the youth: “Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian’s Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive” by Laura Hillenbrand. This is the story of one man’s breathtaking odyssey and the courage, cunning, and fortitude he found to endure and overcome. From a juvenile delinquent, to an athlete in the Berlin Olympics, to a military pilot, to a POW, Louie Zamperini became a great man because of his choices. His story shows that everyone has the potential to rise above obstacles. It is not where you start out in life that counts the most. It is how you choose to face it. For the adults: “Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty”. Acclaimed historian John M. Barry explores the development of the two concepts that define the nature of our nation: the proper relation between church and state and between a free individual and the state, through the story of the man who was the first to link religious freedom to individual liberty, and who created in America the first government and society on earth informed by those beliefs. The story is essential to the continuing debate over how we define the role of religion and political power in modern American life. The Round Top Family Library chose the following:

For the youth: “Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian’s Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive” by Laura Hillenbrand. For the adults “Unbroken; A World War II story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption” by Laura Hillenbrand. They were presented to Librarian/Director Barbara Smith.

Additionally, Barbara gave each library several copies of the dictionaries that were left over from the 2014 presentations to all 3rd graders in Fayette County. The libraries were very appreciative.

Meet Tom Mechler, Our New RPT Chairman

On Saturday March 7th the State Republican Executive Committee elected RPT Treasurer Tom Mechler as the new Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas. After nearly five years on the job, Chairman Munisteri earned himself a well-deserved retirement. When he was elected in 2010 the party was in dire financial straits and promptly appointed Mechler as Treasurer. Five years later, not only is the party completely out of debt, but has close to $1,000,000 in the bank and has done more to reach out to communities throughout Texas than ever before.

As a member of Munisteri’s leadership team, Chairman Mechler has been there every step along the way and is uniquely qualified to continue steering the ship towards our goals of advancing the technological capabilities of the party, reaching out to the next generation of Texas’ Republican leaders, and putting a Republican in every elected office in the state.

Chairman Mechler has more than 30 years of political experience as a strong, conservative man of Christian faith. He helped turn Gray County Republican and was a member of the State Republican Executive Committee for four years. Using his experience from serving as a county chair for 12 years as well as serving 9 years on the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, Chairman Mechler will continue to fight for our conservative principles against any efforts from national Democrats to turn Texas blue. Upon his election, Chairman Mechler provided the following comment: “Kudos to three guys who worked very hard, in addition to myself, running for State Chair, were: Wade Emmert, Jared Woodfill, and Dr. Robin Armstrong. Many people have no idea how incredibly difficult it is to pursue this office, the tremendous personal expense, sacrifice and the extensive amount of time spent away from our families. All three should be appreciated for putting themselves out there. Gentlemen, I salute you. I am most grateful to members of the SREC who demonstrated their confidence in me by electing me to be the State Chair of the Republican Party of Texas. Thank you! And thanks to all my friends and supporters in Texas. I won’t let you down.”
The Fayette County Republican Women organization is affiliated with the Texas Federation of Republican Women, and the National Federation of Republican Women, a body of over 100,000 women who support Republican candidates and causes at all levels of government.

FCRW is open to all Republican women and men who care passionately about the conservative cause. Education is a very important aspect of our mission. In support of that goal, we have several activities which involve residents throughout the county. We held our first Tribute to Women brunch in July 2010 and continued this event annually through 2014. This is a non-partisan event with nominations accepted for any deserving volunteer in Fayette County. Our 2015 fundraiser will be a dinner dance event at the Weimary with live music and very special keynote speakers.

Our annual Literacy Project donates select books to the five public libraries in the spring and presents a dictionary to each third grader in Fayette County in the fall. In 2011, we initiated our annual FCRW scholarship program which is open to graduating senior girls in the five high schools in Fayette County. Initially offering $250 scholarships, in 2015 we are offering $400 scholarships. Beginning in 2013, we offered pocket-size copies of the U.S. Constitution to everyone stopping by our Republican booth at the four-day Fayette County Fair, held during Labor Day weekend.

We plan to expand our efforts in education by providing the booklet “Now You Are 18” to all graduating seniors in Fayette County.

Please join us as we work to bring our Country back to conservative values and restore American freedoms!

God Bless Texas. God Bless America.

For more information about our organization, visit our web site: www.FCRWTX.org.

NOTE: Our monthly general meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month. The times and locations may vary but will be emailed to members and posted on our web site: www.FCRWTX.org and our Facebook page.

### Political Cartoons, etc.

From www.townhall.com

L–R: In one week Obama killed the Keystone pipeline with his veto and Internet freedom with “Net Neutrality”; Hillary’s latest scandal – During her time as Secretary of State, she used a private email server to send official government communications, violating clear cut rules from the State Department that requires all emails to be stored on official government servers. After a Congressional committee demanded her emails she selectively submitted a portion of them, then had her server wiped clean of the rest!; Obama’s nuke deal with Iran will allow them to destroy Israel, America’s only true ally in the mid-East.