

Cy-Fair Republican Women

NEWSLETTER
September 2005

Jan's Jottings

We are official! As many of you heard at the last meeting, we were approved to be federated and are now an official member of the National Federation of Republican Women and the Texas Federation of Republican Women, and we are on the move! We are growing and have an ambitious schedule in the works due to the enthusiasm of our still somewhat small but, very active group of impressive women.



For our next meeting, you will receive invitations to pass on to your friends and fellow Republicans. Stephanie has Representative Corbin Van Arsdale scheduled to provide us with a very informative program and we also will have a surprise unveiling. We are not going to tell you now what it is, but, I know you will want to be there.

As you all know, our State Senator Jon Lindsay, after serving in the Texas Senate since 1997, is retiring. This is stirring up a flurry of candidates running for the Senatorial District 7 seat. (See a map of the district elsewhere in this newsletter.) The Republican primary will be very decisive in determining who wins this position. Since one of our most important functions as an organization is to help educate the electorate, we will be hosting a candidate forum for all of the Republicans running for this seat. It is scheduled to be held at the same time as our October meeting. We will need help, because we are sure this will draw a very large crowd from the community. This will be a good time to start getting involved in campaign activities. Keep a record of the time you spend, so that you can turn in your volunteer campaign hours to Rita.

That is not all! Susan Combs, currently Texas Agriculture commissioner, is running for Comptroller and will speak at our November meeting – please note, this is scheduled one week later than our usual meeting and is on a Wednesday– November 16. We are planning this with two other Republican Women's clubs. There will be more information about this as the time gets closer.

December will be a time for fun. Instead of a regularly scheduled meeting we will have a Christmas party for members and their spouses. It will be a great way to wrap up this year of opportunity.

**TUESDAY MORNING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005**

Hearthstone Country Club
7615 Ameswood Road

9:30 a.m. Social, 10:00a.m. Meeting

**Please RSVP by September 9 to Jan
at J.ott@wcthou.com or 281-859-6464**



State Representative
Corbin Van Arsdale (<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist130/arsdale.htm>) will be our guest speaker at our next meeting. He will be giving us

a re-cap of the 79th Session of the Texas Legislature and will be available to answer any questions regarding either of the special sessions.

Corbin is a graduate of University of Texas in Austin and a fifth-generation Texan. He was first elected to serve the people of District 130 in the Texas House of Representatives in 2002. His district, a suburban area in northwest Houston, encompasses Tomball, Cypress, Copperfield, Hockley, and part of Waller.

Serving his second term in the Texas House, Corbin was appointed by Speaker Tom Craddick to the Calendars, Insurance, and Judiciary Committees for the 79th Session. The Calendars Committee is the only committee in the Legislature that every bill — House and Senate — must survive to become law. His votes are based on a conservative philosophy coupled with critical and progressive thinking.



**CFRW UPCOMING DATES
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



September 20---Greater Houston Council
September 21---CFRW Board Meeting
October 11---CFRW Meeting/Candidate Forum, 6:45 p.m.
November 16---CFRW Meeting, 9:30 a.m.



**MINUTES
August 10, 2005
CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

Cy-Fair Republican Women
Minutes for August 10, 2005 General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by president, Jan Ott, at 7:15 p.m. in the home of Rita Parrish, 12406 Francel Lane, Cypress.

Mika Spears gave the invocation followed by the pledges.

The guest speaker, Norm Wiggington, spoke to the club about the history and current plans of The Texas Department of Transportation. The talk was followed by a question and answer session.

Nick Swyka, District Director for Rep. John Culberson, was introduced to the club and outlined Rep. Culberson's bill on citizen militia border patrols.

Following the speakers, the club's business meeting was held. September 13, a general meeting will be held at Hearthstone Country Club beginning at 9:30 a.m., followed by lunch. The cost of lunch will be \$15.00. The September meeting will be a membership drive with Rep. Corbin Van Arsdale as speaker. The October general meeting is tentatively planned as a forum for senatorial candidates for District 7.

