The Republican Forum
Fayette County Republican Women Newsletter
TFRW Region 5, Senate District 18

“INFLUENCING TEXANS THROUGH EDUCATION”

From Deborah Frank, FCRW President

Boots & Bling fundraiser to be held on September 16 at the historic Casino Hall in La Grange; we selected our five scholarship winners and attended award ceremonies at each of the high schools to present them; and we also presented checks for $1,000.00 each to the five law enforcement agencies in Fayette county for the purchase of protective vests. Additionally, our VP/Program Chair, Cindy Rodibaugh continued to arrange excellent speakers for our general meetings.

On July 4th, our entry in the Round Top Fourth of July Parade received a lot of positive response and encouragement from the crowds along the 4-mile route. Yes, July 4th is technically in the 3rd quarter but I just couldn’t wait to share the great pictures with you all. Have a safe and fun-filled summer!

GOD BLESS TEXAS.
GOD BLESS AMERICA.
Deborah Frank

Revisiting our 1st Quarter Monthly Meetings

April 20 meeting – Held at La Grange City Hall. Our speaker was MerryLynn Gerstenschlager, recently retired VP from Texas Eagle Forum. For many years she has actively addressed education reforms in local schools, testifying before legislative committees and the SBOE. Most recently, MerryLynn addressed Texas legislators on the importance of U.S. citizenship of charter school operators, which received Texas tax dollars.

May 18 meeting – FCRW was invited to attend a meeting in Bastrop, hosted by the Lost Pines Republican Women Third Court of Appeals Justice Melissa Goodwin was the featured speaker, along with a field rep from Congressman McCaul’s office.

June 15 meeting – Held at a La Grange City Hall. Our speaker was District Judge Jeff Steinhauser, who spoke about making decisions based on facts and the importance of following the law and the constitution, as written.

NEXT MEETING:
Aug. 17, at La Grange City Hall. Speaker: Texas Public Policy Foundation

SAVE these Dates:
Sep. 16: “Boots & Bling” fundraiser at the historic Casino Hall in La Grange.
Dec. 8: Christmas party and 2018 officer induction, 6:30 PM at Frisch Auf! Country Club.
Legislative Updates from Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (As posted on http://loiskolkhorst.com/)

- Governor Abbott signs HB 1290 to reduce burdensome bureaucracy! Texas prides itself on maintaining a welcoming environment for businesses. We know that overly burdensome governmental regulations often hinder the development of our economy. That's why I sponsored and passed HB 1290 to ensure Texas maintains a business-friendly regulatory climate. This legislation prohibits a state agency from adopting a new rule imposing a cost unless that agency repeals or amends at least one current rule to decrease total costs in an amount equal to or greater than the cost imposed by the proposed rule. The idea is simple: one rule out for every new rule in.

- To help young children with hearing loss acquire cochlear implants, I sponsored and passed HB 490 that Governor Abbott has signed into law! Hearing loss in childhood can be very detrimental to a child's development. With all the advanced technology available today, children who receive early intervention for hearing loss generally experience more positive outcomes than those who do not. I was honored to sponsor and pass this life changing legislation for many Texas children.

- The Texas Bullion Depository is finally here! As the Senate sponsor of the bill to establish the depository at no expense to taxpayers, I’m proud to announce that we now have a way to protect our gold right here in Texas. Our state is a global leader in job creation and economic development for a reason. Keeping our gold and precious metals at home will be yet another way Texans forge our own path to prosperity and prevent the type of fiscal crisis seen in other states like Illinois and California.

- Governor Greg Abbott signs SB 1196 that I authored and passed to combat human trafficking! It is well known that much of the activity involving illegal sex trafficking of children, prostitution, and other related sex crimes occurs online. Law enforcement and prosecutors face many challenges in investigating and ending online illegal activity involving sex crimes. In many cases they lack the tools necessary to track down criminals before they have moved on to other venues and victims. In today's world, the same illegal activities that historically occurred at physical locations are now facilitated online. The recent investigation of Backpage confirmed the hurdles faced by law enforcement in tracking down online traffickers of young women and children. That's why I authored and passed SB 1196 to include online websites engaged in sex trafficking activity as a "place" for the purposes of allowing these websites to be declared a common nuisance under Texas law by the Attorney General.
On Thursday, May 18, 2017, the Fayette County Republican Women (FCRW) presented checks for $1000 each to representatives from the four law enforcement agencies that protect Fayette County. The money will be used to purchase protective vests for the men and women on patrol. The idea was the brainchild of Joan and Mike Spencer, along with Bill and LaMorris Thompson, who contacted the officers regarding how the community could help them be safe when criminals are sometimes equipped with better weapons than the police force. By invitation, officers from each agency attended FCRW’s January general meeting where they explained their work duties and discussed encounters with criminal elements. The Fayette County Republican Women are proud to “Back the Blue” with these donations. We were recently informed that each of the 4 agencies was able to purchase 3 protective vests with our donations. That’s 12 officers that will be safer because of our efforts!

