

Wilson County Republican

July 2026

Women's Club

Volume 4 issue 7

TX Region 14, Senate District 21

wilsoncountytirepublicanwomen.org | FB: @WilsonCountyRepublicanWomen'sClub



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Birthdays

Lynette Gray: Aug 8
Lynette Shaw: Aug 12
Heather Bales: Aug 13
Lori Hrna: Aug 16
Dawn Barnett: Aug 18
CJ Rutland: Aug 18
Kitty Phillips: Aug 27
Ruby Manen: Aug 30
Alene Quinney: Aug 31
Eileen Schuette: Sep 14
Elsy Barreto: Sep 18
Bonnie Sario: Sep 20
Kay Finley: Sep 24
Margaret Tollefson: Sep 24
Luz Bella Serrato: Sep 27
Megan Miller Stanhope:
Sep 28

Links

[NFRW](#)

[TFRW](#)

Submit articles:

Sharon.a.meyer80@gmail.com 830-583-5297

President's Pen

How many times do we hear, "Oh, do I have to?" Better yet, how many times do we say it ourselves? We are encouraged to vote—and to vote the whole ballot—but it can be tempting to put it off. We may think, "I'll go vote tomorrow," even though we know how "tomorrow" gets away from us. Or we may reason, "I voted in the Primary Election, so I don't need to vote in the General Election." Really?



Sometimes we tell ourselves we will vote only for the "main" candidates because the ballot is too long. We may skip an unopposed candidate because they're going to win anyway, right? Or wonder why judicial races matter when we do not know much about the people running. Well, I may not be from the government, but I'm here to help.

First, thank you for being an informed member of WCRW. You are part of the backbone of America: people who care deeply about family, community, state, and country. You are an active registered voter, and you encourage your family and friends to register and vote. That commitment matters.

If a candidate is running unopposed, why should you still vote for that person? Because when no selection is made in a race, it is called an undervote. Smart candidates study those numbers carefully. A candidate will examine the voting strength of his or her party and determine what is needed to win. The opposition is assessing the exact same thing. They analyze each precinct's voting history and calculate how few votes might be needed to flip an office. There may not be an opposition candidate this time, but the opposition is always looking for opportunities to gain ground—little by little, race by race.

The opposition tests different candidates and different races. In November, one county race—County Commissioner, Precinct 4—has an opponent. This year, all Texas statewide races have opponents. Margins matter. The mayor of Los Angeles won by only 2.9% of the vote. Every vote helps show strength, build momentum, and protect future races.

Congratulations to the new Chair of the Republican Party of Texas, D'Rinda Randall. She is a member of Golden Corridor Republican Women, one of our TFRW sister clubs. We look forward to seeing more opportunities for the RPT and TFRW to work together.

Vote Republican and keep Texas RED!

Anna

Anna Willis
President



Wilson County Republican Women's Meeting Schedule

Meetings are open so please bring a friend or relative.

Witte's BBQ & Steakhouse 12153 US Highway 87 W La Vernia, TX

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Doors open @ 5:30 PM

Meeting starts @ 6:00 PM

Guest Speaker:

TX House 21 Rep, Ryan Guillen

Legislative Update for New Session

Jack's Café 507 10th St, Floresville, TX

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Doors open @ 11:30 AM

Meeting starts @ 12:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Jon Melendez

Property Tax Reform: Americans For
Prosperity Team Texas.

Executive Committee

President: Anna Willis

210-722-3410 /swoozie2@sbcglobal.com

First Vice President: Sarah Gella

210-275-9091/kernel100@aol.com

Treasurer: Dawn Polasek Barnett

210-744-5868/dawnpbarnett@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sarah Gella

210-275-9091/kernel100@aol.com

VP Membership: Ruby Manen

830-391-0818/rubymanen@yahoo.com

VP Legislation: Melissa Moczygemba

210-913-1355/Melricventures@gmail.com

VP Political Activities: Joyce Miller

210-827-1814/millerjab64@gmail.com

VP Awards: Sharon Meyer

830-583-5297/Sharon.a.meyer80@gmail.com

VP Americanism/Armed Services: Marguerite Griffin

210-685-3703/marmiles4d@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Community Engagement:

Caring for America: Lori Hrna

Literacy: Ruby Manen

Chaplain: Mata Orth

Historian:

Scholarship: Loretta Carter &
Barbara Burdette

Hospitality: Kitty Phillips

TFRW President: Jill Tate

214-354-9443,

president@TFRW.org

District Director: Ruby Manen

830-391-0818

rubymanen@yahoo.com

Deputy Regional President:

Karen Newton

Americanism and Armed Services

American Service Women

The celebration of America's 250th birthday, "Salute to America" was a program featuring musical performances, historical narratives, military flyovers and of course spectacular fireworks.



