“INFLUENCING TEXANS THROUGH EDUCATION”

From Judy Cook, FCRW President

Dear FCRW,

I believe that 2016 will be another year for FCRW to shine! I am honored to continue as your President and, with our very capable Officers, Chairpersons, and members, I know we will shine even more brilliantly than we did this past year. Considering the success of our 2015 Boots & Bling fundraiser, that is quite a goal. I know all of our members realize how important 2016 is for the USA. The need to stay engaged and get others involved is paramount. We will be forming committees to help in the effort to elect honest, dedicated, conservative Republicans to offices at all levels of government, from County officials up to the President of the United States. Every one of our members can and should, in some capacity, join in this effort to protect our freedoms and keep Americans safe. Complacency is a weakness that Patriots can no longer afford. We must combine our time and efforts if we want our children and grandchildren to have the personal and economics freedoms which we grew up with. Freedom is not free. It requires work and sacrifice.

Let's all join forces to make FCRW shine even brighter. The USA will be the winner.

Thank you,

Judy Cook

Recapping our 4th Quarter Monthly Meetings

Oct. 19 – We met at 6:30 PM in a private room at Frank’s Restaurant in Schulenburg. After the business meeting, the documentary by Curtis Browers, “Agenda: Grinding America Down” was shown. This is a powerful film which will, hopefully, help wake up Americans to the dangers of the current administration’s agenda to transform America into a globalist, socialist country.

Nov. 16 – We met at 6:30 PM at La Grange City Hall Council chambers. After the business meeting, at which we elected our 2016 officers, Cindy Rodibaugh presented a program on “Remembering Patriotism”, focusing on how America was founded on our faith in God and love of country. As our country has moved away from God, weakened the importance of teaching our children values by example, and demanded tolerance of acts which go against the laws of God and nature, we are allowing the deliberate destruction of America.

Dec. 3 – Our annual Christmas Party and Officer Installation was held at Frisch Auf! Country Club. Senator Lois Kolkhorst performed the officer installation ceremony. FCRW officers for 2016 are: Judy Cook, President; Nancy Applebe, Vice President; Billie Burns, Treasurer; and Brenda Fietsam, Secretary.

NEXT MEETING:
Jan. 21, 2016 6:30 PM at La Grange City Hall
Welcome our 2016 FCRW Officers and Chairpersons

The room was beautifully decorated and the food and service were superb. To top it off, Senator Lois Kolkhorst attended and performed the installation ceremony. Shown L-R: Senator Lois Kolkhorst; President, Judy Cook; Vice President, Nancy Applebe; Treasurer, Billie Burns; and Secretary, Brenda Fietsam.

2016 Chairpersons are:
Legislative: Jeanne Raley
Literacy: Barbara Appelt
Membership: Deborah Frank
Membership: LaMorris Thompson
Scholarship Chair: Carole Bourlon
Newsletter Editor/Website & Facebook Mgr: Deborah Frank
Publicity: Cindy Rodibaugh
Fundraiser: Cristine Etue
Social/Hospitality: Freda McInnis.

(Note: In mid-December Billie had to resign as Treasurer due to her husband Allen’s health issues. Cristine Etue was voted in to take her place at the Jan. 6, 2016 Board meeting).

There is a lot of work to do in 2016 if we are to elect a conservative Republican President to reverse the damage that Obama has done. We know these ladies will do their best to lead in those efforts!

McCaul on Reconciliation Act: “an across the board victory for the American people"

WASHINGTON, DC– Today following the House of Representatives passage of H.R. 3762, Restoring American’s Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act, Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX) made the following statement:

McCaul: “Today’s reconciliation vote is an across the board victory for the American people and it has been a long time coming. Republicans in Congress have been listening to our constituents and we have overcome the obstructionist tactics employed by Democrats. The result; for the first time we have sent to the president’s desk legislation that repeals the foundations of Obamacare including its multi-billion-dollar slush fund, defunds Planned Parenthood, and cuts the deficit over half a trillion dollars. It is time for the president to put aside his veto threats, do the right thing, and sign this bill that ends the individual and employer mandates in Obamacare and a vast majority of its burdensome taxes, protects the unborn, and begins to put us back on a path to fiscal stability.”

Media Contact: Walter Zaykowski 202-213-4304 January 6, 2016
Dear Friends,

As we begin the new year, Texas faces an important crossroads that will impact our lives for years to come. Whether it's presidential politics or your local elections, it seems that there are two competing visions for what role the government should play in your life. As your State Senator, I've never forgotten that the law exists to protect the individual, and not to embolden a faceless state bureaucracy.

In Texas, we have always believed that the power flows from the people to the government, and not the other way around. With your help, our state is now a national leader in both job creation and personal liberties. Indeed, other states and nations look to Texas as both an economic leader, as well as an unbreakable fortress of conservative values and plain old common sense.

Last year, during the 84th Legislature, I worked hard in the Texas Senate to see that your voices were heard and your plans were put into action. Major reforms took place, including record levels of funding to secure our border to the tune of $800 million. We saw $4.8 billion of substantial property and business tax cuts, more school choice options, more expansion of our Second Amendment freedoms, vigorous defense of traditional marriage and the First Amendment rights of Texas pastors, and much more. The Texas Senate delivered on its promises and we will continue to do so.

Now it's time to set the bar even higher in 2016. Beginning this month, the Texas Senate will hit the ground running with hearings on several interim charges released by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. As a member of five major committees, I'll have a front row seat. As the hearings begin, I wanted to tell you a quick bit about each one and how these important issues may impact all of our lives.

The first hearing will be the Senate Finance Committee on January 26th. We will monitor the state's progress in coordinating behavioral health services and expenditures across state government. To get more for our money, we will attempt to identify ways our state agencies are collaborating and taking steps to eliminate redundancy, create efficiency, utilize best practices, and cut waste.

The next day, the Senate Transportation Committee will meet to evaluate the state's Vehicle Inspection Program and to make recommendations on how to reduce the number of required inspections. In addition, we will discuss the "Driver Responsibility Program" and how the state could seek alternative methods to achieve the same objectives without continuing such an unpopular and somewhat ineffective program.

On February 18, Senate Health & Human Services will convene to study new ways that Texas can promote healthy aging for the state's growing population.

Whether it's overseeing programs for our most needy Texans, or cutting the waste out of state agencies, I will always keep your thoughts in mind. Undoubtedly, the most important resource I have in the Capitol is you. Whether it's by email, phone or letter, please know that your thoughts and ideas are both appreciated and encouraged. With so much at stake and a president determined to issue executive orders that reflect a monarchy more than a republic, now is the time to remember that the government exists to work for us, we don't exist to work for the government. I pray that this year will see us renew our commitment to a sovereign and strong nation. Texas can lead the way, and you can play a key role by getting involved and staying informed.

From my family to yours, I hope you had a blessed Christmas and I wish you the very best in 2016.

Lois Kolkhorst

Food for Thought...

[Image of cartoons with political themes]

THESE CARTOONS ARE NOT FROM USA PAPERS. HOW IS IT THAT MUCH OF THE WORLD SEES OBAMA FOR WHAT HE IS AND YET MANY AMERICANS THINK HE'S DOING JUST FINE AND ADMIRE HIM???
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.

“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

Senator Lois Kolkhorst with some of the attendees at the Christmas party.