



Cy-Fair Republican Women Newsletter

VOLUME 3
APRIL 2011

Rita's Reflections

It's an exciting time in the Texas Legislature. With Republicans having the majority vote it is a good time to get some things done which are near and dear to all Republican's hearts. There are of course some obstacles in the form of the Democrats who insist they keep things their way. The Voter ID Bill is one piece of legislation which Democrats knew would likely pass but they were not giving in easily as they tried to delay and amend the proposal during floor proceedings last week. Republicans have stated that the bill is needed for election security and to eliminate voter fraud. Democrats argued that the photo requirement would drive down turnout and therefore disenfranchise many voters primarily the minority, poor and elderly voters.

SB 14, requires voters to present a valid state-issued driver's license or concealed handgun license in order to cast a ballot. A passport or citizenship papers that have a photo are also acceptable. The only exceptions are for persons born on or before 1931, as they will not have to show a photo ID.

In an announcement from The Hispanic Republican Conference it

was stated that it'd be supporting the voter ID bill, "to ensure the integrity of our election process ... to ensure that candidates reside in their districts, to strengthen our voter registration system, [and] to protect military voter access to Texas elections."

State Representative, Patricia Harless, District 126, is the House sponsor of this version of SB 14 which was also co-authored by Representative Dwayne Bohac, House District 138. Representative Harless officially opened up the debate on the House floor saying, "a valid ID was necessary to do almost anything. Texans already are required to produce an ID to get medical prescriptions, board an aircraft and obtain various goods and services, open a bank account or rent a car. The lack of public confidence in our voting system cannot be questioned."

The first day of debate on Monday, March 21st found Legislators on both sides planning on a long partisan debate when it was noted there was a discrepancy in the wording of the bill for provisional balloting. The wording was that voters have "six business days" to legitimize their vote after casting a provisional ballot. This was vastly different from the text of the bill itself, which only says "six days." This then prompted House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, to take it off

the agenda due to procedural defects and so it went back to re-drafting in the committee and was put back on the House Floor Wednesday, March 23rd.

It took 11 hours of debate to end all the arguments for both political parties. After working out any differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill, the bill then headed over to the Senate where it is expected to pass. Then it will go onto Rick Perry's desk for final passage.

So yes, it is finally time for Republicans to have a chance to put some things to right. I hope this means there are other good things on the horizon to help this country get back to our basic ideals and end the senseless debates over things that should be easily resolved.

~Rita Parrish

"Precedents are dangerous things; let the reins of government then be braced and held with a steady hand, and every violation of the Constitution be reprehended: If defective let it be amended, but not suffered to be trampled upon whilst it has an existence. "

George Washington



CFRW Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendars!



April 12th
10:30-1:00pm
CFRW Regular Meeting
Carrabba's Restaurant

May 2nd-5th
Wash D.C.

TFRW Road Trip
"On The Road Again..."

April 14th
10:00-12:00pm
CFRW Board Meeting
Hearthstone Country Club

May 10th
11:00-1:00pm

Membership Drive Meeting
Guest Borah Van Dormolen

April 28th
11:00-2:00pm
Cy-Fair Womens Expo
Sterling Country Club



CFRW Board Members

President: **Rita Parrish**
281-376-1616
reparrish@hotmail.com

Programs: **Dr. Millie Alford**
713-466-0731
mcaphd@yahoo.com

Ways & Means: **Suzanne Davis**
713-562-4901
threedavishome@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor: **Melissa Ronquillo**
832-298-1429
mcronquillo@sbcglobal.net

Recording Secretary: **Traci Sarradet**
281-374-0118
tracisarradet@yahoo.com

Treasurer: **Barbara Buxton**
832-559-3855
barbarabuxton@comcast.net

Past President & Awards: **Mary Moss**
281-550-9415
moss311@sbcglobal.net

Parliamentarian: **Jan Ott**
281-859-6464
j.ott@wcthou.com

Membership: **Betty Guthrie**
281-370-3956
BLPGuthrie@aol.com

Hospitality: **Doris Jones**
281-213-8837
dorlin1@msn.com

Campaign Activities: **Joy Gregory**
281-463-8203
joygregory@sbcglobal.net

Legislation: **Joan Hudgens**
281-463-1644
anne_lippmann@yahoo.com
attn: Joan Hudgens (subject line)