Displayed on stage was one of the first American Flags ever. Equally moving was the recognition of a 107-year-old American hero along with other members of the military who had fought bravely in wartime. Their pride was palpable and I was overjoyed that they were recognized and part of the celebration because without them there would be no country to celebrate.

On that note I would like to let you know about another leader/trailblazer who contributed to the history and freedom of these United States. One of those leaders is Maj. General Jeannie Levitt, who has spent her career redefining what's possible in American aviation.

The first woman in U.S. Airforce history to qualify to fly the F-15E, Maj. Gen. Levitt, USAF (ret.), broke barriers and made history. From graduating at the top of her class at Laughlin Air Force Base, to becoming the first woman to complete the Air Force Weapons School fighter track. To command both a flying squadron and a fighter wing, her career has been an example of courage and excellence.

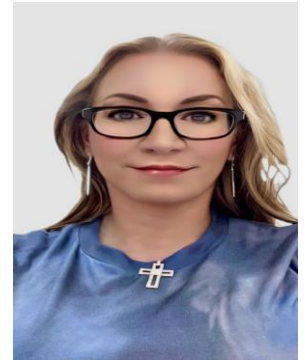
Today, she serves as Dean of the College of Aviation at Embry-Riddle. She continues to shape the future of aviation by strengthening aviation workforce pipeline and advancing the mission and values that reflect our nation's heritage.

As we commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, Maj. Gen. Levitt serves as a shining example of the leaders who move our nation forward.

Respectfully,
Marguerite Griffin
Americanism/Armed Forces Chair

Legislature

Melissa Moczygemba **VP Legislation**



Governor Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to launch an immediate and thorough investigation of Mission Regional Medical Center. Reports show the hospital targets foreign nationals with “birth packages in South Texas” to profit from birth tourism that grants U.S. citizenship to children born in the United States.

Under the directive, HHSC must immediately refer violations to the Attorney General for civil enforcement and to the appropriate District or County Attorney for criminal prosecution. HHSC will also impose administrative sanctions and penalties on Mission Regional Medical Center.

“Birth tourism is an illegal practice that exploits the extraordinary hospitality that the United States and Texas offer to millions of foreign travelers each year,” said Governor Abbott. “Thousands of foreign travelers come to the United States under false pretenses to give birth and secure citizenship for their children. HHSC must investigate the hospital, a facility it regulates, for any violations of state law and contractual obligations.”

*Texas Voice

*Governor Abbott Website



AWARDS

Crystal Smith, Chair
awards@tfrw.org

Planning for Awards



Summer is officially here, and clubs across the state are preparing for a busy season of fairs, parades, **America 250** celebrations, and planning for the upcoming general election.

Awards are designed to guide clubs of all sizes as they work to excel, improve outreach, recruit members, and strengthen their messaging. Now is a good time to review what your club has accomplished in 2026 and identify what still needs attention as we move into the General Election season.

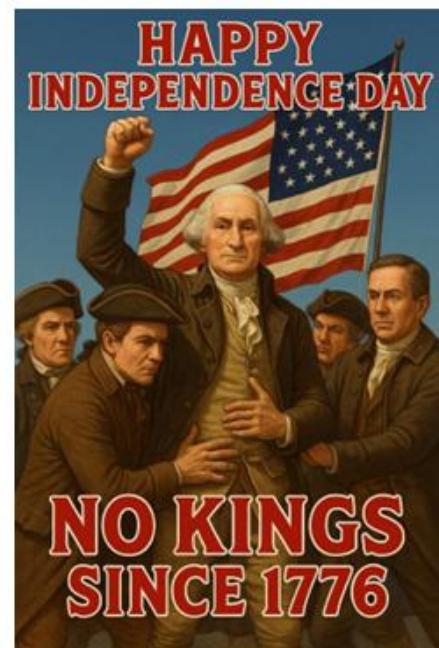
If your club has an **Awards Chair**, she should begin looking ahead and helping fellow Chairs prepare for upcoming opportunities and requirements at board meetings.

