“INFLUENCING TEXANS THROUGH EDUCATION”

From Barbara Appelt, FCRW President

It has been a busy second quarter and we appreciate your participation in the General Meetings. Donna Barr has done a terrific job of securing excellent speakers, as recapped below. In April: Deborah Frank and several FCRW members met with Congressman Michael McCaul to discuss political action needed leading up to the 2020 elections and their views on getting out the vote in rural areas. Sedonia Powell, District Director for Rep. Ben Leman, gave FCRW a Certificate of Recognition for our contributions to the community. At that time, we gave her our “Letter of Intent” including signatures of members supporting the Fayette County Farm Bureau’s efforts to protect property owners’ rights in the eminent domain process. Several members attended the SD 18 meeting in Lavaca County. Spearheaded by Chairman Carole Bourlon, our five 2019 Scholarship recipients were selected. In May: District Judge Jeff Steinhauser presided over the installation of officers for the newly formed Fayette County High School Republicans (FCHSR). Seven FCRW members attended the Texas Federation of Republican Women Legislative Day at the Capitol in Austin, where Republican women were recognized with Resolutions in the House of Representatives, by Ben Leman, and in the Senate, by Lois Kolkhorst. Three FCRW members attended the Rural Issues Workshop hosted by Texas Railroad Commissioner, Christi Craddick, in Austin. The discussions included high-speed internet, roads, economic development, and hospitals. In June: Three members attended the “State of the Tax-Payers Tour”, presented by Texas Public Policy Foundation, where experts discussed the results of the 86th Texas Legislature. Led by Sherrie Tolbert, the presentation of books, one adult and one youth, to the four public libraries, was completed. The FCHSR officers participated in a two-day training class, directed by Sherrie Tolbert. Several members of FCRW and Zoe Willie, President of FCHSR, rode in the Ellinger Tomato Festival parade. Two members attended a luncheon in Austin hosted by Senator John Cornyn. Former RPT Chairman Steve Munisteri is back in Texas and leading the Victory 2020 campaign. We received a “Fayette County New Movers List” and members are reaching out to welcome them to the county, letting them know there are two active Republican organizations available to them. Finally, several FCRW members were instrumental in defeating the proposed hospital tax district (with 80% of the votes) by hosting public forums, distributing signs, and producing radio and print ads to educate voters on the issues. In summary, we are gearing up for the 2020 elections by keeping ourselves informed and sharing with you while reaching out to the voter base.

God, please continue to bless the USA, Texas, and our great President Donald Trump.

Barbara Appelt

Revisiting our 2nd Quarter Monthly Meetings

April 11 meeting – Held at La Grange City Hall. District Judge Jeff Steinhauser was our guest speaker. He explained the Texas court structure and their responsibilities, beginning with the JP (Justice Courts), then Municipal Courts, County-Level Courts (254-one in every county); District Courts, Courts of Appeal, and Texas’ unique Supreme Court which is divided into two. One court hears civil appeals and the other hears criminal appeals. It was a very informative presentation.

May 17 meeting – Held at La Grange City Hall. Our guest speaker was FC Elections Administrator, Terri Hefner. She, and her assistant Bernice, demonstrated the new equipment replacing the cumbersome Auto-Mark machines previously used by those with disabilities. The equipment produces a ballot on demand and could eventually allow countywide voting at all polling locations. Terri also plans to recommend the reduction of polling locations.

June 20 meeting – Held at JW’s Steakhouse in Carmine. County Judge Joe Weber was our speaker, discussing his priorities for the county.

NEXT MEETING: Aug. 15, at La Grange City Hall. Speaker: An alumnus from Patriot’s Academy.

SAVE these Dates:
Feb. 22, 2020 Boots & Bling Presidential Gala
FCRW Recognized by Representative Ben Leman

On April 5, Sedonia Powell, with Representative Ben Leman’s office, met with FCRW President Barbara Appelt and FCRW Secretary Deborah Frank to present a Certificate of Recognition to the Fayette County Republican Women reading:

“For working to build a stronger Republican Party and a more prosperous future for all. Thank you for your vital contributions to our community.”

