

Republican Women of Gregg County

Making a Difference

TFRW Region 5, Texas CD 1

February, 2017
Cafe Barron's



National Committeewoman, Toni Ann Dashiell, featured guest at February RWGC Meeting

Toni Anne Dashiell was elected National Committeewoman April 2013.



She was awarded the 2009 Ronald Reagan Leadership Award by the National Federation of Republican Women for

her distinctive performance as

the President of the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW).

She traveled to Bosnia and Nigeria on behalf of the Women's Democracy Network to train women seeking public office in campaign management, leadership development, and communication.

Toni Anne and her Co-Author, Rachel Woods, debuted their book: *Leading for Freedom: Leadership Skills for Republicans* June 2012.

Toni Anne's service as a vol-

unteer grassroots leader dates back to 1968, when she worked on a presidential campaign as a member of Teenage Republicans.

Since that time she has been a consistent leader in numerous Republican campaigns including presidential, Senatorial and Congressional, statewide, city and county races.

She was appointed by Lt. Governor David Dewhurst in 2011 to the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board.

Time to take a breath and start again

Now that we've caught our breaths from the past two years of frantic work, we can slow down – a little.

There is enough work to keep all of us buzzing – this is a legislative year so we need to keep up with what both the Texas Legislature and Congress are (or are not) doing; we have candidates posturing for the next election cycle; and, we need to work to keep Texas red.

To succeed at any task, it takes

a team. The RWGC is a team. The club needs your help in order to grow our stellar reputation and increase the influence we have. That's the reason we have committees. These divide the work so that no one person or one small group does all the work.

The board has some great and fun ideas – a murder mystery dinner theater fundraiser, bringing speakers in for the community to enjoy, continuing our pocket Constitution

program for county fifth grades, supporting the veterans and helping everyone Make America Great Again.

I'm asking you to sign up for committee work. You don't have to have hours and hours to volunteer. Every little bit helps. I hope you will be inspired and join us in our committee work.

Thanks.
Brenda Carlton, President

Republican Women of Gregg County General Meeting

January 18, 2017

The Republican Women of Gregg County met Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 11:50 AM at Cafe Baron's with Vice President Rhonda Anderson presiding (due to Brenda Carlton's illness).

Judi Morgan opened in prayer. Rhonda led the pledges. The 21 present included our speaker Peggy Venable, Senior Policy Fellow of Americans for Prosperity, Texas Representative Jay Dean's local assistant Sharon Williamson, Judges Becky Simpson and Alfonso Charles, and County Clerk Connie Wade.

Business and Announcements

- Minutes of the November RWGC meeting were approved as printed.
- Approval of the current financial report was delayed because there was no January RWGC newsletter.
- The new RWGC website allows donations to the club, and selling tickets to club events.
- Plans for a murder mystery fund-raising event are progressing.
- There are Republican Women's retreats planned for the 21st and 28th of this month.

Legislative update

Judge Alfonso Charles reported on legislation introduced in the 2017 Texas legislature, including bills to:

- establish a closed Texas primary.
- do away with straight party voting.
- establish term limits for state offices.
- affect jurisdiction of courts.
- change petition requirements for judicial candidates.

Program

Rhonda introduced Peggy Venable, who spoke on Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and school choice in Texas. First she shared some state and local statistics – There are 5.2 million K-12 kids in Texas, 1/10 of all the K-12 students in the nation. Texas spends \$64 billion per year on education, but only \$24 billion of that is for instruction. Concerning Longview ISD ... \$91 million is spent by LISD per year, but only \$39 million for instruction. LISD superintendent's salary is \$116,000 per year. LISD debt is \$351 million. LISD has six failing schools, and has voted to oppose the A-F state grading system for schools, not wanting to be held

accountable. Texas charter schools have long waiting lists. To address such problems Peggy advocates ESAs.