Consider the following items as you plan:

- Conduct an Awards Audit. (See AWARDS on www.tfrw.org for more info.) Look at your requirements for 2026. Complete all requirements and work toward bonus points. Be sure to plan for 2027.
- Identify a Republican woman in a local, state, or national campaign and support her campaign with a financial contribution and/or volunteer help and promotion.
- Host any quarterly TFRW Board meeting by donating treats or at least \$25 for hospitality.

- Club members, other than TFRW Board members, **attend any quarterly TFRW Board meeting.**
- Members or clubs participated in events celebrating America 250.
- REGISTER REPUBLICAN VOTERS.
- Encourage members to work in at least one Voter I.D./GOTV program sponsored by the Party or a Republican Candidate.

Remember to refer to the TFRW website, as it has troves of information. If I can be of any help to your Awards Chair or club, please contact me. We want successful clubs and are here to help.





Membership

WILSON COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN HOW IT ALL STARTED!



Ruby Manen
Membership VP
(830) 391-0818
rubymanen@yahoo.com

Our President, Anna Willis, was recently presented a 25-Year Anniversary certificate for the Wilson County Republican Women's Club. In a discussion by members of the Executive Committee, I commented that the club initially started in January 1984 to which Sharon Meyer instantly responded, "how did you know that?"

So, here is how it all started. Early in 1980, John Connally (39th governor of Texas, 1963-1969) decided to run for President. Gov Connally had a small problem--he lived in Wilson County, and the county did not have a Republican Party to conduct a Primary election. He called his long-time friend, Ewald O. Koepp, Jr (always known as "Junior") for help. Junior Koepp got the ball rolling and called his aunt who was active in San Antonio politics. She provided Junior with the telephone number for Dorothy Daney, a State Committee Woman. They scheduled a meeting in Wilson County and about eight people attended. Mrs. Daney appointed Junior as the County Chair. Thus, the birth of the current Wilson County Republican Party.

Jewel Helmke Koepp, Junior's wife, engaged other women in Wilson County to support the new Party and attend its activities. Over the following years, Jewell led the effort to organize the women and start a Republican Women's Club. In 1984, the new Republican Women's Club held a barbecue dinner at the Koepp ranch in La Vernia. During the event, Jewel Koepp, Mary Grace Coates and Bettye Willey were installed as officers, with Jewel being the first President of the newly formed club. Two other ladies in attendance at the event were Edna Brownlow and Bea Plouch, both who continued as members for many years.

That handful of women started something that has grown into a very active club with 83 Primary members at the end of 2025. It became a federated club of the Texas Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women in 2001.

The information in this article was gleaned from conversations between the first County Chair (Junior Koepp) and the then County Chair in 2012-2013, an editorial in the Wilson County News dated February 19, 2014, and many discussions with other Republicans involved in the growth of WCRP and WCRW.)

Caring for America

Tuesday, May 20, 2026

Wilson County Expo & Community Center (Show Barn)



Lori Hrna, Chairman

Wilson County Republican Women celebrated America's 250th Anniversary with the Wilson County Seniors during the monthly Birthday Bingo Bash on July 15, 2026. Attendees dressed in patriotic attire. The July birthdays were celebrated with enthusiastic singing. The WCRW hostesses brought a variety of delicious desserts and prizes. WCRW members also enjoyed playing several rounds of Bingo with the seniors, adding to the festive spirit of the celebration. Hostesses were Veronica Arriaga, Delfina Matay, Ruby Manen, Sarah Gella, Ginny Glowka, Anna Willis, Loretta Carter, Yvonne McMurray, Theresa Soberoski and Lori Hrna



Bingo Birthday Bash

WCRW celebrating birthdays with seniors for lunch & games



2026 Birthday Bingo Bash dates for 2026 (All Wednesdays)

August 19, 2026 – Lori Hrna, Sharon Meyer, Mata Orth, Louise Jung-Jenschke, Yvonne McMurray, Ruby Manen

September 16, 2026 – Lori Hrna, Yvonne McMurray, more volunteers needed

October 21, 2026– Lori Hrna, Yvonne McMurray – need more volunteers

November 18, 2026 – Sarah Gella, Melissa Moczygemba, Carol Chitty, Ruby Manen, Lori Hrna, Yvonne McMurray - need more volunteers

December 16, 2026– Sarah Gella, Melissa Moczygemba, Carol Chitty, Ruby Manen, Lori Hrna, Yvonne McMurray- need more volunteers

If you haven't signed up for a month, check with Lori Hrna, 210-382-8766.