The August general meeting minutes were approved following a motion by Mary Atchison. Jan announced that CFRW had been officially sanctioned by TFRW. The treasurer's report was given as follows: \$847 in funds collected to date and \$180 sent to TFRW for state dues for a balance of \$667.

Madonna Morris was thanked for her generous donation of two CFRW logo blankets for the evening's raffle. Raffle ticket sales for the evening were \$94. Shirley Chambers, Phyllis Kidd, and Mary Atchison were thanked for the delicious desserts they provided for the evening's meeting.

Jan asked for a volunteer to fill the position of club historian. Colleen Gilbert graciously accepted the position. With a reminder that the TFRW Convention will be held Nov. 11-13 in Corpus Christi, Jan adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by,

Kitty Berger, Secretary CFRW



Thank you to Rita Parrish for having us to her home and to Phyllis Kidd, Shirley Chambers, Mary Atchison for the delicious refreshments.



CFRW Board Members

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★ Publicity: We are excited about our initial response to the club and are looking for ways to grow our membership. We have put articles in the Katy and 1960 area Krenek newsletters, the 6 Sun newsletters and Longwood newsletters. If anyone has any other ideas for publicity please let Kay know.

★ Ways and Means: We will continue to hold our "selection" raffle at each meeting. I want to give a very special THANK YOU to Madonna Morris who so graciously donated two monogrammed tote bag and blanket sets to our raffle. They were just beautiful. We hope to keep the items fun and exciting so please let us know if you have something wonderful to donate to our raffle. Our next Ways and Means Project will be a Membership Book. We are looking for volunteers to work on this committee. Please let Kay know if you would like to help.

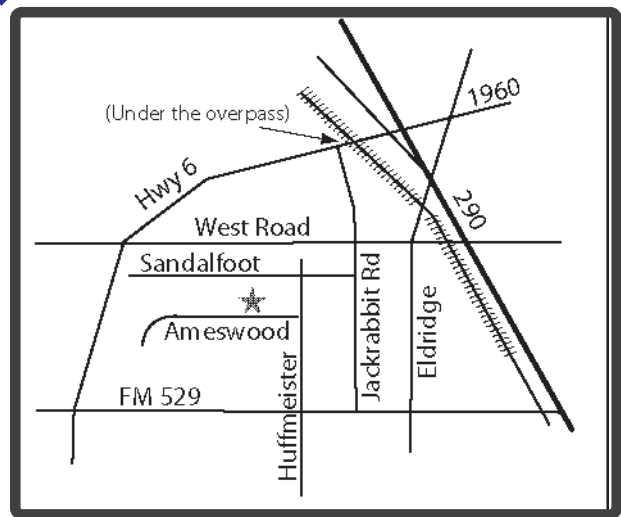
**GREATER HOUSTON COUNCIL
MEETS SEPTEMBER 20**

Greater Houston Council is the umbrella organization for 41 Republican Women's Clubs in Southeast Texas - from Matagorda County to Chambers County, from Galveston to Montgomery County. The mission of the Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women is to promote political education in order to increase the effectiveness of Republican Women in the cause of good government. In addition, the Council strives to coordinate activities of the various clubs to achieve the maximum efforts of Republican Women throughout the region to elect Republican candidates.

