3rd Quarter 2015

The Republican Forum
Fayette County Republican Women Newsletter

“INFLUENCING TEXANS THROUGH EDUCATION”
Judy Cook, FCRW President

FCRW Members, It may have seemed to some that this past quarter was slow for FCRW until September hit us. However, what we saw in September was the culmination of a lot of behind-the-scenes work by our Board members during the past several months; especially Cristine Etue, our Fundraiser Chair. Our Boots & Bling dinner was a huge success, netting over $10,000 for our Literacy and Scholarship programs. Congratulations to all of them for their efforts before, during, and after the event. Thanks also to those who attended the event and purchased auction items.

Backing up a bit, I also want to recognize those who worked the Republican booth at the Fayette County Fair and participated in the Fair parade over Labor Day weekend: myself, Deborah Frank, Rock Laibson, Ursula Higgs, Joe & Carolyn Bailey, Scott & Cindy Rodibaugh, Anne & Bill Wright, Barbara Appelt & Frank Forestier, David & Linda Stall, Jeannette Burger, Jeanne Raley, Nancy Applebe, and LaMorris Thompson. We had two new members join FCRW at the fair booth! We also have three more new members as a result of the Boots & Bling event. Please join me in welcoming: Joy Cameron, Brenda Fietsam, Sarah & Harvey Berckenhoff, and Shannon Juno, MD.

KEEP TEXAS RED!
Judy Cook

Revisiting our 3rd Quarter Monthly Meetings

No July meeting—Due to Round Top July 4th Parade and vacations.
Aug 19 –our speaker was District 13 House Representative Leighton Schubert, who shared his experiences in the 84th Legislative session as a first-time Representative. He talked about the committees he was on and the bills he supported, stating that he focused on those which would benefit the rural areas of Texas. He then opened the floor for questions from the audience, which led to quite a few excellent discussions.

No September meeting—See article on Boots & Bling fundraiser!

NEXT MEETING: Oct. 19, At Frank’s Restaurant in Schulenburg. Social time starts at 6:30 PM. An abbreviated general meeting will start at 7PM, followed by the award winning video ‘Agenda: Grinding America Down’. After the film we will hold a drawing and give away a 4-volume set of ‘The Adventures of Rush Revere’. Seating is limited so please RSVP to Cindy Rodibaugh at cindyr@devonindustries.com.

SAVE THE DATES
Nov. 16: FCRW Officer elections.
Dec. 3: FCRW Christmas party at Frisch Auf!
On Saturday, September 19, the Fayette County Republican Women hosted a “Boots & Bling” dinner as our annual fundraiser at The Weimery, just outside of Weimer. With its countryside location, beautiful grounds and event center, this location was the perfect setting for our event. We truly appreciate owners Suesanne and Patrick Gibson donating its use, as well as providing some of the wine and ale for the event. If you missed this event, you missed a great time and an opportunity to talk one-on-one with several of our Representatives and elected officials. This included our Key Note Speaker, U.S. House Congressman and Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Michael McCall, along with honored guests, Texas State Senator Lois Kolkhorst and Texas State Representative Leighton Schubert. FCRP Chairman David Stall was our emcee. County Judge Ed Janecka, County Tax Assessor-Collector Rosalinda Adamcik, and County Commissioner Pct. 3, Harvey Berckenhoff, also attended.

With the generosity of the Host Committee members, ticket sales, and the proceeds from the silent auction, we cleared over $10,000. These monies will support our FCRW scholarships and our literacy programs, which have continued to grow over the past several years.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!!

Pictured: Linda Stall, Representative Schubert, Judy Cook, Senator Kolkhorst, Congressman McCall, Deborah Frank
Each year FCRP & FCRW set up a joint booth at the Fayette County Fair decorated with candidate signs, banners, and flags. We have membership information, push cards, campaign materials, yard signs, and pocket constitutions ready to hand out to folks who stop and talk with us.

We also have an entry in the FC Fair Parade, this year’s participants were: Rock Laibson (driver), David Stall (FCRP County Chair), Nancy Applebe, Anne & Bill Wright, Cindy Rodibaugh, Ursula Higgs (who brought along an exchange student), Barbara Appelt, and Frank Forestier.

2015 FCRW Dictionary Project Completes in Record Time

Let’s give a big “Thank You” to our super-efficient Literacy Chair, Barbara Appelt! After getting anticipated headcounts, Barbara ordered the dictionaries in August. As soon as school began she contacted each elementary school in Fayette County to get their firm 3rd grade student headcounts and schedule dates for the dictionary presentations. By the end of September, presentations had been completed at all schools: St. Rose in Schulenburg, Hermes Elementary and Sacred Heart Catholic School in La Grange, and the elementary schools in Schulenburg, Flatonia, Fayetteville, and Round Top-Carmine. Yes, even in this age of computers, the kids get very excited about receiving these dictionaries and the wide range of information they contain. Many of the children will keep and use them throughout their entire school career. FCRW does make a difference in our communities!