Five states have established these accounts, with Nevada being the gold standard. State Senator Bryan Hughes supports this approach to school choice. There will probably be a Texas Senate bill, and perhaps several Texas House bills on the issue. Many homeschoolers worry about government tentacles into their community, but Tim Lambert, head of the Texas Homeschool Coalition, supports ESAs. These would involve only state money, not federal. Monies would be put in by the state and administered by the State Comptroller in the form of a card for each student. The money would follow the child, and could be spent for educational expenses at any school, public or private, or for educational supplies. Peggy says this would allow more choice for all.

Rhonda adjourned the meeting at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Frey, Secretary

REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF GREGG COUNTY
Income and Expense Summary
for January 2017

BEGINNING BALANCE:	\$3,026.65
INCOME:	
Dues	120.00
Dues	225.00
EXPENSES:	-0-
ENDING BALANCE:	\$3,371.65



TFRW Legislative Day April 6, 2017

To download and print the registration form, go to <http://www.tfrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Legislative-Day-2017-Registration-Form.pdf>

Time to Reup . . . Please renew your membership and pay your dues!

Republican Women of Gregg County

Membership Application

2017 Membership Information

Date: _____

Please check one: _____ \$30 Active Membership – Voting Privileges ___ \$15 Associate Membership

Name _____

Spouse's name _____

Birthday _____

Birthday _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home number _____ Work number _____ Cell number _____

Email address _____ Occupation _____

Registered Voter? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Precinct # _____

Active Member _____ Associate Member _____

Are you a member of another club? _____

If yes, which club _____

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

Campaign Activities _____

Fund Raising _____

Legislative _____

Membership _____

Programs _____

Publicity _____

Telephone _____

Other _____

Comments _____

Contributions to Republican Women PAC's are not deductible for income tax purposes.

Tracy Vincent new Chairman

by Gregg County GOP

The Gregg County Republican Party has selected a community organizer to lead it beyond the dominance it already enjoys in local politics.

"I'm kind of called Mr. Volunteer," Tracy Vincent said Wednesday, the morning after the county GOP's executive committee named him to succeed Tim Vaughn, who resigned early in his second term to take a job in Dallas.

Vincent, a 25-year Longview resident and Jacksonville native, has ample volunteer background.

The Network Communications sales engineer has been involved in Longview Chamber of Commerce leadership and sits on the governing boards of Crisman School and New Heights Church.

He was a member of the board that produced the former Party in the Pines Bike Rally and was on the steering committee for last fall's Rockers, Riders & Ribs rally. He'll step down as a board member of We The People-Longview, a local tea party group, as he enters the new office.

He's also been a Republican, Vincent said, "all my life, since I first voted."

That was in 1977, the year he graduated from Jacksonville High School and the election in which Democrat Jimmy Carter defeated Republican incumbent Gerald Ford.

Carter can't thank Vincent for the win.

"My Republican roots just came through my growing up — family members, business members," he said. "I had five brothers."

He and his wife of 13 years, Donna, a News-Journal advertising account executive, are parents of five and grandparents of 12.

Vincent, who turns 59 today, said his sights are set on leading Gregg County Republicans beyond



Vaughn's unexpired term, which ends in spring 2018.

"I've got full intention (to run)," he said. "Come spring 2018, hopefully everything will be running on all cylinders. If everything's great, maybe we'll just add more cylinders."

A county's party chairman fields local candidate filings and often recruits office hopefuls, is the local connection to state and national party activities and serves as all-around cheerleader.

Vincent outlined a three-pronged approach to his new role:

Attracting young people to the party. Drawing volunteers to be election judges, neighborhood walkers or other roles.

Increasing voter turnout.

"What I want to do is evaluate things — where we are today, where we need to make change and what we need to do to achieve those successes," he said.

Vaughn applauded the executive committee's decision. He said he's known Vincent since both men were in sales for AT&T 20 years ago. Vincent was the sole candidate after Vaughn recommended him.

