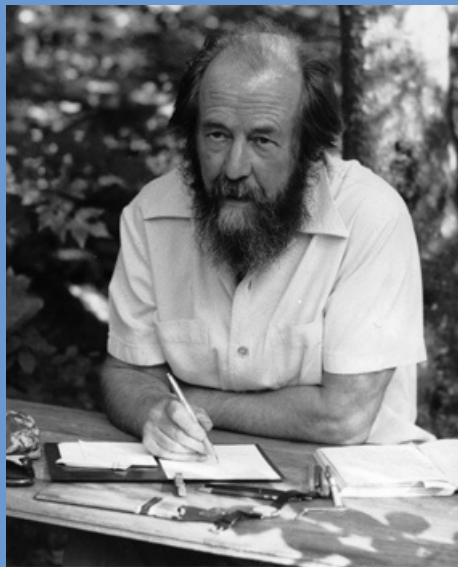




# SUMMITUP

## JAN 2024

## CONSERVATIVES CARING FOR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY



**“Live not by lies.”**

**By Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn**

**1918-2008**

See page 2 for article.

**Photo credit: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn Center**

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Editor: Jini Clare Designer: Barbara Peterson

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# Truth Alone Triumphs

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Photo credit: Getty Images

Soviet dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn provided the world with a road map on how each of us can play an important role in overcoming totalitarianism and governments seeking to control us with untruths.

Shortly before he was arrested and exiled in 1974, Solzhenitsyn released a short essay entitled, “Live Not by Lies.” His keen observations and sage advice are extremely relevant to the country in which we live today – a country in which genders are malleable, concerned parents are labeled as “terrorists,” demonstrators are arrested as “insurrectionists,” political opponents are shackled and imprisoned, violent criminals are set free without bond, and in which the government defines an open border as “secure.”

In this essay, the Nobel-Prize-winning writer advised, “. . . let each of us make a choice: Whether to remain a conscious servant of falsehood . . . or to shrug off the lies . . .” by not writing, printing, or uttering anything that distorts the truth. His list of further admonitions is extensive and worth reading.

In *The Gulag Archipelago*, which was not widely published until 1989, Solzhenitsyn also stressed the importance of truth:

“Let your credo be this: Let the lie come into the world, let it even triumph. But not through me. The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie. One word of truth outweighs the world. In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousand fold in the future. When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations.”

As we move forward in this important political year, let us all find the courage to seek the truth and live not by lies.

~ Jini Clare  
Editor



## *A Message from Our 2024 President*



Dear Summit County Republican Women,

Colorado politics can be a frustrating, unnerving and fabulous experience. Besides running for the state legislature, I especially enjoyed chairing Congressional District 2 which consisted of 10 counties. Each county had its unique demographics and issues, but we came together to elect a Republican candidate for the Congressional general election.

We have two Republican political organizations in Summit County, the County Central Committee and the Summit County Republican Women. The County Central Committee, which comes under the State GOP, is mainly responsible for the support of, and fundraising for, Republican candidates.

Our Summit County Republican Women's group comes under the Colorado Federation of Republican Women (CFRW) and National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW). We promote our party principles and values, support candidates, and bring in new membership. We are a political organization, beholden to the rules and bylaws of the CFRW and NFRW. We also enjoy engaging in social events, community outreach, and other collaborative efforts.

County demographics can greatly influence strategy and focus. It is with this in mind that we will go forward so that we can, effectively, accomplish our objectives. Does that sound a lot like a business plan? Absolutely, and it should.

I look forward to working together with you. The sharing of our talents is very important. Our individual backgrounds are unique and fascinating. We can each offer special perspectives and experience. We will encourage each other.

There is something to be said about the way women bond, team up, and build relationships – and the way we can accomplish so much.

I am excited about our future!

A handwritten signature in red ink, which appears to read "Debra Irvine".

Debra Irvine

# MEET OUR 2024 OFFICERS



President  
**Debra Irvine**

Many of us have long enjoyed Debra Irvine's gourmet cooking and exceptional homemade limoncello. Now we will all benefit from her leadership skills as well.

Debra brings a wealth of political experience and civics knowledge to Summit County Republican Women and the Summit GOP. She was the Republican candidate for House District 56 (2010) and House District 61 (2012, 2014) and a primary candidate for Senate District 8 in 2020. She served as Chairman of Congressional District 2, Judicial District 5, and Summit County. Debra has served on the Board of Directors of Club 20, the largest lobbying group for the Western Slope. She was also appointed to the Judicial Performance Review Commission and the Colorado Women's Alliance.

