2nd Quarter 2016

The Republican Forum
Fayette County Republican Women Newsletter

"INFLUENCING TEXANS THROUGH EDUCATION"

Judy Cook, FCRW President

Our fundraiser Gala in September is coming up so be thinking what you will do to help make this even better than last year’s.

Most importantly, we need an all-out effort for the election in November. We have a tough job ahead of us: saving America.

FCRW will not meet this summer, however, there are events we can participate in.

God bless,

Judy Cook

Recap of our 2nd Quarter Monthly Meetings

Apr 21 – Our guest speaker was John Harrington of Shield Tactical / Texas Black Rifle Co. John is a manufacturer of machine guns, specifically the AR-15, in Shiner, Texas. He has been a CHL instructor for over 10 years. He talked about the Open Carry Law and that knowing your own convictions and personal ability is a key factor. In other words, are you WILLING to shoot someone and are you PROFICIENT enough to use the gun effectively? To carry a gun is exercising our rights. His email address is john@tbrci.com if you would like to ask him questions concerning this law and training. He gave us a resource to check out, www.handgunlaw.us.

May 19 – Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka was our speaker. He talked about the many things that have been accomplished while he’s been in office and what he would like to see accomplished before his last term expires in 2018. The Judge obviously loves Fayette county, it’s history, people, architecture, and beautiful countryside. It’s been his passion to support the restoration of historical buildings in La Grange, such as the courthouse and, most recently, the Casino Hall, located just north of the post office on Jefferson St. Judge Ed also spoke about the traffic issues caused each spring and fall by the Antiques Fairs in Warrenton, sale tax revenue, and other issues.

June – No meeting

NEXT MEETING: Oct. 20
Time & Location TBD
2016 Scholarships Awarded by FCRW

L-R: Jennifer Faldyn, La Grange; Taylor Goerig, Fayetteville; Rachel Steinhauser, Flatonia; Adyson Lange. Round Top-Carmine; Victoria Juarez, Schulenburg.

As our Scholarship Chair, Carole Bourlon, once again did an outstanding job. Starting early in the year, she got our FCRW scholarship information out to the five high schools in Fayette County, followed up with the school counselors prior to submission deadline, accepted the applications, built a committee, worked with those members to make the final decisions on the recipients, and then coordinated with FCRW members who volunteered to make the presentations at the various award or graduation ceremonies. Most presenters enjoy the event so much they have volunteered repeatedly for several years. This year’s presenters were: Pat Settle, La Grange; Freda McInnis, Fayetteville; Cindy Rodibaugh, Flatonia; Jeannette Burger, Round Top-Carmine; and LaMorris Thompson, Schulenburg.

As in the past, we had outstanding candidates. The winners were selected based on their grade point average, their leadership activities in school and local organizations, recommendations from teachers and community leaders, and an essay written by the applicant demonstrating their conservative values and goals.

We were very pleased to be able to increase our scholarship amounts this year to $600 per recipient due to the success of our “Boots & Bling” fundraiser last September, plus generous donations from our members. Thanks to all who helped make this happen!

Working the Polls

I look at poll workers as citizen soldiers, facilitating the voters in the ongoing quest for freedom. The responsibility of a voter is just as daunting as a soldier in the military preparing for battle. In America, the military soldier and the voter are fighting for the same thing—those who will represent FREEDOM! The soldier prepares himself mentally and physically. The military training can get very rigorous, but it is thorough. The voter’s preparation should be just as thorough. The voter must examine each candidate and ask some hard questions: has the candidate qualified himself/herself for the position he/she seeks with the proper training? Does candidate know who the he represents; how does each candidate think; how does each candidate represent themselves?

Actions speak louder than words. Does the candidate represent you, the voter? It often seems to me the folks who are willing to seek a public office are willing to put themselves through some rigorous job training, but, may find themselves more vulnerable than the military soldiers because the enemies of liberty can be very subtle. Good intentions can have very bad consequences.

In order to preserve liberty and freedom, citizen voters need to support candidates who stand up for freedom principles. If you’ve never worked as a poll clerk or judge for an election, please consider contributing your time. Be a citizen soldier. The first time I was asked to be a clerk at a precinct poll in Praha, I was nervous. However, I was given instructions on the procedures and I was able to prepare myself for the responsibility. In this past Republican Primary Run Off election, Precincts 14, 15, 16, and 17 were consolidated for voting at the Flatonia Civic Center and I consented to be a Republican Poll judge. I was nervous, but it turned out to be a fun day. I was very grateful to and enjoyed the company of 7 other dedicated companions who greeted voters as they streamed in all day long to mark ballots. 517 ballots were cast at our station.

I appreciate the time and purpose each voter had in coming to the polls. What a privilege—to live in a country that allows the citizen to choose his/her representative for the responsibility of governance. THANK YOU TO ALL who worked at the various precinct polling stations, at the courthouse receiving ballot boxes, and who continue to preserve voting integrity.

Cindy Rodibaugh
On May 12 – 14 more than 5,700 Republicans gathered in Dallas to participate in the Texas State Republican Convention, making it the largest Republican convention in the country. The above delegates from Fayette County helped establish party rules, adopt the party platform, and re-elect National Committeeman Dr. Robin Armstrong, and National Committeewoman Toni Ann Dashiell.