Caring For America: **Debby Frieden**
281-225-6290
debbf@entouch.net

Publicity: **Stephanie Peters**
832-541-9663
stephanie@cypresswindowtinting.com

Historian: **Linda Dempsey**
281-516-0213
ldempsey59@yahoo.com

Literacy Program: **Mary Atchison**
281-855-6706
matchison@scacompanies.com

Registration: **Betty Phelan Collins**
281-370-3535
bettyphelan@msn.net

Chaplain: **Kay Waghorne**
281-550-1723
kwaghorne@msn.com

Web: **Kristen Govantes**
281-712-1759
gandkgovantes@gmail.com

MARCH MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Featuring *Jessica Colon*
Former Chair of The Young Republicans

Carrabba's Italian Grill

7540 N. Highway 6
Houston, TX 77095
(Copperfield Area)

10:30 a.m. - Coffee/Social
11:00 a.m. - Speaker/Meeting
12:00 p.m. - Lunch

Lunch \$15 - Meeting only \$3 (cash/check)

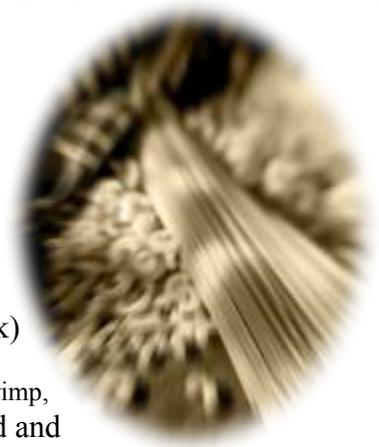
Menu: Penne Weesie (penne alfredo with shrimp, mushrooms and scallions) Italian salad and Sogno di Chocolate (brownie with chocolate mousse and whipped cream)
(Vegetarian meals are available with advanced notice)

RSVP by Friday, April 8, 2011

Online at www.cfrw.net

E-mail: pwmedfdj@yahoo.com

Ph: 281-213-8837



Caring for America

By: *Debby Frieden*



Thanks to everyone who donates to Caring for America. We still need items to ship to our troops. Our care packages need hotel size toiletries, individual condiment packets, and snack sized baggies. If you would like to help with shipping our care packages to the troops you can make a donation to Operation Interdependence with a check or go to their website <http://www.oidelivers.org/> and click on Our Adopt-a-Box™ Program.

ADOPT-A-BOX™



For increment donations of \$30.00, you can directly sponsor the shipping of one or more of our boxes that are sent each week. Each box reaches 50 troops on the frontlines with C-rats® from home, which is enough to cover a whole platoon with no one left out. Each box can contain a short note from you and, if you wish, your return details. It is a great idea for gift giving and marking special occasions or dates when you are thinking of those deployed overseas.

To take part in this program simply go to OI website above, request Adopt-a-Box™ under the "Designated donation" option, and add a short note (max 256 characters) in the field for inclusion if you wish.

Thank you for thinking of our men and women overseas.



MEMBERSHIP

Betty Guthrie



Mark your calendars for the
CFRW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE MEETING
on May 10, 2011.

CFRW is proud to welcome new members **MARGARET ELLIS, SUSAN GREEN** and **PAT MC-CLENEY!** We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and getting to know you. Welcome back members **AMANDA PEPE, MARGO TIMMINS, KELLI RAY, ANGIE DOMINGUES, AND MICHELLE LANCASTER!** Thank you for your continuing support!

Have you forgotten to renew your membership for 2011? Renewal reminders and forms were recently mailed to those 2010 members who have not as yet renewed their membership for the current year. I anticipate hearing from them soon. There is also a Membership Application attached to this newsletter.

Exciting plans are being made for our program featuring speaker 'Borah Van Dormolen, past President of TFRW and current Republican National Committeewoman. Entertaining and informative, 'Borah is a speaker not to be missed! Invite friends and neighbors to join us! Prizes will be awarded to the member who has the most guests attending and to the member who has the most guests joining CFRW at the meeting.

Help is needed! I am looking for a few volunteers to help prepare for the *Membership Drive Meeting*. If you can help at a fun workshop around the end of April and/or arrive early to set up on May 10th, please contact me at 281-370-3956 or BLPGuthrie@aol.com. All help will be appreciated!