UPDATE: The FCRW board met on June 6 to finalize plans for this fundraiser. It was decided that we will have a sit-down dinner catered by Bistro 108, as we did for 2015 last fundraiser. State Comptroller Glenn Hegar has agreed to attend as our key note speaker. We have also invited U.S. Congressman Michael McCaul, Senator Lois Kolkhorst, Representative Leighton Schubert, and the five Justices from the 3rd Court of Appeals. We will have a small silent auction during the event, as well. We have secured sponsors for both our beer and wine! Suesanne and Patrick Gibson of Weimar will provide the wine and Larry and Rosalinda Adamcik will supply the beer. Our thanks for their generous contributions!! As a reminder, all proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit our Literacy and Scholarship programs.
Texas State Comptroller, Glenn Hegar (excerpts from his April 17, 2017 email)

Texans are a pretty responsible bunch when it comes to managing our money. We don't borrow when we don't have to, we don't live beyond our means, and we make sure we put a little bit away every year for a “rainy day.” But we’re also smart with our money. We work hard and we want to make sure our savings are working just as hard on our behalf. State government shouldn't be any different. Which brings us to the state’s savings account, the Economic Stabilization Fund - more commonly known as the “Rainy Day Fund.” Texas’ rainy day fund is the largest of its kind in the nation, currently holding a balance of more than $10 billion. It was created by the Legislature in 1987 following a sharp downturn in the energy sector that led to severe cuts to the state budget. At the time, no one expected the fund to grow much, so they designed the fund to be highly liquid and immediately available. Because of this, the money in the fund only earns a little over 1 percent in interest. But the fund did grow. It grew massively. Thanks to Texas’ fracking boom we have billions upon billions of dollars earning less than the rate of inflation. We might as well bury the money in the Capitol lawn for all the good it’s doing us. That’s why I’m proposing a smarter way of managing our state’s savings account.

Recently I wrote an op-ed that called for the creation of the Texas Legacy Fund. My plan would allow us to maintain a healthy reserve that would be readily available to weather unforeseen downturns while keeping up with inflation and maintaining the value of rainy day fund dollars. It would also create new earnings that would be available to address long term liabilities that threaten Texas’ fiscal health and our state’s credit ratings.


I will continue to update you as this and other important legislation moves through the 85th Legislature. As always, I hope this note has been informative, and if you know of a friend or family member who would enjoy these updates, please forward this along. Please let them know they can sign up here to get these updates sent to them directly.

Yours in service,

Glenn Hegar
This year Fayette County Republican Women offered $800.00 scholarships to graduating, college-bound senior girls at each of the five Fayette County high schools. The winners demonstrated outstanding leadership skills, high grade point averages, positive involvement in their communities, and conservative qualities. A total of five scholarships were awarded.

Congratulations to this year’s recipients: Emily Polasek, Fayetteville; Karmyn Michalec, Flatonia; Kyla Pietsch, La Grange; Madison Krause, Round Top-Carmine; and Kylee Zapalac, Schulenburg.

Applicants were evaluated based on their academic record, leadership activities in local organizations, conservative values and goals, recommendations from teachers and community leaders, and their written essay on conservatism. The scholarships were presented in May at each high school’s awards ceremony.

Scholarship criteria and application forms can be downloaded from our web site: www.FCRWTX.org.
THANKS to all who came to Round Top and rode with us on our Fayette County Republican trailer: William and Brianne Bernsen and their (now SIX) children – Caitlin, William, Abram, Aubrey, Levi, and the baby, Barrett; Scott and Cindy Rodibaugh, Virginia and Wilson Huffer, Michael Peck, Pat Schmidt, Ursula Higgs, and Ivan Havassey (a seminary student from Slovakia here on an internship); Rock Laibson (our driver), and Deborah Frank. Some special thanks go to Pat Schmidt for loaning us the trailer again, loaded with hay for our seating! Scott, William (the younger one), and Caitlin walked (and ran) the entire 4-mile parade route handing out 1,100 small American flags. The crowds were VERY enthusiastic this year, cheering and waving as we passed!! That was wonderful to see!!!!

Clockwise from top left: Most of the riders…a few were MIA at the time the picture was taken; Michael Peck and Pat Schmidt, in foreground; William and Brianne Bernsen; The entire Bernsen family, dressed as true patriots.

This last picture, to the left, is of Abram. It was taken by Ella Wick and appeared in the July 7th edition of the Fayette County Record.

The Bernsen family has participated for the past several years, filling about a third of our trailer!! We love them!!!
Governor Greg Abbott announced a legislative special session that will begin on July 18th, 2017. In his announcement, Governor Abbott identified 20 items that will be included on the special session call.

"Considering all the successes of the 85th legislative session, we should not be where we are today," said Governor Abbott. A special session was entirely avoidable, and there was plenty of time for the legislature to forge compromises to avoid the time and taxpayer expense of a special session. As Governor, if I am going to call a special session, I intend to make it count.

Special session agenda items will include:
1. Sunset legislation
2. Teacher pay increase of $1,000
3. Administrative flexibility in teacher hiring and retention practices
4. School finance reform commission
5. School choice for special needs students
6. Property tax reform
7. Caps on state and local spending
8. Preventing cities from regulating what property owners do with trees on private land
9. Preventing local governments from changing rules midway through construction projects
10. Speeding up local government permitting process
11. Municipal annexation reform
12. Texting while driving preemption
13. Privacy
14. Prohibition of taxpayer dollars to collect union dues
15. Prohibition of taxpayer funding for abortion providers
16. Pro-life insurance reform
17. Strengthening abortion reporting requirements when health complications arise
18. Strengthening patient protections relating to do-not-resuscitate orders
19. Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud
20. Extending maternal mortality task force

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott

Things to consider...

"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."  Albert Einstein

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools."  - Plato

“This year will go down in history... For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration. Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead into the future.”  -- Adolf Hitler
About Our Organization…

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 2017 fundraiser will be a dinner event at the historic Casino Hall in La Grange, with very special key note speaker State Comptroller Glenn Hegar. These fundraisers support our annual literacy projects and scholarships. We donate select books to the five 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 2017 we are offering $800 scholarships. Beginning in 2013, we offer 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 website: www.FCRWTX.org.

“The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.”

Thomas Jefferson

In closing… Let us thank the Lord that we still live in a free nation and thank those who fought to secure those freedoms.