Debra and her late husband, Rob (who passed away in 2016), moved to Breckenridge in 2004. They built their home on property they had purchased during a ski vacation six years earlier. Before their move to Colorado, the couple lived in Brussels, Belgium, where Rob was a NATO diplomat on the International Staff.

Before she and Rob married, Debra worked in the Washington, D.C., area. She was the Administrator for a company responsible for the operations and maintenance of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. After that, she was a Research Analyst, with a Top Secret clearance, for President Ronald Reagan's Star Wars Missile Defense Program.

In addition to her political and governmental experiences, Debra loves being a professional artist. She won the Breckenridge design competitions for the 2008 Ullr Fest and 2004 Oktoberfest and was commissioned to do a painting for a 2016 Parade of Homes residence where her painting was featured in the living room. That property was named *Mountain Home Magazine's* "Most Beautiful Home." While she has traditionally painted with acrylics, this talented woman is now focusing on pastel drawings.

Debra grew up in Vicenza, Italy, and Garmisch, Germany, and graduated from high school and university in Munich, Germany. She earned a BA with a double major in History and Government and completed post-graduate studies in Political Science with the University of Denver. She was on the high school and college ski teams and worked as a ski instructor in Garmisch. She is fluent in Italian, German, and French.

This patriot is proud to be from a military family. Debra's late husband, father, and mother rest in Arlington National Cemetery. Her son is an Air Force veteran and US Air Force Academy graduate. She is the proud "Nonna" to her son's two-year-old toddler and to six older step-grandchildren.

## MEET OUR 2024 OFFICERS CONT.



Vice President  
**Kathleen  
Branch**

**Kathleen Branch** has graciously invited Summit County Republican Women to her home on numerous occasions for meetings and holiday gatherings. She has resided full time in Summit County since 2015. Prior to her local move, she and her late husband lived in Boulder County for 12 years.

Throughout most of her life, Kathleen lived in Minnesota. She grew up and attended college and graduate schools there, earning a master's degree in industrial engineering and an MBA. Her education included St. Catherine University, University of St. Thomas, University of Minnesota, and Lerch Sprachschulen in Innsbruck, Austria. Kathleen's corporate background spanned Honeywell Defense Systems, Control Data, and Northwest Airlines (now Delta Airlines) in various engineering, technology, and management positions.

She is the wife and mother of United States Naval Academy graduates and career officers and serves on the USNA Foundation Board. As a retired defense and aviation professional, she maintains a deep interest in veterans' affairs and a strong national defense. Kathleen is also concerned about men competing in women's sports, the need for individual excellence, a federal government that is too large, the importance of local government, and other issues of vital interest to America's future. Her hobbies include golf, skiing, and politics.



Treasurer  
**Sue Todd**

**Sue Todd** brings great experience and knowledge to the treasurer position. She has a degree in accounting and has worked in the field for 30 years. We welcome Sue as a new member of Summit County Republican Women.

She was born and raised in Alabama and went to college at Jacksonville State University where she met her husband, Barry. They married in Hawaii while he was on his R & R (rest and rehabilitation) from Vietnam in 1969. The Army assigned him to a tour of duty in Germany when he returned home, and they lived there for three years at Kaiserslautern. The couple bought their first home in Summit County in 2000 and moved here permanently in 2009 from Wilmington, Delaware, after her husband retired. They have two sons and nine grandchildren.



Secretary  
**Barb Tabb**

**Barb Tabb** is a former treasurer of our local group and is actively involved in the Summit County GOP. She has led several Summit County Republican Women committees, including selection of a winner for our Constitutional Scholar Award, bylaw committee, and annual GOP picnic and Lincoln Day Dinner.



JOIN  
NOW

# JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP NOW



We are still accepting dues for 2024. Details about how to renew your membership or join for the first time are provided on our website. We'd love for you to join a great bunch of like-minded ladies (and our associate member men) in a wonderful organization. You also might want to consider serving as a chair or member of a committee. Committee opportunities are on page 2 of the form.

For the membership form and more information, just access the [membership form](#) on our website

# Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for our committees. We'd love for you to be part of us.



*A few of our fabulous volunteers for Lincoln Day Dinner: Sue Rochford, Susan Slepik and Jeanne Oltman*

## Committees

**Meeting Programming and Facilitation:** In order to assist the president and vice president, volunteers on this team take turns sponsoring ONE of the monthly meetings, communicating with the president on meeting content, working with the secretary on finalizing the agenda of the meeting, and working with the vice president to identify and confirm the speaker. Our bylaws do not require that we have a meeting every month, although most months we have had some organized activity, even if it is just a social event. The VP would chair this team.