LEGISLATION

By: Joan Hudgens

The past four years have seen school districts across Texas struggling with a myriad of fiscal challenges. Their money woes have been exacerbated by legislation enacted to reduce state expenditures across the board. Some of the legislation impacts all districts equally, but districts also have problems and needs which are unique to each.

In an informative memo, Dr. David Anthony, Superintendent, Cypress Fairbanks ISD [CFISD] expressed his concerns and offered explanations regarding legislation and regulations which directly affect CFISD.

The public education budget is 4.5 billion less than last year's budget. In a House of Representatives recommendation crafted by Representative Pitts, the budget met a legislative goal which would not exceed the revenue projections of the Comptroller. However, the current proposed budget does not provide for student growth or compensate for declining property values. This could result in a \$10 billion loss for public education.

In 2005, the legislature reduced the property tax rate for school districts from \$1.50 to \$1.00 at the cost of \$14 billion per biennium. A business or "margin tax" which was projected to yield billions of dollars in revenue fell far short of the \$14 billion needed to "buy down" the property tax rate. The General Revenue fund had to supplement the margin tax for the 2010 - 2012 biennium.

Removing the Hold Harmless will negatively impact CFISD. A Hold Harmless is a term used to prevent a district from losing funds when a new financial system is approved by the legislature. Districts are guaranteed that they will receive no less funding in the new system than they did in old system.

The following situations explain possible losses and how each would affect CFISD:

- If the "Hold Harmless" clauses are removed, CFISD would lose \$1.32 million in the next biennium. This would result in the loss of 1300 plus employees who earn an average annual salary of \$50,000.
- If the "Hold Harmless" clauses are not removed, the losses would represent a \$232 million loss in the next biennium.
- If budget reductions are a straight 1 percent, CFISD would lose \$100 million PER YEAR.

Dr. Anthony concludes, "We have planned for this catastrophic year, but the magnitude of the state's financial condition, the refusal to use any "rainy day" funds, and the resolve to have no new taxes have added additional problems to the mix.... IT IS FAR TOO EARLY to get worried. We will not have a finance for education for many more weeks. There are a number of ideas floating around Austin regarding the funding of public education, and one or more of them include rewarding districts that have been efficient; we are one of the leaders in that category."



Cy-Fair Republican Women

2011 Membership Application

DATE: _____ OFFICE USE: IN PERSON MAIL

PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME:

CONTACT INFORMATION		PUBLISH IN DIRECTORY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Home Address:		Cell Number:	
City, ST Zip Code:		Work Number:	
Precinct #:		Home Number:	
Occupation: <i>(Required for PAC Report)</i>		Email Address:	
Title:		Spouse Name:	
BEST WAY TO REACH YOU		NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Cell: <input type="checkbox"/> Work: <input type="checkbox"/> Home: <input type="checkbox"/> Email: <input type="checkbox"/>		HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?	

CFRW REFERRALS – WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE TO KNOW ABOUT US?

Name	Email Address	Tel #:	Newsletter by Email:		Relationship to New Member
			Y	N	
			Y	N	

MEMBER TYPE

Name Badge	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Active	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate	(Members of another club) <input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate Man	(Men) <input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

GETTING INVOLVED! - - CHECK OFF A MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN

<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact me with more information on activities at CFRW

Please list talents/skills you possess: (Computer skills, presentation/speaking, meeting/event planning, etc.)

Please make check payable to **Cy-Fair Republican Women**

Total Amount Due:

Mail check and this form to:

Please circle Cash or enter Check #:

Betty Guthrie
12306 Francel Ln.
Cypress, TX 77429

Date Received:

For more information regarding membership, please contact Betty Guthrie: 281-370-3956 (Home)



Programs Millie Alford

Thanks to Susan Green from Bloomfield's Floral Market for her great program last month, and we're happy to welcome her as a new member!

In April, we will welcome Jessica Colon as our guest. She is the former chair of the Young Republican National Federation. It is the oldest political youth organization in the United States.

This group of young voters is important to the growth of the Republican Party and reaches out to registered Republicans, 18 to 40 years of age. They work to provide them with better political knowledge and understanding of the issues of the day. We are thrilled to have Jessica share her expertise with us.

