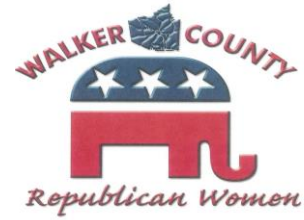


**Walker County
Republican Women**

Post Office Box 7382
Huntsville, TX 77340
281 796-5766



WCRW NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



FROM PRESIDENT **RENEE LUNSFORD**:

As we approach this, our 247th Independence Day, *LET FREEDOM RING* in remembrance of those great patriots who gathered in Philadelphia so long ago and declared our independence from Great Britain's rule! The Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution that followed, outline the principles we Americans live by. As you enjoy this July 4 holiday, please be safe, remember our freedoms, and those brave men and women who fought, and continue to fight, for our rights of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Thank you all for your participation and support for WCRW efforts to educate women in and around Walker County. I would like to encourage continued community activity and engagement. As leaders in our community, may we continue to inspire those around us.

In the words of the great Theodore Roosevelt (a Republican, by the way) - "Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are."

Dates to Remember:

July 4: Independence Day
July 6: Open House – GOP / WCRW Headquarters – 1205 University Ave.
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

July 12: Caring for America – Elkins Lake Community Room 10:30 am – 2:00 pm
 July 14 – 15: TFRW 3rd Quarter Board Meeting – Pflugerville
 Aug 1: TFRW Awards Due Date
 Aug 5: Veterans Breakfast
 Aug 21: WCRW General Meeting
 Sep 28 - 30: NFRW Convention – Oklahoma City, OK
 Oct 12 – 14: TFRW Convention – Irving, TX

FROM VP AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR **SYLVIA ROSENBERGER**:

Thank you for attending the Summer Outdoors Event held on June 12, 2023, at the Elkins Club Pavilion. Your newly elected officials were our guest speakers:

- Colt Christian - County Judge
- Leslie Woolley – District Clerk
- Randy Jeffcoat – Justice of the Peace, Pct 3
- Brandon Decker – Commissioner, Pct 4



Please let them know how much you appreciate their service. We received 4 new members and 5 new associate members. Every person counts. As one of our WCRW *Caring for America* projects, we will once again be serving Breakfast to our local Veterans. This event will be held at the Storm Shelter, next door to the HEARTS Veterans Museum on Saturday, August 5, 2023. Volunteers are requested to be there by 8:00 a.m. The hours for this event are 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. We will be serving about 100 Veterans and the more helpers the merrier. Wear your Red T-shirt. For our next General Meeting (Aug 21) we are privileged to host your U.S. Congressmen Pete Sessions and Morgan Luttrell. Hope to see you all there. Please show your support by attending and bringing a guest.



FROM TREASURER/PAC **SUSAN MILLER**:

A Girl needs BLING! We have Jewelry and T-Shirts for Sale. Look for Pictures of Items to be Posted on our WEB Page for Purchase Soon!

Did you know that when you order your lunch for our Monthly General Meeting, you're helping to cover the cost of the Room Rental at Gibbs Hall? Please consider ordering a Lunch at our next meeting.

Want to make a donation to help in *Caring for America* Projects, for Member Educational Events, or other areas? Let us know how you wish to help.

Did you know that all our Meeting and Event information is posted on our Web Page? We encourage you to check there often for updates to stay informed.

FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIR TISH HUMPHREY:

Hi, it's Tish Humphrey with your membership team. WE NEED you to help our group have more voices to speak on educating voters about topics in our Community, State and Nation. Our monthly meetings/events are midday and even some evenings and we want you to find value with your membership and be involved even if you can't attend all meetings. Please contact me and I will help you get your friends and family signed up and YOU may even win a prize!



FROM LEGISLATIVE CHAIR JULIA WOODS:

The 2023 Texas legislative session ended May 29. Gov. Abbot immediately called for a special session to continue talks concerning property tax relief. He has since called for a second special session to continue those discussions. The deadline to sign or veto a bill was June 18. Unsigned bills automatically became law after that date. The following are a list of bills that have been signed into law, most of which will be effective

September 1:

Special 88th Legislative Session Wrap-Up

TFRW's legislative priorities this session were election integrity, education, and border security. This *Legislative Wrap-up* is intended to give an overview of the bills that TFRW focused on this session. We understood going into the session that we cannot win on everything (even if we want to)! That is not to say that some of our disappointments seemed to be no-brainer bills or resolutions that should have passed. We will hope to hear from those involved as to why these bills or concurrent resolutions never made it out of committee.

At the outset, we want to congratulate our representatives for finally passing legislation that will protect minors from irreversible gender modification procedures and treatments. [SB 14](#) is a thoughtful piece of legislation championed by two doctors in the legislature (Senator Donna Campbell and Representative Tom Oliverson), among others. We also congratulate our Representatives on ending the threat of future COVID-related mandates. [SB 29](#) prohibits governmental entities from implementing or enforcing COVID-related vaccine, mask and business or school closure mandates. Both bills were signed by the Governor on June 2nd and will be effective September 1st, 2023.

This session, TFRW issued 15 Action Alerts covering 36 bills or bill stages (some bills were in more than one alert but were at different points of the process). Those bills included (those that have become law listed first):

- [HB 900](#) provides regulation for library materials sold to or included in public school libraries, in particular “sexually explicit material.” The bill was signed by the Governor on June 13th and is effective on September 1st, 2023.
- [SB 1070](#) (the “ERIC” bill or “Alan Vera Memorial Act”) relates to the interstate voter registration crosscheck program which seeks to prevent duplication of registration in more than one state and to identify voters that have moved, been convicted of a felony, have died or are ineligible to vote for another reason. The bill became law by the operation of law and is effective September 1st, 2023.
- [SB 12](#) prohibits sexually explicit performances in the presence of a child. The bill became law by the operation of law and is effective September 1st, 2023.
- [SB 15](#) requires that participation in intercollegiate sports competitions be based on the student's biological sex. Last session a similar bill was passed for grades K-12. (HB 25 87(3)). The bill became law by the operation of law and is effective September 1st, 2023.
- [SB 1599](#) relates to ballots voted by mail. This bill adds requirements for ballots to be voted by mail that are returned at the polling place because the voter has decided to vote in person. It also adds procedures for applications for a ballot by mail that are defective. The bill became law by the operation of law and is effective September 1st, 2023.
- [HB 1605](#) provides for the restoration of the State Board of Education’s

(SBOE) authority to set the percentage of the TEKS that instructional material must cover (a mistake, even if well-intentioned, that has taken 14 years to remedy).[2] While TFRW applauds this correction, TFRW got involved with this bill because as originally drafted, it transferred too much authority from SBOE to the Commissioner of Education and the Texas Education Agency. At TFRW's request, some amendments were added to the bill that are intended to correct this problem. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 13th and becomes effective September 1st, 2023. TFRW will continue to follow the implementation of this legislation by the Commissioner and the agency.

- [HB 1243](#) provides for the increase in penalty for illegal voting back to a felony (was reduced to a Class A misdemeanor in 2021 session). This bill is very similar to [SB 2](#) which was the subject of an Action Alert. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 13th and becomes effective September 1st, 2023.