**Fundraising:** Our biggest fundraising event is the silent auction at the annual Lincoln Day Dinner (“LDD”). We’ve done well with our sales of jewelry, wine glasses, water bottles, t-shirts, hats, etc. Fundraising is one of the most important functions of our club. We need someone to lead this committee and volunteers to assist with decorations, setup, and obtaining the silent auction items.

**Membership:** Our vision is to do a good job of caring for our members, making sure everyone feels welcome and connected, and increasing membership and awareness. We also want to take advantage of the resources provided by the Colorado Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women, as our contributions to those organizations are a big part of our dues.

**Legislature:** This committee’s work is comprised of keeping up with what is going on at the local, state, and national levels, and 2024 is a presidential election year! The legislative chair keeps our club members apprised of what our state legislature is doing and helps us make informed decisions in the elections.

**Bylaws/Parliamentarian:** Our bylaws are fairly simple and are consistent with the expectations of the NFRW and CFRW. We need someone to review these annually and ensure we are complying. The parliamentarian aspect of the role is to ensure we are following the protocols described in the bylaws for decision-making and following Roberts Rules of Order.

**Scholarship:** Summit County Republican Women has sponsored a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior in Summit County for the last three years. The chair, along with a committee, will determine the best way to continue the tradition of offering a scholarship to a deserving graduating student who plans to further their education in an advanced certification or degree program.

**Marketing/Social Media:** This committee provides a consistent brand identity in marketing endeavors. Additionally, the committee maintains our website, private Facebook page, Instagram account, and the *SummitUp* newsletter.

**Publicity and Internal Communications:** This committee works closely with the marketing team and secretary to maintain both publicity and email notices of events and notifications. They monitor our email account to ensure we respond in a timely manner.

**Americanism:** This committee spearheads events and activities to promote education and appreciation of our country and the United States Constitution. Activities have included a Constitution Day celebration and awarding a Summit High School graduate a Constitutional Scholar Award and Scholarship.

*Jan*  
**BOOK  
CLUB**



*The*  
**1776**  
*Report*

The President's Advisory 1776 Commission  
January 2021

**BOOK:** *The 1776 Report*

**AUTHOR:** The President's Advisory 1776 Commission

**MODERATOR:** Maarten Meinders

**DATE:** January 22, 2024, 5:30 pm

**HOSTS/PLACE:** Home of Nancy Gunow, Silverthorne

**RSVP:** To Nancy Gunow at [GunowN@aol.com](mailto:GunowN@aol.com) or 248-568-6415

Please bring an appetizer and/or beverage to share.  
All are welcome to attend: spouses, friends, family members!

We may compare and contrast the two different worldviews so consider this book also: *The 1619 Project, A Critique* by Philip Magness.



# CALENDAR

## JAN 4 | 6:00 - 8 PM SUMMIT COUNTY GOP CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Colorado Mountain College (CMC)  
107 Denison Placer Road, Breckenridge

## JAN 15 | 5:30 - 7 PM CONSERVATIVE COCKTAILS

Where: TBA - Private Home- Send request to [news@thesummitgop.org](mailto:news@thesummitgop.org).

## JAN 16 | 4:30 PM SUMMIT COUNTY GOP WOMEN REGULAR MEMBERS ONLY MEETING

2023 or new 2024 members are invited to join us for a planning meeting. Meet our new officers, renew your membership if you haven't already, volunteer for a committee, and socialize with a great group of women.

Location: Debra Irvine's home in Breckenridge (Contact her for address.)

RSVP to Debra at [irvineforcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:irvineforcolorado@gmail.com) or 719-238-1462

Food and Drink provided. You are encouraged to carpool due to limited parking

## JAN 19 | 6:00 PM ELKS CLUB HAPPY HOUR

Location: Elks Club, 1321 Blue River Pkwy, Silverthorne

Join us at the high top table in bar for dinner and social time. If you choose, there is an offering of Buffet \$15, house drinks \$5. Bring cash for adult beverages. Contact Penny TerHaar at [phaar10@gmail.com](mailto:phaar10@gmail.com) or 849-269-0568 to RSVP or more information.

## JAN 22 | 5:30 PM JANUARY BOOK CLUB

Book: *The 1776 Report* – January 18, 2021

By The President's Advisory 1776 Commission (Author)

Available on Amazon as Kindle, paperback or hardback

Location: Home of Nancy Gunow, Silverthorne

## SAVE THE DATES

### FEB 17 | LINCOLN DAY DINNER

Location: Elks Club, 1321 Blue River Pkwy, Silverthorne

### FEB 20 | 1:00 PM SCRW LUNCHEON

Location: Uptown, 304 Main St, Frisco, CO 80443

# CALENDAR

# JAN 2024