Our future speakers will include our former TFRW President, Toni Anne Dashielle and our NFRW Committee Woman, Borah Van Dormolen. We welcome everyone to join us and become part of our

grass roots efforts that will help to bring a real change in Washington, D.C. in 2012.

Knowledge is power, and the members of CFRW are totally committed to learning all we can about all of the facets of the political machine, locally and nationally. Future speakers will enhance our knowledge and provide the encouragement to carry out our jobs to elect and maintain Republican leadership. Thanks to everyone who offers suggestions, ideas and connections for great programs.

Ways & Means

By: Suzanne Davis

Please note, the **FIRST High Heels & High Tea Committee Meeting** will be held directly after our clubs meeting on Tuesday April 12, 2011. Please plan to attend if you have signed up or are just thinking about it. *We need your help.*



ESD Volunteer to BECOME one of Cy-Fairs BRAVEST!

See this Video at <http://www.cyfairsbravest.org/video.php>
Volunteers comments-



"I joined to serve my community!"
"I joined to be part of a Team Effort."
"There's nothing like THIS brotherhood!"
"I joined because the fire department came to my house to help my mom"

RECRUITING OPEN HOUSE DATES & LOCATIONS:

April 3 – 6:30 pm - Station 9 - 7922 N Hwy 6; Hwy 6 & Longenbaugh
April 6 – 7:00 pm - Station 10 - 11310 Steeplecrest; West Rd & Jones Rd
April 13 – 7:00 pm - Station 6 - 6404 N Eldridge Pkwy; Eldridge & W Little York

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Suzanne Davis
ESD No.9
Commissioner

Come Join Us!

April 28th, 2011
11-2pm at
Sterling Country Club
At Houston National
16500 Houston National Blvd.
Houston, TX 77095

CFRW has a booth this year again at the CYFEN Expo.

(CYFEN) is an Express Network of the American Business Women's Association®, providing professional development, networking, and educational opportunities to professionals in the Northwest Houston and Cy-Fair area.



MINUTES

General Meeting February 8, 2011

President, Rita Parrish called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. Chaplain, Kay Waghorne gave the invocation and led us in the pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags.

Membership Chairman, Betty Guthrie welcomed our guests – Ella Edmiston, with State Rep. Patricia Harless' office and Kay Nixon and new members: Pat McCleney, Susan Green, and Margaret Ellis.

Susan Green, owner of Bloomfield's Floral Market spoke to us about the high number of government regulations that hinder a small business from simply doing business.

Officer's Reports

The minutes from the February 8, 2011 regular meeting were approved as printed in the March Newsletter.

Treasurer, Barbara Buxton reported that as of February 28, 2011 we had a balance of \$8,270.10; and the balance in our Scholarship Fund is \$1,402.43

3rd Vice President, Melissa Ronquillo stated that the deadline for articles for the April Newsletter is Monday, March 21, 2011. She would like to see articles from Caring for America, Publicity, and Literacy. Melissa also announced that updates to our Membership Book are about ready and should be available on the web site soon. Look for and email when the pages are available and how to access them.

Membership Chair, Betty Guthrie reported that as of today we have

52 regular members, 5 associate members, and 2 associate men. If any of you need a name tag, please see her. May's regular, meeting, May 10, will be our annual Membership Drive. Our guest speaker will be Borah Van Dormolen. Betty encouraged everyone to bring a guest(s) to this event.

Campaign Activities, Joy Gregory, reported that she, Lois Barclay and Mary Moss took 9 voter's registrations at Lonestar Colleges' "Community Partner's Day" on February 23, 2011. They should have another one in April, so please look for the date. Joy asked if anyone had any suggestions for another location to hold a registration drive to let her know. Also provided was a flyer with information on times and locations for Deputy Voter Registrar training. Training is available April 12, 11:05 am, at the Tracy Gee Community Center, April 30, 10:45 am, at the Tomball College and Community Library, or on line at <http://www.hctax.net/Voter/Deputy/acknowledge.aspx>.

Caring for America, Debby Frieden reminded the members that Operation Interdependence needs hotel size toiletries, individual condiment packets, snack sized baggies and funds to cover shipping costs. We discussed ways to "pass the hat" and still be in compliance with TEC rules. We will have to investigate further how to easily make donations individually to OI.

