



# Cy-Fair Republican Women

NEWSLETTER

October 2005

## Jan's Jottings

The wind from Hurricane Rita is still blowing outside as I sit here writing and feeling very fortunate indeed. We also have a lot to be proud of. Yes, the evacuation did not go perfectly. Expecting such a monster storm on the heels of seeing the disaster of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans prompted an estimated one million people to leave from areas where they most likely would have "hunkered down" before. The emergency plans had not accounted for such a massive exodus. Thousands of people endured hardship on the highways in an effort to be safe. I hope our elected officials can use this event as a learning experience and continue to work together to improve our emergency plans rather than as an opportunity for finger pointing. From my perspective, our officials handled themselves very well throughout this whole ordeal.

We have seen incredible kindness and generosity of people helping those in need from this storm and earlier for the evacuees from News Orleans. I know many of you have offered places to stay, volunteered at shelters, and other means of offering a helping hand to those who have lost so much. Although Katrina has been devastating to people from all walks of life, the tragedy has prompted a discussion of the increasing economic stratification of our society. Hopefully, we can focus on the importance of education in changing this vast divide. Some 47% of the public schools in New Orleans rank as "academically unacceptable."

This discussion comes on the heels of the very relevant program at our last meeting when Representative Corbin Van Arsdale shared his passion for improving education and emphasized his focus on improving our schools. In our information society, college is the necessary pathway to opportunity with increasing barriers for those who have not attended college. However, students in the poorest quarter of the population have only an 8.6% chance of getting a college degree while those in the top quarter have a 74.9% chance. While it is true that kids from poorer families have trouble affording college, **the main barrier is that they are not academically or culturally prepared.** When they do attend college they are failing and dropping out. We all must keep a sharp eye on and active involvement in what we must be demanding from our schools so that they are preparing our children for the future.



While we have been focused here on our storms, the war on terror in Iraq continues. Reports state that the offensive against the terrorists in northwestern and western Iraq seems to be going well and Iraq's Army and Police force show signs of progress. We must not forget to continue to support our military along with supporting the victims of our own natural disasters here at home. Our troops treasure receiving a little bit of home. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a list of suggestions for what to bring to the next meeting that we can take to Operation Interdependence to be delivered to our troops. I encourage everyone to write a note to bring with them to be included because those notes are, as they say, "priceless".

Finally, we are excited about the next meeting, which is the candidate forum for State Senatorial District 7. It should be very informative and is open for anyone to attend. Bring spouses, friends or anyone that would be interested. See you at the forum!



### CFRW UPCOMING DATES MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| October 11     | CFRW Meeting, 6:45 p.m.<br>Candidate Forum, 7:30 p.m. |
| October 24     | Northwest Forest RW Fund<br>Raiser                    |
| November 8     | Special Election Day                                  |
| November 11-13 | TFRW Convention, Corpus<br>Christi                    |
| November 16    | CFRW Meeting, 9:30 a.m.                               |
| December 16    | CFRW Christmas Party, evening                         |



**MINUTES**  
**September 13, 2005**  
**CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

The meeting was called to order by president, Jan Ott, at 10:00 a.m. at Hearthstone Country Club.

Mika Spears gave the invocation followed by the pledges.

Our guests were introduced and included Jim Murphy, candidate Dist. 133, and Peggy Hamric, candidate Senatorial Dist. 7.

Guest speakers Vicki Nixon and Cindy Phillips from Operation Interdependence presented a short program on their organization's services. Operation Interdependence is a civilian-to-military delivery system available to any citizen wishing to show support to our service men and women.

Representative Corbin Van Arsdale, District 130, discussed the work of this year's Texas legislature. He presented an overview of some of the 700 bills passed.

Following the speakers, the club's business meeting began at 11:15. The October 11, general meeting will be a forum for senatorial candidates for District 7 held at Prime Time Steak House, beginning at 6:45 p.m.

The August general meeting minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. There was no treasurer's report available. Volunteers are needed for precinct work on Election Day. Volunteers are also needed to work on candidate campaigns.

Kay Waghorne asked for volunteers to help work on a membership book. We can sell ads for the book to help raise funds.

Because of the TFRW Convention to be held Nov. 11-13 in Corpus Christi, the November meeting will be held Wednesday, November 16.