"I reached out to Tracy sever-

al months ago," Vaughn said. "I thought he had the energy, the interest and the networking capability to keep the movement moving out here. And that means expanding and growing, not just being the dominant party being stagnant, but being very proactive. And his personality type and leadership skills will help him in that area."

He said the county GOP needs a leader who won't sit on the party's local dominance. Vincent said he is aware of that pitfall.

"Sometimes, that (success) can be your worst enemy," he said. "You've got to keep people from being status quo. And you have to change things to make it fun and make it where people can vote their principles."

Vincent said he'll continue the fundraising push initiated by past county Chairman Keith Rothra. He volunteered in Rothra's golf tournament fundraisers and plans a chili cook-off in May.

He'll also keep Marty Rhymes as manager of the downtown Longview Republican headquarters.

"She has conviction in what she does," Vincent said. "Marty is an even better friend than she is in the office."

An election judge since moving here, he enlisted Pine Tree and Spring High high school students to help at the polls in this past election cycle.

"That's the kind of involvement I'm talking about, getting kids in there to see how it happens," he said. "We're going to look at all the demographics, see what we can do with all the demographics. ... We've been successful, and we're going to make it more successful. And the way we're going to do that is getting more volunteers."

TFRW Legislative Brief - The State of Texas

Michele Samuelson
TFRW VP of Legislation

There is a lot to report on from Austin, so let's jump right in!

On Tuesday, Governor Abbott addressed a joint session of the House and Senate to give his State of the State address. The full transcript, and other resources, can be found here on the Governor's website. During his speech, Gov. Abbott laid out four emergency items for the Legislature to take up. The Texas Constitution does not allow the Legislature to consider any legislation until the 60th day of session, unless the governor declares an emergency item, so this means that legislation pertaining to his items will be considered as soon as possible.

The four emergency items are:

- 1 - Child Protective Services reform (SB 11)
- 2 - Banning sanctuary cities and strengthening border security (SB 4)
- 3 - Ethics reform (SB 14)
- 4 - Article V Convention of States (SB 21, HJR 39, SJR 2, HB 506)

We can expect bills on these topics to be scheduled for hearings quickly. SB 11 by Sen. Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) will be heard on February 2 in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and SB 14 by Sen. Van Taylor (R-Plano) will be heard February 1 in Senate State Affairs. You can watch those hearings online at <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/events.php>.

Speaking of the Texas Senate, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick made his committee assignments on January 18. You can view all of them online here. Committee assignments have not been made in the House, which means that House committees cannot yet take testimony on legislation. We expect those assignments to be made soon.

Confused about all the acronyms? The Texas House glossary of terms may be useful to you. [Click here.](#)

In addition to all that is happening in the Legislature, the State Board of Education is meeting in Austin this week. They were sworn in for this biennium on Tuesday. You can view meeting webcasts and find more information about the SBOE on their website here.

Sign up for Legislative Day (and Belles and Boots!) today!! You don't want to miss these events, happening on April 5 and 6 in Austin! New sponsorship levels have been added.

PS - A reminder: you can follow the Legislature at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>. This website allows you to follow legislation, look up contact information, search for House and Senate journals, and lots more. You should have it bookmarked and use it frequently!

Legislative Week in Review

Reporting on progress of RPT's 8 legislative priorities, as put forth by the delegates of the 2016 Republican Party of Texas State Convention and the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC). Below is a listing of bills* that relate to each of the priorities.

Priority: Pass constitutional carry while maintaining licensing as optional for reciprocity purposes.

HB375 Stickland/Schafer

Relating to providing for the carrying of handguns without a license and to related offenses and penalties.

SB16 Nichols/Huffman

Relating to the removal of a fee for the issuance of an original, duplicate, modified, or renewed license to carry a handgun.

HB339 Burrows

Relating to the removal of a fee for the issuance of an original, duplicate, modified, or renewed license to carry a handgun.