Ben Leman, State Representative, District 13
3-25-2019

FCRW Members Attend SD18 Meeting in Shiner

On April 6, the Lavaca County Republican Party hosted the second quarter Senate District 18 meeting in Shiner. Attending from FCRW were Barbara Appelt, Cindy Rodibaugh, Kimberley and Bob Rutledge, Deborah Frank, and Sherrie Tolbert. Committeewoman Edee Sinclair and Committeeman Rick Figueroa had coordinated a very informative meeting focused on “Engaging the Future of the Republican Party”, with presentations by members of The Patriot Academy and a Hispanic Republicans panel. Senator Lois Kolkhorst and Representative Ben Leman also attended and shared legislative updates with attendees.

FCRW Completes 2019 Library Project

Each spring, as part of FCRW’s literacy programs, we participate in the Barbara Bush Library Project. One youth book and one adult book is donated to each of the four public libraries in Fayette County: Fayette Public Library (La Grange), Round Top Family Library, Flatonia Public Library, and Schulenburg Public Library. Sherrie Tolbert, FCRW Literacy/Education Chair, reported that all presentations are complete. This year’s book selections were:

**Elementary: PreK – 5 Grade**
- Marlon Bundo’s: A Day in the Life of the Vice President by Charlotte Pence - 2-6
- Millie’s Book by Barbara Bush – 1-6
- Sweet Land of Liberty by Callista Gingrich – 1-6
- Give Please a Chance by James Patterson & Bill O’Reilly - PreK - 2

**Secondary: 6-12 Grades**
- Back in the Game by Steve Scalise – 8-12
- Andrew Jackson & the Miracle of New Orleans by Brian Kilmeade – 6-9
- First Ladies of the Republic by Jeanne Abram – 4-12
- Barbara Bush Reflections by Barbara Bush – 8-12
- George & Barbara Bush: Great American Love Story by Ellie Sosa 6-12
- All the Best: My Life in Letters by George H W Bush 6-12
FCRW Awards Five $1,000 Scholarships in 2019

This year Fayette County Republican Women offered $1,000.00 scholarships to graduating, college-bound senior girls at each of the five Fayette County high schools. This amount was an increase from last year’s $800. 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:

- **Chelsea Brothers**, La Grange HS; Plans to attend Texas A&M, Corpus Christi
- **Jordan Salem**, Schulenburg HS; Plans to attend East Texas Baptist University
- **Yasmin Olivares**, Flatonia HS; Plans to attend Texas State University
- **Skylar Kasmiersky**, Fayetteville; Plans to attend Blinn College in Brenham
- **Preslee Spencer**, Round Top-Carmine; Plans to attend Blinn College in Brenham

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.

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2019 Scholarship Recipients and Presentations

Top row, L-R: **Chelsea Brothers**, La Grange; **Jordan Salem**, Schulenburg; **Yasmin Olivares**, Flatonia; **Skylar Kasmiersky**, Fayetteville; Bottom row: **Preslee Spencer**, Round Top-Carmine; Jordan Salem and presenter, La Morris Thompson; Yasmin Olivares and presenter, Cindy Rodibaugh.
On Saturday, May 18th, 2019, Fayette County Republican Women sponsored the installation of officers for the newly formed—Fayette County High School Republicans Organization. The installation was held at a local fellowship hall in Schulenburg TX.

Officers installed were: **President**, Zoe Wilie (Sr), **Vice President**, Karina Nkemakolam (Jr.), **Secretary**, Brooke Francheskos (Jr.) and **Treasurer**, Kaitlyn Rowell (Sr.). The officers live in various communities in Fayette County, but all attend Flatonia High School. The Honorable Jeff Steinhauser, Fayette County District Court Judge, issued the oath of office.

