



Cy-Fair Republican Women

NEWSLETTER
August 2006

Jan's Jottings



I am really excited about our August meeting that is not really a meeting! We will have another great program, but it is also a time to bring spouses and friends and join in as we further the cause of Republican Socializing and dispense with the regular business portion of the meeting. I think you will find the program about the Fair Tax good food for thought and conversation. The current U.S. income tax code is widely regarded by just about everyone as unfair, complex, wasteful, confusing, and costly. Businesses and other organizations spend more than six billion hours each year complying with the federal tax code. Estimated compliance costs conservatively top \$225 billion annually—costs that are ultimately embedded in retail prices paid by us.

So... is the Fair Tax something that we can ever see passed? My initial thought when I first heard about the idea was, no. However, I forgot to remember to "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." Actually, the number of Senators and Congressmen that have signed on to this proposal continues to grow. This appears to me to be an idea that switches the power from Congress to "we the people". This will be a program you will for sure enjoy discussing.

Speaking of great programs, I must comment and again thank our last month's speakers, Representatives Corbin Van Arsdale and Dwayne Bohac. We really hated for their time to end. We all learned a little more about the

complexities involved in getting good bills passed and really appreciated how these two legislators can disagree on some issues but still continue to work well together for good legislation. They discussed the highly publicized bills, HB 1 - 5 and the things they like and dislike about them. I believe we all can appreciate the fact that we usually cannot get 100% of what we would like. Economic analyses of these bills as a package nets Texans a \$6 billion reduction in taxes over the next three years. But, both Representatives have some concerns which they believe will be addressed in the next legislative session before the new tax plan goes into effect. Our two Representatives were very generous with their time and very forthcoming with their thoughts about their representing us. If everyone was not beginning to get really hungry, I don't think they would have let these guys get away!

Again, I will look forward to seeing you at our August meeting. Please bring your spouse, friends, and neighbors, but please do let us know how many are coming. Our hospitality committee will be bringing wine and hors d'oeuvres and they definitely need an idea of how many people to plan for. Thank you all for coming.....jan

"Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds." - Albert Einstein

★ August Social and Speaker ★

TUESDAY EVENING AUGUST 8

Tuesday Evening
August 8
Home of Jan Ott
7903 Alamar

6:45p.m Social, 7:30p.m. Meeting
Cost \$5/ person
Wine, Tea, and Hors d'oeuvres

Guest Speaker
Genie Hayes, FairTax.org

Please RSVP to Jan by August 4 at
J.ott@wcthou.com or 281-859-6464



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The Fair Tax was created by first asking the American people what they wanted out of a tax system, and then having a team of respected economists design a tax system that met those demands. The FairTax replaces the income tax and all other federal taxes with a national consumption tax. It is levied only once, at the point of purchase on new goods and services. The simplicity of the FairTax frees Americans from our current overwhelming tax code and unshackles the U.S. economy. **Please join us at our next meeting as we listen to Genie Hayes, The Communication and Grassroots Director and National Spokesperson for FairTax.org.** She is a former Political Consultant involved in managing campaigns for US Senate, US Congressional, State Representative, and City Official races, and has also been involved in grassroots organizing, planning and executing events, fundraising, DC lobbying and conducting media relations. She will inform us about why the Americans for Fair Taxation has become the largest, single issue tax reform organization in the country with over 610, 000 members and 44,000 active volunteers and how we can be a part of this organization.





MINUTES

July , 2006 General Meeting

CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Minutes

July 11, 2006 General Meeting
CY-Fair Republican Women

The luncheon meeting was called to order by President, Jan Ott, at 10:05 A.M. in the meeting room of LaRosa's Restaurant, Highway 6 and 290. Following the invocation by Sharon Moore and pledges led by Mary Atchison, guests and new members were introduced.

The guest speakers for the meeting were State Rep. Corbin Van Arsdale and Rep. Dwane Bohac. They presented a comprehensive explanation regarding the current tax issues and an informative talk on special session issues. They also answered questions from the members and guests. They were presented with a gift of appreciation by Programs Chair, Stephanie De Hondt.

The June general meeting minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The treasure's report remains the same.

Note cards were passed out and members and guests were free to participate in writing a brief word of appreciation and encouragement to our Military personnel. Everyone was reminded to place items in a zip-lock bag if they would like to donate.

Mary Moss reminded members the name tags are available for purchase.

Rita Parrsh had voter registration forms available, and advised that Martha Wong's campaign needs volunteers if anyone was available to volunteer time.

Mary Atchison advised that next month's meeting would include spouses and other guests. It will be an evening meeting and the place will be announced when a location is chosen.

Regarding unfinished business: CFRW still needs a larger sign for display at our meeting locations.

The Greater Houston Council has a Round Table on Immigration in September or October. Jan will give the details when they are finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41A.M.

Submitted by:

Millie Alford ~ CFRW





NEWS AND NOTES



continued.....