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Calendar

TFRW Events

Sep 17-18: Quarter 4 Board of Directors Meeting – Round Rock, TX

Sep 19: Tribute to Women – Round Rock, TX

WCRW Events

August 19: Bingo Birthday Bash, Wilson County Expo Ctr, Floresville, 11:30 AM

August 25: Meeting, Wittie's BBQ, La Vernia, 5:30 PM

Sept 16: Bingo Birthday Bash, Wilson County Expo Ctr, Floresville, 11:30 AM

Sept 22: Meeting, Jack's Café, Floresville, 11:30 AM

Oct 21: Bingo Birthday Bash, Wilson County Expo Ctr, Floresville, 11:30 AM

Oct 27: Meeting, Jack's Café, Floresville, 11:30 AM

Nov 18: Bingo Birthday Bash, Wilson County Expo Ctr, Floresville, 11:30 AM

Dec 16: Bingo Birthday Bash, Wilson County Expo Ctr, Floresville, 11:30 AM

Wilson County Republican Party Important Dates

Tuesday, Sep 15, 2026: CEC Bi-Monthly Meeting, 6:00 PM

Tuesday, Nov 17, 2026: CEC Bi-Monthly Meeting, 6:00 PM

TBD: Christmas Party

Wilson County Republican Women Celebrate 25 Years

Karen Newton, National Federation of Republican Women 1st Vice President and Ruby Manen, Texas Federation of Republican Women Executive Board Member at Large and District Director for Senate District 21, presented a certificate recognizing the Wilson County Republican Women's 25th anniversary as a member organization of both TFRW and NFRW to WCRW President, Anna Willis on July 10th during the TFRW Quarterly Board Meeting.



WCRW Sponsors Newspapers in Education

The Wilson County Republican Women's club is a proud sponsor of Newspapers in Education (NIE). As a Bronze sponsor for school year 2026-2027, the WCRW helps provide the *Wilson County News* (WCN) newspapers to classrooms in and around Wilson County. Newspapers are provided to area public and private schools as well as homeschool families. The WCN contains a student section with highlights from school events. There is also a kid friendly Fun and Activity page. The NIE is a nationwide program which promotes literacy.



**Wilson County
Republican Women
participated in the La
Vernia July 4th Parade
with the Wilson County
Republican Party and
county elected officials.**





GENERAL POLICY FOR COUNTING POLITICAL / CAMPAIGN HOURS And Political Calls

1. All hours count for activities that are political in nature or support the Republican Philosophy. This includes in person and conference or web- based events.
2. Paid hours count – if not your primary income. Hours as Election Judge, Clerk Poll watcher, door knocking, phone bank calling and other activities.
3. Hours for elected officials who receive a stipend salary can be counted. Such as Texas State Senators and Representatives, some city council and school board members. Don't forget to count the hours of time they spend out and about the community.
4. Hours for your club meetings counts, general monthly meetings, board, committee meetings.
5. Work done for campaigns, including all work for mailings, preparing signs, telephoning, door knocking, poll greeting etc. Work can be performed at any location, home, campaign headquarters, GOP offices, polling locations. Include any travel time
6. Hours spent at a special event, including all organizing, planning and cleanup. Even events you pay for or are compensated for.
7. All hours at Texas Federation board meetings, events, conventions, training, includes event preparation and travel time.
8. Any hours spent as a precinct chair or assisting your precinct chair
9. Travel and time spend at Republican Party events, including County Executive meetings, SREC meetings, Precinct conventions, County/SD Conventions, State convention, National Convention.
10. Party Committee work, local or state. Includes any committee meetings, and preparation.
11. Volunteering at TFRW headquarters or local GOP headquarters
12. Committee work performed for appointments made at the local, county or state level. Includes travel time, preparation and associated activities.
13. Political candidates may count all campaign hours.
14. Work on local "non" partisan elections counts, if work is done for known Republican candidates, this includes city and school board elections.
15. SREC work, including time spent creating reports, committee work, quarterly meetings, updating local CEC and clubs.
16. Voter registration work, include time and travel to become certified, and drop off forms. Set up and work on Voter registration drive booth/events, include clean up.
17. Work on Caring for America Projects that are political in nature, ie: Border Project, Attending Citizenship ceremonies and welcoming new citizens.
18. Time spent voting.

Political Calls

1. Calls of a political nature or for club activities
2. Calls made to elected officials
3. Calls made for voter registration, GOTV
4. Calls made for campaigns
5. Calls to remind members of club meetings/events/membership
6. Calls in support or opposition to legislation