Pictured in Fayetteville: Barbara, the 3rd grade class with teacher Holly Grebs, and Barbara’s husband, Frank Forestier.
On September 11, at a day-long celebration in Austin, our very own FCRW officer, Deborah Frank, was honored as Senate District 18’s Volunteer of the Year. Each year the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) Committeewomen and Committee men representing each of the 31 Texas Senate districts selects their district’s Volunteer of the Year. Becky Berger and Ben Zeller represent the 21 counties in SD18 and they selected Deborah for this honor. Deborah has served as an FCRW officer since 2010. She served as Secretary in 2010-2011, then as President 2012-2013, and currently as Secretary 2014-2015. During that time she has also served as the Newsletter editor, Website Manager, and Campaign Activity Chair. In 2014, Deborah was appointed Fayette County Republican Party’s Vice Chair by FCRP Chair David Stall. Deborah also serves as FCRP Activity Chair, Pct. 1E Precinct Chair, and has worked as an election Judge in Pct. 22 and 1E since 2013. She attended the RPT State conventions as an alternate in 2010, then as a delegate in 2012 and 2014. Deborah rarely misses the quarterly SD18 meetings put together by Becky and Ben, as she considers them one of the most important sources of information on current political issues and the candidates.

The day in Austin started with breakfast in the Capitol, hosted by Representative Todd Hunter. Next was a private tour of the Capitol, followed by lunch with Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush speaking. After that, the VOYs met for a “roundtable” session to share their ideas and success stories. In the late afternoon, we toured the Governor’s mansion and, as a special treat, met Governor Abbott who graciously posed for photos with each attendee. That evening was the awards banquet, held at the prestigious Austin Club, a few blocks from the Capitol. The Key Note speaker was Congressman Allen West, Lt. Col (RET) US Army. Each honoree was presented with two certificates (one signed by the Governor, the other by RPT Chairman Tom Mechler), an engraved Texas Senate gavel from Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, and an engraved wooden tray from State Comptroller Glenn Hegar. It was a special day for Deborah. Congratulations!

Clockwise: Rock & Deborah with Gov. Abbott; The Award presentation (L-R: Tom Mechler, RPT Chair, Amy Clark, RPT Vice-Chair, Ben Zeller, Deborah, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Becky Berger, TX Comptroller Glenn Hegar); All Volunteer of the Year honorees who attended the award banquet.
Proposition 1
SJR 1 changes the homestead exemption amount for school district property taxes from $15,000 to $25,000.

Proposition 2
HJR 75 exempts property from taxation for surviving spouses of deceased veterans who were totally disabled.

Proposition 3
SJR 52 repeals the requirement that state officers elected by voters statewide reside in the state capital.

Proposition 4
HJR 73 permits professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles.

Proposition 5
SJR 17 increases the population cap from 5,000 to 7,500 or less for counties to perform private road construction and maintenance.

Proposition 6
SJR 22 recognizes the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife subject to laws that promote wildlife conservation.

Proposition 7
SJR 5 dedicates certain sales and use tax revenue and motor vehicle sales, use, and rental tax revenue to the state highway fund to provide funding for non-tolled roads and the reduction of certain transportation-related debt.

Important Dates

October 19-30: Early Voting

October 23: Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail

November 3: Election Day and Last Day to Receive Ballot by Mail

Food for Thought...

“The danger to America is not Barack Obama but a citizenry capable of entrusting a man like him with the Presidency. It will be far easier to limit and undo the follies of an Obama presidency than to restore the necessary common sense and good judgement to a depraved electorate willing to have such a man for their president. The problem is much deeper and far more serious than Mr. Obama, who is a mere symptom of what ails America. Blaming the prince of the fools should not blind anyone to the vast confederacy of fools that made him their prince. The Republic can survive a Barack Obama who is, after all, merely a fool. It is less likely to survive a multitude of fools such as those who made him their president.”

Vaclav Klaus (former Premier of Czech Republic)

Cartoons extracted from Jonathon Garthwaite’s Town Hall website: www.townhall.com
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 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 2015 we were able to offer $400 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. 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.

Photos from 3rd Quarter events...

U.S. Congressman Michael McCaul was the Key Note Speaker at our Boots & Bling fundraiser. After dinner he visited with attendees until we shut the event down!

Some of the riders in the FC Fair parade: Bill Wright, Ursula Higgs, foreign exchange student, Cindy Rodibaugh, Barbara Appelt Anne Wright & Frank Forestier.