So far it seems that Monday or Friday are the popular days but if you have another day that works better for you then we might just make it 2 different days to accommodate everyone. Please let me know so I can add your name to our growing list and I will let you know when we finalize the date or dates. Remember also that we will be keeping track of who gets involved the most and there will be special recognition for our most outstanding volunteers. You can email me at reparrish@hotmail.com.

**CFRW UPCOMING DATES
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Aug 8..... CFRW- Evening Social/Meeting

Sept 12..... CFRW Morning Meeting

Sept 19..... Greater Houston Council Meeting

TBD..... Greater Houston Council
Immigration Roundtable



NEWS AND NOTES



Membership:

Our September 12th lunch meeting, will be our yearly *Membership Drive*. We will have invitations for this meeting for you to take at the August 8th meeting. Please take a few and invite any of your friends who you feel may enjoy the information, fellowship, and opportunities that we provide. We plan to have door prizes for our guests and we will award a prize to the member who brings the most guests. As “they” say, “The more, the merrier!” Republican Women’s Clubs are grass roots at its finest. Be informed, be involved, **bring a friend**. We can make a difference!

We continue to offer our own stylish name tags. Come prepared to order your very own hard plastic, magnetic backed, personalized name tag at our next meeting. The cost is \$15.00.



Campaign Activities

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED VOLUNTEERING AT A CANDIDATE’S OFFICE OR WALKING A BLOCK OR TWO FOR YOUR FAVORITE CANDIDATE? We are organizing to do just that this next month. We hope to get a group together and all go spend a morning or afternoon helping out at a campaign office. What a great way to make an impact as a club and offer some much needed assistance to our local Republican candidates. We are looking at going to help out Patricia Harless and Martha Wong and will also include others as election time grows near.



Community Service

As chairman of our club’s Operation Interdependence, I am still collecting non-perishable goods and sundry items for our overseas troops. ALL items must be small enough to fit inside a quart size (7” x 8”) zippered plastic baggie.

The following supplies are still urgently requested for our troops.

Personal notes to go in the C-rats bags. These notes are sent in every bag of C-rats we mail and are crucial to our service people’s morale. They are treasured more than anything else you send. This note doesn’t have to be long, just a few words of encouragement and appreciation is enough. Please take a few minutes to write down your thoughts or some news from the home front – it will be greatly appreciated!

Powdered drink mixes: Crystal light, Kool-aid, tea bags sealed in foil – not paper.

(NO cocoa mixes at this time).

Salty foods: Mixed nuts, pretzels, crackers, BEEF jerky (pork is not permitted by Iraqi law).

If you do not have time to shop, please consider making a monetary donation so the area co-managers (Vicki Nixon and Cindy Phillips) can purchase supplies for you or apply the funds towards the mailing of these items.

Please drop off (or bring to the meeting) whatever items you can donate at my home at **14827 Elmont Dr. in Hearthstone subdivision**. There is a covered entranceway at my front door and a white iron bench where you can leave the items. Whatever you can donate will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me any time at 281-463-2972.

Thank you so much for your help and participation in this worthwhile project. Please drop off your donation(s) as soon as possible for the next overseas mailing.

---Susan Fruit





Legislative Report

Through the miracle of Internet, we have access to countless issues regarding our government.

In addition to the websites which explain the organization and procedures of our elected officials, we are privy to a political vocabulary which is vital in understanding the overall processes.

In the next few newsletters, the terms which are most often used in politics will be presented for our members to reference. I think it is very helpful to understand the terminology which is used in the political realm.

The website source is <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/resources/glossary.htm> for access at any time. We'll begin with the first 3 letters of the alphabet, and try to cover them all by the end of the year. Happy Learning!

ACT

A public law enacted by the Texas Legislature. A bill that has been passed by both houses of the legislature and presented to the governor becomes law if it is signed by the governor or if it is not signed by the governor within a specified period of time or if the governor vetoes the bill and the veto is overridden by a two-thirds vote in each house.

ACTION

A description of a step that a bill undergoes as it moves through the legislative process.

ADJOURNMENT

The termination of a meeting. Adjournment occurs at the close of each legislative day upon completion of business, with the hour and day of the next meeting set before adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Final adjournment of a legislative session. Literally, the phrase means adjournment "without a day" specified to reconvene.

ADOPTION

Approval or acceptance; usually applied to amendments or resolutions.

ADVICE AND CONSENT

Procedure by which the senate gives approval or confirms appointments made by the governor to state offices.

AMENDMENT

Any proposed alteration to a bill or resolution as it moves through the legislative process. Amendments to a measure may be proposed by members in their assigned committees or by any member of a chamber during that chamber's second reading or third reading consideration of the measure.

APPORTIONMENT

The proportionate distribution of elected representatives, either among the states in the case of U.S. Congress or within the state in the case of the state legislature. The division of the state into congressional and state senate and house districts of equal population for purposes of representation.

APPROPRIATION

An authorization by the legislature for the expenditure of money for a public purpose. In most instances, money cannot be withdrawn from the state treasury except through a specific appropriation.

AUTHOR

The legislator who files a bill and guides it through the legislative process.