Old Business

Millie Alford gave a report on Legislative Day. It was a fun and informative outing. Several of our ladies went to the TFRW "Belles and Boots" gala Wednesday night,

March 2. All of us went to the Capitol Thursday, March 3 and met with Representatives and Senators. Several of us sat in the Gallery of the House to hear Rep, Patricia Harless read a proclamation for the ladies of TFRW. We attended a luncheon where we heard several state officials speak; and we participated in several informative seminars. We finished our day at a wonderful reception hosted by Rep. Patricia Harless.

President, Rita Parrish reminded us in 2nd Vice President, Suzanne Davis' absence that we will be finalizing the venue for our High Heels and High Tea this week. Committees will meet following the April 12th regular meeting at Carrabba's.

New Business

Jan Ott spoke about the May 2-5, 2011 TFRW trip to Washington, DC. If anyone is interested in going, you need to let her know now to insure your place.

Melissa Ronquillo reported on the Financial Review Committee's By-law mandated audit of our books. Everything is in outstanding order. Thank you, Barbara Buxton for the wonderful job that you are doing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Traci Sarradet, Secretary, CFRW.

"Don't let anyone tell you that America's best days are behind her-that the American spirit has been vanquished. We've seen it triumph too often in our lives to stop believing in it now. "

Ronald Reagan



A Letter From Patricia Harless



Dear Friends,

It's been a busy couple of weeks at the State Capitol.

Committees are meeting daily, hearing bills and taking public testimony on issues. I wanted to update you on issues we are debating on the House floor.

HB 15 - Sonogram Bill - As most know, sonograms are used during pregnancy to determine if a baby and mother are healthy or if there are any problems they may be facing. Current law requires a woman seeking an abortion have a sonogram. HB 15 will require doctors, that are performing an abortion, to conduct a sonogram 24 hours prior to the procedure taking place, and give specific details to the mother about the baby.

HB 15, by Representative Sid

Miller, was debated on the House floor and passed on 2nd Reading Thursday March 3rd, and 3rd Reading Monday March 7th. It is now in the Senate for their consideration.

Budget Cuts and the Rainy Day Fund - No doubt you have been hearing or reading the news coverage regarding the budget situation and whether or not to use part of the Rainy Day Fund to help close budget gap of \$4.3 billion for the current biennium. With an Appropriations bill that already reflects reduced spending by more than \$31.1 billion, no matter what we do, the cuts will be significant. There is no doubt that everyone will feel these cuts in some way.

For background information, the Rainy Day Fund was approved by Texas voters in 1988 following the state's 1986-87 economic crisis; the purpose is to help the Legislature deal with revenue shortfalls by collecting surplus oil and gas tax revenue in good economic times; using the fund requires 3/5 approval of each chamber if it is being used to close a budget deficit caused by declining revenues. The

Comptroller estimates there will be \$8.2 billion available at the close of the 2010-2011 biennium and \$9.4 billion by the end of the 2012-2013 biennium.

Last week, Governor Perry, Comptroller Combs and Speaker Straus announced the decision to close out the Fiscal Year 2011 budget gap by using a one-time draw, not to exceed \$3.2 billion from the Rainy Day Fund. This, in conjunction with \$800 million in cuts and \$300 million from increased sales tax collections, will address the shortfall in the current fiscal year, which ends August 31, 2011.

Because I don't sit on Appropriations, the only input I have on budget is when it comes to the House floor for debate. I will keep you informed when we take this matter up in the House.

If you would like to watch the House debate, you can do so by going to <http://www.house.state.tx.us/video-audio/> and clicking on the Chamber Stream.

Legislative Day for Republican Women

We had a great time in Austin for Legislative Day. We hope to see you at next years event!



Millie Alford and former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppart.



M. Alford, no name,, R. Parrish, B. Phelan, B. Van Dormolen, and Maura Phelan



Rita Parrish with CFRW donated basket



Pictured above from left to right: Tracie Sarradet, Betty Phelan, Dwayne Bohac, Rita Parrish, and Melissa Ronquillo

Political advertising paid for by Cy-Fair Republican Women
Contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN
12406 Francel Lane
Cypress, Texas 77429

IMPORTANT LINKS:

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

<http://www.ghcfrwpac.org> - Greater Houston Council

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

[http:// www.thomas.loc.gov/](http://www.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.sos.state.tx.us> - Texas Secretary of State Web site offers more information on proposed constitutional amendments