After the ceremony, Judge Steinhauser and Ms. Tolbert presented each young lady with a framed letter from US Senator, Ted Cruz, congratulating the group on their cornerstone achievement. The Honorable Jeff Steinhauser, Fayette County District Court Judge, issued the oath of office.

The 2019-2020 Sponsors for the club are: Sherrie Tolbert, of Fayetteville, Rita Dernehl of La Grange, and Donna Barr, of Round Top. Three of the newly elected FCHSR officers volunteered at the 2018 Boots ‘n Bling Gala and had a great time. According to Barbara Appelt, FCRW President, “Their presence at our Gala gave us a first-hand encounter with what we raise money for and who we support. It was that initial connection that gave birth to a high school program and the rest is now history.”

Lead sponsor, Ms. Tolbert, is “…excited about helping the next generation of conservative young people become involved in civic matters and hopes one day that a Fayette County HS Club member will be in Congress, Senate or even the White House”. Fayette County Republican Party chair, Deborah Frank, commented that based on their inaugural speeches during the installation “These kids are going somewhere BIG in the future.” The officers attended a two-day training in June to plan for the 1st year of operations and to schedule a membership kick off in mid-August. The FCHS Republican group is open to any STUDENT who is entering grades 9 thru 12 for the 2019-2020 school year. If under the age of 18, parental consent is required. All parents are welcomed in the group activities as well.

President Zoe participated in the Ellinger Tomato Festival parade with FCRW. “It was so cool, and we had a lot of fun with positive reactions from the crowd.” The group is planning to participate with FCRW and FCRP in the Round Top July 4th annual parade. Fayette County students are welcome to attend. If interested, call 713-962-8452 or visit the website at www.fcrwtx.org
On Wednesday, April 24, several FCRW members headed to Austin for a two-day trip to attend TFRW’s Legislative Day. Despite heavy rains earlier in the day, these brave FCRW women headed to our State Capitol: Barbara Appelt (President), Donna Barr (VP) Deborah Frank (Secretary), Kimberley Rutledge, (Treasurer) Carole Bourlon (Scholarship Chair), Sherrie Tolbert (Literacy Chair) and member Jana Rinehart.

Arriving at the downtown hotel, we received our registration materials and prepared for the evening’s activities – a “Belles & Boots” happy hour at Scholz Garten. Several Legislators attended, including Senator Donna Campbell.

The next day started at the Capitol, where we took pictures and met briefly with Senator Lois Kolkhorst before entering the building. We sat in on the House session and then moved to the Senate chambers to attnd the Senate session. In each, FCRW was recognized by our legislators – Representative Ben Leman and Senator Lois Kolkhorst. Back at the hotel, we enjoyed an excellent lunch with speakers including Ronna Romney McDaniel RNC Chairwoman. Following lunch, there were several workshops. We chose to attend “Impacting Human Trafficking” led by Susan Peters, Director of “Unbound” and Detective Joe Scaramucci.

More FCRW Activities...

Memorial Day… Let us be forever thankful that we still live in a free nation. Let us continue to honor the memories of those who fought and died to secure our freedoms.

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 (as associate members) who care passionately about the conservative cause. Education is a very important aspect of our mission. In support of that goal, we have annual activities which focus on education and community service. We held our first Tribute to Women brunch in July 2010 and continued this event annually through 2014. This was a non-partisan event with nominations accepted for any deserving volunteer in Fayette County. Our 2018 fundraiser was a dinner and dancing event at the Historic Casino Hall in La Grange with keynote speaker State Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller. These fundraisers support our annual literacy projects and scholarships. Each year 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, we are now able to offer $1,000 scholarships in 2019. Also beginning in 2019, we plan to donate pocket-size copies of the U.S. Constitution and the booklet “Now You are 18” to all high school 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. MAGA

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

“In the end, you’re measured not by how much you undertake but by what you finally accomplish.”
– Donald Trump