HB1024 Kacal

Relating to the removal of a fee for the issuance of an original, duplicate, modified, or renewed license to carry

a handgun.

Priority: Abolish abortion by enacting legislation to stop the murder of unborn children; and to ignore and refuse to enforce any and all federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, and court rulings which would deprive an unborn child of the right to life.

HB 948 Tinderholt

Relating to prohibiting abortion and recognizing the rights, powers, and privileges of all unborn children at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth; affecting criminal offenses and penalties.

HB 87 Schaefer

Relating to the regulation of abortion procedures.

HB 144 Schaefer

Relating to electronic reporting requirements for an abortion facility.

HB 201 Cook

Relating to disposition of fetal remains by a health care facility; imposing penalties.

HB 434 Simmons

Relating to eliminating the wrongful birth cause of action.

HB 612 Leach

Relating to voluntary and informed consent to an abortion and prevention of coerced abortions; providing penalties; creating an offense.

HB 844 Klick

Relating to a prohibition on the performance of dismemberment abortions; providing penalties; creating a criminal offense.

HB1049 Swanson

Relating to prohibited acts regarding abortion for a physician or applicant for a medical license.

HB1113 Smithee

Relating to health plan and health benefit plan coverage for abortion

SB 8 Schwertner

Relating to certain prohibited abortions and the treatment and disposition of a human fetus, human fetal tissue, and other tissue resulting from pregnancy; creating a civil cause of action; creating offenses.

SB 20 Taylor, Larry

Relating to health plan and health benefit plan coverage for abortions.

SB 25 Creighton

Relating to eliminating the wrongful birth cause of action.

SB 139 Taylor, Van

Relating to the applicability of adverse licensing, listing, or registration decisions by certain health and human services agencies.

SB 258 Huffines

Relating to the disposition of an unborn child's remains after an abortion.

SB 406 Hall

Relating to certificates of birth resulting in stillbirth, fetal death certificates, and the disposition of fetal remains; imposing administrative penalties.

SB 415 Perry

Relating to a prohibition on the performance of dismemberment abortions; providing penalties; creating a criminal offense.

SJR 9 Hall

Proposing a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to life of unborn children and prohibiting abortion to the extent authorized under federal constitutional law.

Prioritize the allocation of funds to effectively secure the border through whatever means necessary, including but not limited to barriers, personnel, and technology over land, sea, and air, because the federal government refuses to secure the southern border of Texas.

SB514 Hall

Relating to an interstate compact on border security and refugee resettlement; authorizing fines and fees.

SB619 Estes

Relating to county and municipal cooperation with state and federal immigration law enforcement and efforts to enhance international border security.

Priority: Call for a limited Article V convention of states for the specific purpose of restricting the power of the federal government, including the implementation of term limits, and balanced budget amendment. Any proposed amendments must be ratified by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states.

SB21 Birdwell | Bettencourt | Campbell | Creighton | Hancock | Huffines | Perry | Seliger | Taylor, Larry
Relating to the qualifications, duties, and limitations of Texas delegates to a convention called under Article V of the United States Constitution.

HB506 King
Relating to the qualifications, duties, and limitations of Texas delegates to a convention called under Article V of the United States Constitution.

HJR 44 Workman
Applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for the limited purpose of proposing an amendment to the constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government.

SJR 2 Birdwell | Bettencourt | Campbell | Creighton | Hancock | Huffines | Perry | Seliger | Taylor, Larry
Applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for the limited purpose of proposing one or more amendments to the constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and to limit the terms of office of federal officials and members of Congress.

HJR 39 Miller, Rick | Zerwas | Burns | Larson | Price
Applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for the limited purpose of proposing one or more amendments to the constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and to limit the terms of office of federal officials and members of Congress.

Priority: Replace the property tax system with an alternative other than the income tax and require voter approval to increase the overall tax burden.

HB1050 Swanson
Relating to the abolition of ad valorem taxes.
Additionally, there are roughly 68 bills that have been filed that relate in some way to the property tax system. Use TLO keyword "property tax" or "tax" to search on this subject.