Our Fayette county delegates also participated in the voting to elect new SD18 Committeeman, Michael Cloud, who will replace Ben Zeller, and SD18 Committeewoman Edee Sinclair, who will replace Becky Berger. While we will miss Ben and Becky and will always appreciate their hard work during the years they served together in these positions, we are confident that Michael and Edee will work hard to fill their shoes and live up to the high standard of service Ben and Becky have set. (See their pictures on page 6)

There was more work to do in the Congressional District 10 caucus. CD10 covers nine counties: Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Lee, Waller, Washington, and parts of Harris and Travis counties. During Friday’s caucus, three delegates were elected to represent CD10 at the National convention taking place in Cleveland, Ohio, in July. Fayette County’s own David Stall was elected as one of those three delegates. Former Governor Rick Perry, who now calls Fayette County his home, was elected as an at-large delegate. It’s pretty impressive for our rural county to have two delegates at a National convention!
Pictures from Texas GOP State Convention

You are invited to an Ice Cream Reception honoring the delegates, alternates and State Representatives of Senate District 18

Cedars Room
Omni Dallas Hotel
Thursday, May 12, 2016
8:30 pm - 11:00 pm
We understand there are many events taking place, please come and go as you can.

Sponsored by:
Lois W.
Kolkhorst
Texas Senator

BOOK SIGNING WITH
CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL McCaul
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE
SATURDAY, MAY 14 • 8:30 AM • BOOTH #410


Rep. McCaul will be there a little after 8:30 a.m. to say hello, sign his book, and take photos with delegates and alternates. A bookseller will be there if you want to purchase a book. But you can also bring your own copy by and get him to sign it. See you there!
An American Future  by Scott Rodibaugh, Praha, Texas  30 May 2016

Its nearly June, and with the runoff elections settled, Texans can now focus on the November election of America’s next President. No one can deny that the two-party races have been compelling or perhaps entertaining. The character and personal histories of the front-runners for the top post will remain open for review, ridicule and acclaim by the voters, ad writers and media.

But I am worried. I am concerned about the human value so cherished when lost, but ignored when presumed an unchanging fact: man’s liberty. Both the candidates and the parties competing for control of our national executive embrace ideas that diminish the liberty of Americans. They preach the policies of the last years should simply be extended and refined with flavorings selected by the new administration.

Recent history (presume 40 years) gives us no confidence in America’s downward path: a supine, ineffective US Congress in combine with various Presidents, each who vastly expanded the reach of the executive office. Congress has defaulted on its prime mandate, ceding control to a faceless bureaucracy. The executive has expanded exponentially to fill the congressional vacuum; this power shift does great disservice to our precious liberties.

All institutions of power are subject to the universal defect: man’s soul is alive with an insurmountable tendency to failure. Our system of government, with all its faults, acknowledges the frailty of men in power, making provisions to counter this fixed human trend. As Americans allow one portion of our government to exceed prescribed bounds, we spend liberty without gain. What can we do to halt this erosion of liberty to preserve a vigorous legacy to all who follow?

I ask my fellow Texans to join me in the following practice going forward: no matter November’s outcome, let all citizens, state legislators and state executives promote policies in Texas and in Washington to promote the liberty of Americans. We simply need to apply the US Constitution in its simplest form: declaring and acting on the firm principle that all powers not delegated to the Federal shall be and remain under the sovereign control of the State and its citizens.

History proves cycles of power exist, ebbs and flows shifting back and forth between extremes. During my life I have participated in great benefits of federal power and now experience its excess. Now is the time to push back against the power elites infecting Washington, DC ending our easy submission to its dominating oppression.

Let Texans and Texas be leaders in restoring power back to people and their states and away from Federal tyranny.

Food for Thought...  Cartoons extracted from Jonathon Garthwaite’s Town Hall web site: www.townhall.com

Has history taught us nothing?

“To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical”.  Thomas Jefferson

“You can’t be for Big Government, Big Taxes, and Big Bureaucracy and still be for the little guy”.  Ronald Reagan

One of Bill Clinton’s first acts upon taking office in 1993 was to disarm U.S. soldiers on military bases. Makes you wonder what Hillary would do if she wins this year, doesn’t it?
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 was a dinner event at The Weimary with very special keynote speaker Congressman Michael McCaul. These fundraisers support our annual literacy projects and scholarships. We donate select books to the public libraries in the spring and give an encyclopedic dictionary to each third grader in Fayette County in the fall.

In 2011, we initiated our annual FCRW scholarship program which is awarded to one graduating senior girl in each of the five high schools in Fayette County. Initially offering $250 scholarships, in 2016 we were able to offer $600 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 over Labor Day weekend.

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](http://www.FCRWTX.org).

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

**More Photos from RPT State Convention...**

L-R: Edee Sinclair, SD18 Committeewoman; Michael Cloud, SD18 Committeeman; FCRP Chairman David Stall, elected as delegate to national convention; Matt Russell, elected as alternate to national convention; Jeanne Raley counted votes at CD10 caucus.