Kitty Berger moved that Kay Waghorne be our delegate to the TFRW convention, and the motion passed. Jan Ott, as president of CFRW, will also be our delegate. Kay Waghorne moved that Kitty Berger and Rita Parrish be alternate delegates, and the motion passed.

Jan asked for a Community Services Committee chair and a Christmas Party Committee chair.

A motion was made by Mary Atchison to use the Homestead Software program to manage the CFRW web page, and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40, followed by a buffet lunch.



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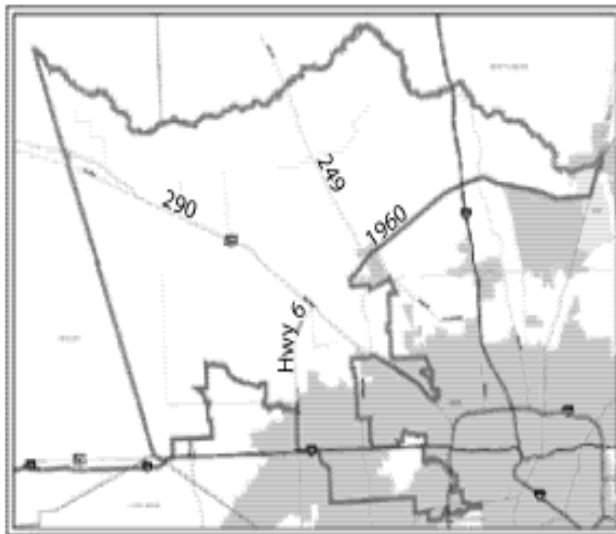
**TUESDAY EVENING  
OCTOBER 11, 2005**

Prime Time Steak House  
9275 West FM 1960 at Perry Road

**6:45pm CFRW Meeting**  
**7:30pm Candidates Forum**  
**Senatorial District 7**

**Please RSVP by October 7 to Jan at  
[J.ott@wcthou.com](mailto:J.ott@wcthou.com) or 281-859-6464**

With State Senator Jon Lindsey retiring there will be a number of Republican candidates for his seat participating in our Forum. This is your opportunity to meet and hear them. Since one of our most important functions as an organization is to help educate the electorate, we are encouraging each member to bring at least one guest. All spouses and friends are welcome!



Senate District 7 Map



**NEWS AND NOTES**



**Ways and Means:** Our current Ways and Means Project will be a Membership Book. We are looking for volunteers to work on this committee. Ads will be sold to pay for the books and raise money for the club. Please let Kay know if you would like to help



**Publicity:** It appears the our publicity efforts in area papers is paying off. We had several visitors at our September meeting who read about us in one of the papers. All three of them plan to join. We are always looking for ways to grow our club. We currently have ads in the Katy and 1960 area Krenek newsletters, the six area Sun newsletters and the Longwood newsletter. We are also working to get an article in The Leader. Please let Kay know if you have any publicity ideas.



**CFRW Website:**

We have a fabulous new website for our club--  
[www.CFRW.net](http://www.CFRW.net). We give a great big thank you to Kay Waghorne for getting this up and running. It is very informative. You can find information about meetings, copies of newsletters, links to other informative sites and much more. Be sure to check it out!





## **I. What's Happening in Texas?**

### **November 8 Election for Marriage**

During the last Texas legislative session, a proposal to introduce a constitutional amendment on the definition of marriage was passed. Consequently, on Saturday, November 8, 2005, Texans will vote on the definition of marriage. The ballot language on which Texans will be voting "for" or "against", is as follows:

"The constitutional amendment providing that marriage in this state consists only of the union of one man and one woman and prohibiting this state or a political subdivision of this state from creating or recognizing any legal status identical or similar to marriage."

Please mark your calendar to get out and vote on this very important issue.

### **Lack of Legislation: Good or Bad?**

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the 2005 Texas legislative session was what did not pass. Although there was much criticism for failure to pass a school finance bill, it does make more sense not to pass a bill which calls for more spending without any real reform in the system.

Another extremely surprising result was that there was no increase in gambling despite a huge push by pro-gambling lobbyists in Austin. One of our representatives commented that he could not walk out of his office in Austin without being approached by a pro-gambling lobbyist. Republican senators and representatives should be congratulated for sticking to their guns in the midst of enormous pressure, especially when there was real pressure to find another funding source for education.

