Dear FCRW Members,

Another busy quarter to put in the archives. In October, eight FCRW members represented Fayette County as delegates in the Texas Federation of Republican Women 32nd Biennial Convention in Galveston. We voted on an TFRW officer slate, plus a nomination from the floor for President. We also attend the SD18 caucus where, retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Vanessa Hicks-Callaway was elected as our TFRW Senate District Director and who by the way will be our Master of Ceremonies at the Presidents’ Day Celebration, Saturday, February 22, 2020. I organized a Republican entry in the Chilispiel Parade in Flatonia where we were well received. Sherrie Tolbert, our Literacy Chair, coordinated our annual Dictionary Project with the 3rd grade teachers in all seven Fayette County elementary schools; project completed in October. Documentation was submitted for the Barbara Bush Literacy Program award. Sherrie Tolbert was selected by TFRW’s President, Glynis Chester, to serve as their Leadership Chair. The FC High School Republicans are growing in membership and had their first fundraiser, under the sponsorship of Sherrie Tolbert.

The Fundraiser Committee, chaired by Rita Dernehl, continues to provide a detail program for the FCRW Presidents’ Day Celebration, all members are encouraged to donate and attend, it promises to be a memorable event. To complete the year, our annual Christmas party held at Frisch Auf! was festive and fun, included officer installation, conducted by associate member Harold Bourlon.

I want to thank our officers and chairs for a job well done, and welcome the new chairs, Jackie Matthews and Cindy Rodibaugh. God, continue to bless the USA, Texas, and our great President Donald Trump.

Barbara Appelt

Recapping our 4th Quarter Monthly Meetings

Oct. 17 – We met at 6:30 PM at La Grange City Hall. Our speaker was Tom Maynard, our District 10 Representative on the Texas State Board of Education.

Nov. 21 – We met at 6:30 PM at La Grange City Hall. Our speaker was Ben Leman, our District 13 State Representative. Ben gave a re-cap of this year’s legislative session – it’s accomplishments and issues they will continue to work on. He is a member of the re-districting committee and stressed the importance of participation in the 2020 census, in order to ensure that Texas is allocated the appropriate number of Representatives.

Dec. 7 – This was our annual Christmas Party and Officer Installation event. It was held at Frisch Auf! Country Club in La Grange. Harold Bourlon, lawyer and FCRW associate member, graciously performed the officer installation ceremony.

NEXT MEETING: Jan. 16, 2019, 6:30 PM at La Grange City Hall

Our speaker will be Brooke Crowder, founding CEO of The Refuge in Austin. This organization is a long-term therapeutic care facility for domestic minors who are victims of sex trafficking.
Congratulations and our sincere appreciation to those members who continue to serve!

FCRW held its annual Christmas party and officer installation event at the Frisch Auf! Country club on Dec. 6. The room was decorated beautifully, and the dinner was superb. We had an excellent turnout of almost 50 members. The esteemed Harold Bourlon, lawyer and FCRW associate member, performed the officer installation ceremony.

Pictured L-R: Harold Bourlon; President, Barbara Appelt; VP/Program Chair, Donna Barr; Secretary, Deborah Frank; due to family obligations, our Treasurer, Kimberley Rutledge, was unable to attend and we truly missed her. We greatly appreciate these officers continuing to serve a second term and giving their time and talent to help FCRW meet our goals. Throughout 2020 FCRW will continue to provide informative meetings, along with our annual activities focusing on literacy and education, participate in parades and events throughout the county, and support our conservative Republican candidates. FCRW’s Presidents Day Fundraiser will be held on February 22 and we are all working hard to make this one our most successful fundraiser yet! (Contact Fundraiser Chair, Rita Dernehl, for more information: 713 376-9033). We know these ladies will do their best to lead in those efforts!

Fayette County Republican Women cordially invite you to our
PRESIDENTS’ DAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, February 22, 2020  6:00 pm – 10 pm
HISTORIC CASINO HALL
254 N. Jefferson Street, La Grange, Texas

Dynamic Speaker: Nick Adams, founder of FLAG – Foundation for Liberty & American Greatness
www.flagusa.org; Facebook: FLAGUSA; Twitter: @FLAGUSA
Emcee: Lt. Col. Vanessa Hicks-Callaway
Entertainment, Dinner, DJ, Live & Silent Auctions

2019 Dictionary Project Completed
At the beginning of each school year, FCRW donates an encyclopedic dictionary to every 3rd grader in Fayette county - including those who are home-schooled. Thanks to these members who helped Literacy Chair Sherrie Tolbert distribute the dictionaries and demonstrate the information they contain: Fayetteville ISD: Beverly Elam, Brenda Holcomb, Jackie Matthews; Flatonia ISD: Joe & Carolyn Bailey; Schulenburg ISD & St. Rose Catholic School: Pat Topping, Billie Ayers; Round Top/Carmine ISD: Sandy Flagg, Donna Barr; La Grange ISD: Jana Rinehart, Peggy Brisgill; Sacred Heart Catholic School: Barbara Appelt, LaMorris Thompson.
Eight FCRW Board Members Attend TFRW Biennial Convention

TFRW held its 2018-2019 biennial convention October 3 through 5 at the Moody Gardens hotel in Galveston. FCRW was able to seat 6 delegates and 2 alternates. Our very own Becky Berger was running for TFRW President. It was a close race but, unfortunately, she did not win.

We heard from excellent speakers throughout the convention. The highlights being Ken Starr and Nick Adams. Perhaps the most fun were our private “happy hours” after the scheduled events ended each day.

On Saturday morning, we participated in our SD18 caucus where we elected our new SD18 District Director, Vanessa Hicks-Callaway. (Pictured above right)

FCRW’s six delegates prepared to vote on TFRW officers for 2020-2021.

Above: Newly-elected SD18 District Director Vanessa Hicks-Callaway, who is a retired Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army. Additionally, she was the Central Gulf Region Field Director for the Ted Cruz Campaign. We are confident she will be an excellent Director for SD18.

Rita and Sherrie had to leave Friday afternoon, so the remaining 6 of us attended the Friday night banquet dinner.

Above, L-R: Cindy Rodibaugh, Deborah Frank, Barbara Appelt, Sherrie Tolbert, Donna Barr, Rita Dernehl, Kimberley Rutledge, and LaMorris Thompson.
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.

In 2010, we held our first Tribute to Women brunch in July. For this event, we accepted nominations for any deserving volunteer in Fayette County. Our 2018 fundraiser was a dinner party at The Historic Casino Hall in La Grange with State Agriculture Commissioner, Sid Miller as our keynote speaker. These fundraisers support our annual literacy projects and scholarships. Each year FCRW donates select books to the four public libraries in the spring and gives an encyclopedic dictionary to each third grader in Fayette County in the fall. In 2011, we initiated our annual FCRW scholarship program which recognizes one graduating senior girl in each of the five high schools in Fayette County. With those scholarships starting at $250, we have steadily increased the amounts. In 2017 and 2018 they were $800. In 2019, we increased them to $1,000. We also offer pocket-size copies of the U. S. Constitution to everyone stopping by our Republican booth at the four-day Fayette County Fair. Finally, for the past year, FCRW has been working towards making our 2020 fundraiser on Feb. 22 our most fun and successful one so far. Please plan to attend!

Please join us as we work to bring our Country back to conservative values and restore American freedoms!

God Bless Texas. God Bless America.

“If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent, we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

George Washington