BICAMERAL

A legislature consisting of two houses, such as the house of representatives and the senate.

BIENNIAL

Occurring every two years; a term applied to the scheduled regular session of the legislature.

BILL

A type of legislative measure that requires passage by both chambers of the legislature and action by the governor. A bill is the primary means used to create and change the laws of the state. The Legislative Information System also uses the term “bill” generically to refer to the various types of legislative measures that may be introduced during a legislative session. Bill types include: senate and house bills, senate and house joint resolutions, senate and house concurrent resolutions, and senate and house resolutions.

BILL ANALYSIS

A document prepared for all bills reported out of committee that explains in nonlegal language what a bill will do. A bill analysis may include background information on the measure, a statement of purpose, and a section-by-section analysis.

BIPARTISAN

A term used to refer to an effort endorsed by both political parties or a group composed of members of both political parties.

CALENDAR

A list of bills or resolutions that is scheduled or eligible to be taken up for consideration on a specified date by the members of a chamber.

CALENDAR DAY

A day of the year on which the legislature may be in session.

CALLED SESSION

See [SESSION](#).

CAPTION

A statement that gives the legislature and public reasonable notice of the subject of a bill or resolution. For bills and joint resolutions, the first sentence of the text that summarizes the contents of the bill or resolution. For other types of resolutions, a brief description of the contents of the resolution.

CHAIR

A legislator appointed to preside over a legislative committee. A traditional designation for the member currently presiding over a house of the legislature or one of its committees.

CHAMBER

The place in which the senate or house of representatives meet. Also a generic way to refer to a house of the legislature.

CHIEF CLERK

The chief clerical officer of the house of representatives. The chief clerk is the custodian of all bills and resolutions in the possession of the house and is responsible for keeping a complete record of their introduction and all subsequent house actions taken on them throughout the legislative process.

COAUTHOR

A legislator authorized by the primary author to join in the authorship of a bill or resolution. A coauthor must be a member of the chamber in which the bill was filed.

COMMITTEE

A group of legislators, appointed by the presiding officer of the house or the senate, to which proposed legislation is referred or a specific task is assigned.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The text of a bill or resolution and its required attachments that is prepared when the measure is reported from a committee for further consideration by the members of the chamber. The committee report includes the recommendations of the committee regarding action on the measure by the full house or senate and is generally necessary before a measure can proceed through the legislative process.





COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

A complete, new bill or resolution recommended by a committee in lieu of the original measure. A committee will report a committee substitute rather than a large number of individual amendments when the committee wishes to make a substantial number of changes to the original measure. The committee substitute must contain the same subject matter as the original measure.

COMPANION BILL

A bill filed in one chamber that is identical or very similar to a bill filed in the opposite chamber. Companion bills are used to expedite passage as they provide a means for committee consideration of a measure to occur in both houses simultaneously. A companion bill that has passed one house can then be substituted for the companion bill in the second house.

CONCURRENCE

When the originating chamber votes to accept, or concur in, the amendments made by the opposite chamber.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A type of legislative measure that requires passage by both chambers of the legislature and generally requires action by the governor. A concurrent resolution is used to convey the sentiment of the legislature and may offer a commendation, a memorial, a statement of congratulations, a welcome, or a request for action by another governmental entity. (Concurrent resolutions are also used for administrative matters that require the concurrence of both chambers such as providing for adjournment or a joint session. These types of concurrent resolutions do not require action by the governor.)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

A committee composed of five members from each house appointed by the respective presiding officers to resolve the differences between the house and senate versions of a measure when the originating chamber refuses to concur in the changes made by the opposite chamber. Upon reaching an agreement, the conferees issue a report that is then considered for approval by both houses.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The text of a bill and its required attachments that is issued when a conference committee has completed its work in resolving the differences between the house and senate versions of a measure.

CONGRATULATORY AND MEMORIAL CALENDAR

A list of congratulatory and memorial resolutions scheduled by the House Committee on Rules and Resolutions for consideration by the house that must be distributed to the members 24 hours before the house convenes.

CONSTITUENT

A citizen residing within the district of an elected representative.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

A change to the state constitution. A constitutional amendment may be proposed by the legislature in the form of a joint resolution that must be adopted by both houses of the legislature by a two-thirds vote and be approved by a majority of the voters to become effective.

CONVENE

To assemble or call to order the members of a legislative body.

COSPONSOR

A legislator who joins with the primary sponsor to guide a bill or resolution through the legislative process in the opposite chamber. A cosponsor must be a member of the opposite chamber from the one in which the bill was filed.

COUNCIL DOCUMENT NUMBER

The unique number assigned to a bill or resolution draft prepared by the Texas Legislative Council. If a filed bill or resolution has been prepared by the council, the number will appear in the lower left-hand corner of the document.



Affiliations:
National Federation of Republican Women
Texas Federation of Republican Women
Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Important links:

<http://www.CFRW.net> - Cy-Fair Republican Women

<http://thomas.loc.gov/> - 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 produces academically sound research on important issues.

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

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

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us> - Texas Secretary of State web site offers more information on elections