Another measure that did not pass despite great popularity was the reduction in property taxes. Unfortunately, since this was tied to an overall overhaul of education finance, there was not a way to reach agreement.

### **Parental Consent for Minor's Abortions**

A provision for parental consent before surgical abortion on a minor was tacked onto another bill, that passed and became effective September 1, 2005. Finally, the legislature is beginning to support parents' rights.

## **II. Federal Legislation Update**

### **Judge Roberts, Continued**

Finally, after much delay and many hysterical outbursts by the usual suspects on the Democratic side of the aisle, eminently qualified Judge John G. Roberts finally received the recommendation of the Senate Judiciary Committee by a vote of 13 to 5. He is expected to be confirmed in the Senate to the Chief Justice Position of the United States Supreme Court. No word as of this writing as to who the President may nominate to replace Sandra Day O'Connor.

### **Hurricane Katrina**

Housing vouchers and education vouchers are just two of the proposed means for getting funding to those displaced by Hurricane Katrina. It remains to be seen exactly how far the government will provide for the needed assistance in these areas, but if school vouchers are provided, and they are perceived to be successful, it will certainly help to further the school choice agenda.





## SUPPORT THE TROOPS

**Operation Interdependence** Houston area managers, Vicki Nixon and Cindy Phillips, at our last meeting shared with us a good way to help support our troops deployed overseas. **You can bring your donated items to the next meeting on October 11. Most importantly, write a note to bring with you to be included. The troops especially enjoy hearing from children, so, enlist help from others as well.**

Everything must be light and small so as to easily fit in a quart size (7" x 8" zippered plastic bag. These are suggestions, but you can be creative.

### ▪ NOTES

- Non-perishable, safety sealed foods\* - nothing twist wrapped and no pork products
- Safety sealed drink mixes\* – Koolaid/Crystal Light drink packets, sealed tea and coffee bags
- Condiment and hot sauce packets from fast food restaurants\*
- Reading materials, playing cards, dice, CDs, DVDs
- Batteries (AA, AAA), disposable cameras
- Small, thin rolls of electrical tape, small bungee cords
- Moist wipe pads, sunblock
- Small Vaseline, socks
- Alcohol pads, safety sealed chapstick
- Safety sealed Band aids, Neosporin, Tylenol/Advil, eye drops, OTC medications
- Small toys, stuffed animals to hand out to children – they are trying to change the hearts and minds of the future generations over there
- Small size shampoo, lotion, deodorant, razors, safety sealed toothbrushes and toothpaste, dental floss
- Pens, paper – NO Envelopes or stamps
- Snacks\* - beef jerky, granola bars, cookies, tuna snack kits
- Odor Eaters (for boots)
- Phone cards
- Facial tissues

Please note that all food items (denoted with an \*) must be manufacturer's sealed. Items that are determined unacceptable by the inspectors will be discarded and not returned. Any suspicious items will be removed. Know the source of all your donated items.

*“No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women”--Ronald Reagan*



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
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National Federation of Republican Women  
Texas Federation of Republican Women  
Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

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Stay informed! There is seemingly unlimited news and information on the internet; here are just a few interesting web sites that may be of interest.

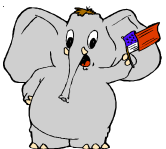
<http://thomas.loc.gov/> - Acting under the directive of the leadership of the 104th Congress to make Federal legislative information freely available to the Internet public, a Library of Congress team brought the THOMAS World Wide Web system online in January 1995, at the inception of the 104th Congress. Texts of bills are updated several times a day.

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> - Updates on what is going on in the Texas legislature.

<http://www.texaspolicy.com/> - The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-partisan research institute guided by the core principles of limited government, free markets, private property rights, individual liberty and personal responsibility. The Foundation seeks to improve Texas government by producing academically sound research on important issues offered to policy makers, opinion leaders, the media and general public.

<http://www.ghcrwpac.org> – Greater Houston Council

<http://www.tfrw.org> – Texas Federation of Republican Women



**“The Constitution is not a panacea for every blot upon the public welfare, nor should this Court, ordained as a judicial body, be thought of as a general haven for reform movements”**

*John Marshall (American Founder constitutional law and the Supreme Court of the United States. 1755-1835)*