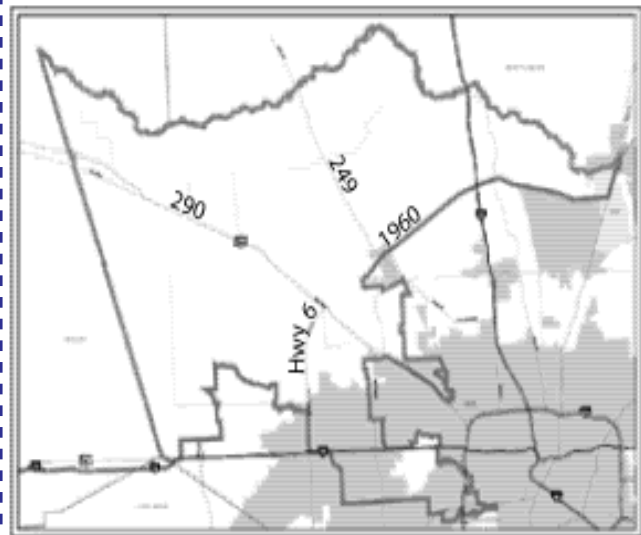
Cy-Fair Republican Women have two votes at Council meetings. We will be represented by Jan Ott and Kitty Berger. Although they are the only ones that have a vote, any of you are always welcome to attend these meetings held every other month at the Compass Bank Building, San Felipe at Kirby, 9:30 A.M. on the second floor. The next meeting is September 20. The speaker will be Dr. Stephen Klineberg speaking on "Public Perceptions in Remarkable Times: Tracking Change through 24

Years of Houston Surveys." Professor Klineberg is a professor at Rice University and in 1982 initiated the annual Houston Area Survey, a systematic series of telephone interviews with representative samples of Harris County residents. The survey provides a measure of the transformations and implications for the challenges and opportunities facing the Houston area in the years ahead.

MAPS



***Hearthstone Country Club**



Senate District 7 Map



From U.S. Congressman John Culberson
on Border Protection:

On July 29, along with 47 original cosponsors, I introduced H.R. 3622 to create the Border Protection Corps. The Corps would be made up of citizen volunteers working as sworn law enforcement officers under the command of the Governors of border States and working in cooperation with State and local law enforcement officials and the United States Border Patrol.

Border Protection Corps operations and the costs of detaining, housing and transporting foreign nationals taken into custody by the Corps or by state and local law enforcement would be paid for using the \$6.8 billion in Homeland Security first responder funds that have been sitting unspent and untouched in the U. S. Treasury for over two years.

The Border Protection Corps Act invokes Congress's power under Article I, Section 8 of the U. S. Constitution to "provide for calling forth...organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia... to execute the Laws of the Union." The Corps would be authorized to patrol and defend the international border of the United States to prevent individuals from crossing the international border at any location other than an authorized port of entry.

H.R. 3622 is necessary because federal authorities do not have the manpower or the resources to protect America's international borders, and we now have sworn testimony by top federal law enforcement officials that potential terrorists from countries with known Al Qaeda connections are entering the United States in significant numbers by assuming false Hispanic identities and hiding among the flood of illegal immigrants pouring across our southern border. Extremely violent and dangerous criminal gangs like MS-13 and drug smugglers are also crossing our southern borders in growing numbers,

and lawlessness in the area around Nuevo Laredo has grown so severe the Chief of Police was shot dead.

9/11 deputized all Americans, but not all Americans can serve in our military or join the FBI or Homeland Security and fight the war on terror in the front lines. H.R. 3622 enables law-abiding American citizens to help defend our country as a member of a lawful militia force organized into a modern neighborhood watch border patrol program under the direct control of the State's governor and working in close cooperation with State and Federal law enforcement authorities.

America's best defense against terrorists trying to sneak into our country is to trust the good hearts and the good sense of American citizens who have stepped up over and over again since the days of Lexington and Concord to protect their neighborhoods and their country by filling every breach in our national security as members of the militia until federal authorities could come forward to relieve them.

H.R. 3622 would only take effect in those border States whose Governors call for volunteers to serve, and eligible, law-abiding citizens from any State in the Union can serve in the Border Protection Corps of that State. The Governor who called for volunteers to serve must follow State law to equip, train, and discipline, and control the operation of the militia forces in defense of the international borders of the United States.