Priority: Working to advocate for comprehensive school choice in a manner consistent with the RPT Platform.

SB3 Taylor
Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program and a tax credit scholarship and educational expense assistance program.

SB542 Bettencourt
Relating to an insurance premium tax credit for contributions made to certain educational assistance organizations.

SJR33 Huffines
Proposing a constitutional amendment protecting private schools and home schools from state and local regulation.

HB1184 Bohac/Workman/Villalba/Zerwas
Relating to an insurance premium tax credit for contributions made to certain educational assistance organizations.

SB457 Campbell
Relating to funding for an open-enrollment charter school based on the guaranteed level of state and local funds provided to school districts through the existing debt allotment.

HB1269 Villalba
Relating to open-enrollment charter schools.

HB1335 Simmons

Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program for certain children with special needs and other educational disadvantages.

Priority: We support denial and/or withdrawal of public funds for entities, public and/or private, not in compliance with immigration laws, including sanctuary cities or campuses.

HB124 Krause

Relating to the duties of a law enforcement agency regarding the immigration status of an arrested person and the enforcement of an immigration detainer.

HB763 Shaheen

Relating to the duties of a law enforcement agency regarding the immigration status of an arrested person and the enforcement of an immigration detainer.

HB921 Kacal

Relating to the duties of a law enforcement agency regarding the immigration status of an arrested person and the enforcement of an immigration detainer.

HB1308 Holland

Relating to the enforcement by certain governmental entities of state and federal laws governing immigration and to the duties of law enforcement agencies concerning certain arrested persons.

HB149 Simmons

Relating to the enforcement by certain governmental entities of state and federal laws governing immigration.

HB762 Shaheen

Relating to the enforcement by certain governmental entities of state and federal laws governing immigration.

HB1109 Schofield

Relating to the enforcement by certain governmental entities of state and federal laws governing immigration.

HB764 Shaheen

Relating to civil liability of a local government for failure to comply with an immigration detainer.

HB1265 Oliverson

Relating to training of peace officers employed by the Department of Public Safety concerning the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

SB4 Perry

Relating to the enforcement by certain governmental entities of state and federal laws governing immigration and to the duties of law enforcement agencies concerning certain arrested persons.

Action Alert:

SB 4 was heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee today. It is also scheduled for additional testimony tomorrow (2/3) in the Betty King Committee Room (2E.20) at 8:30am. You may watch a live stream of the meeting here: <http://www.senate.texas.gov/av-live.php>

SB619 Estes

Relating to county and municipal cooperation with state and federal immigration law enforcement and efforts to enhance international border security.

Priority: Protect the citizens of Texas from unlawful encroachments on their First Amendment rights, including Constitutional religious liberty and freedom of speech, and as specified in RPT Platform plank 153.

SB 6 Kolkhorst

Relating to regulations and policies for entering or using a bathroom or changing facility; authorizing a civil penalty; increasing criminal penalties.

SB 24 Huffman

Relating to a privilege from disclosure to governmental units for certain evidence concerning sermons delivered by a religious leader.

SB 522 Birdwell/Perry

Relating to issuing a marriage license and conducting a marriage ceremony.

SB 651 Perry/Birdwell/Hughes

Relating to discrimination by a state agency against an applicant for or holder of an occupational license.

HB 522 Schofield

Relating to regulation by a property owners' association of certain religious displays.

HB 421 Rinaldi/Krause/Leach

Relating to the exemption from application of the Private Security Act of certain persons who provide security services on a volunteer basis at a place of religious worship.

HB 1267 Schaefer

Relating to the exemption from certain security licensure of certain persons who provide security services on a volunteer basis at a private primary or secondary school or at a place of religious worship.

On the Lighter Side

We don't like to refer to it
as gossiping..
We simply consider it
"sharing our opinions about
other people's life choices"..