Foreign nationals entering the United States illegally who are taken into custody by the Border Protection Corps or by State or local law enforcement authorities would be promptly delivered to a federal law enforcement authority, and returned to the country from which they entered the U.S., but only after federal law enforcement authorities are fully satisfied that each individual is not a violent or dangerous criminal, a terrorist or a potential terrorist, in which case that individual would be prosecuted in the United States to the fullest extent of the law. See: <http://www.culberson.house.gov/>



Remember Proposition 12? 8/8/05 Press Release from the Texas House of Representatives Web Site:

Lawsuits in Most Texas Counties Cut in Half Since Landmark 2003 Reforms ~

AUSTIN – State Representative Joe Nixon (Houston) today accepted a comprehensive study of 2003's House Bill 4 and Proposition 12 issued by the Texas Tech Law Review. Jon Opelt of Texas Alliance for Patient Access presented copies of the study to Rep. Nixon in his office at the Texas Capitol just prior to the start of today's House session.

Titled "House Bill 4 and Proposition 12: An Analysis with Legislative History," the 357-page article is the culmination of a year and a half of study by six leading Texas attorneys: Donald Wilcox, general counsel for the Texas Medical Association; Charles Bailey, general counsel for the Texas Hospital Association; Gavin Gaberry, general counsel for the Texas Health Care Association; and Michael Hull, Brent Cooper, and Michael Wallach, three of the state's leading medical liability defense lawyers. Rep. Nixon and State Senator Robert Duncan (Lubbock) also contributed to the project.

"I salute the Texas Tech Law Review and the researchers for the time and attention they invested in this project to examine the landmark reforms we passed in 2003," Rep. Nixon said. "Just two short years ago, Texas was losing doctors; its health care system was under siege; and average Texans were stuck with skyrocketing insurance premiums. We turned that around in 2003, and this thorough article will serve as a valuable roadmap to judges and attorneys now adjusting to these badly needed reforms."

Some of the article's key findings include:

1. Medical liability insurance premiums began to rise dramatically between 2000 and 2002—exacerbating an already growing crisis that was jeopardizing access to care for Texans.

2. Major insurers began to drop coverage or raise

premiums to unaffordable levels forcing doctors to abandon patients and practices, particularly in high-risk specialties such as emergency medicine, obstetrics, and gynecology.

3. A disturbingly high number of physicians were limiting their scope of practice to minimize liability costs and lawsuit concerns, and across the state, hospitals were turning away ambulances due to a critical shortage of doctors and nurses.

4. Approximately 85 percent of medical liability claims against Texas physicians were closed with no payment made to the patient.

5. In Texas the average medical liability award quadrupled from 1989 to 1999, rising from \$472,982 to \$2,048,541. This jump was largely influenced by a disproportionate surge in non-economic awards.

For the first time in years, Texas physicians can competitively shop for medical liability policies. According to the Texas Department of Insurance, 17 licensed companies were writing new professional liability policies in Texas in 1999. In a turbulent market, that number dwindled to four in 2002. Since the passage of Proposition 12, 22 new carriers, including three admitted carriers, have begun selling malpractice insurance in Texas or will do so soon.

Meanwhile, the Texas Hospital Association reports that liability insurance rates are being slashed – after a 54 percent hike in 2003, hospitals saw their liability costs slashed 17 percent. Many Texas hospitals are reinvesting their liability savings into patient services and expanding their level of charity care.

Finally, the Texas Alliance for Patient Access reports that lawsuit filings in most Texas counties have been cut in half since the passage of the 2003 reforms. That's great news for Texas doctors – and Texas patients.

Contact: Teri Avery, 512-463-0514

See: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/news/release.php?id=1424>



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
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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.

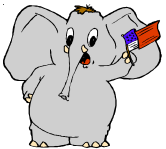
<http://thomas.loc.gov/> - Acting under the directive of the leadership of the 104th Congress to make Federal legislative information freely available to the Internet public, a Library of Congress team brought the THOMAS World Wide Web system online in January 1995, at the inception of the 104th Congress.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



A judiciary independent of a king or executive alone, is a good thing; but independence of the will of the nation is a solecism, at least in a republican government.

Thomas Jefferson, letter to Thomas Ritchie, December 25, 1820