

# Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

january 2025

## President's Byline and Holiday Message



Illegal immigration was one of the main concerns for most American voters during the General Election this November. As we get closer to 2025, Democrats continue their disinformation campaign about the true cost of illegal immigration to Americans. They continue to perpetuate the myth that most illegals are simple people coming for a better life who are just unskilled laborers. In reality, we are inviting scofflaw denizens into our communities who believe the Liberal world view that the US profits off third world countries and we are so obscenely rich that it is off no consequence to steal from us or have us gift them with unlimited welfare.

In reality, the Open Border program of the Biden Administration has created another avenue of wealth for Cartels through human trafficking, turning it into a multi-billion-dollar industry for them and a way to bring in large amounts of young Cartel members under the guise of unaccompanied minors and men "fleeing" persecution from Cartels to open large scale criminal organizations in every major metropolitan area of our country. Even now after the death of a sleeping woman on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> on a New York subway who was set on fire by a previously deported Guatemalan, we have people in our communities and the mainstream news media portraying him as being mentality ill, so he needs our pity. The murdered woman was burned beyond recognition, so the press has downplayed her death as she was "probably a homeless woman". The new narrative is stuff happens when you are homeless so let's not get excited. Zapeta was deported in 2018 and snuck back into the US in 2023. This case is one of many that have the same narrative, serial offenders with criminal records illegally in the US disregarding our laws.

Let's look at a few statistics on illegal immigration. In 2023, the net cost of illegal immigration for the United States at the federal, state, and local levels was \$150.7 billion. Illegal immigration costs each US taxpayer \$1,156 per year. Democrats will say illegal immigrants pay taxes into our system, but research shows that income tax paid by illegal immigrants covers only one sixth of the costs they create at all levels in this country. For example, each illegal minor or U.S.-born child of illegal aliens costs the U.S. \$8,776 annually. Also, a large percentage of illegal aliens who work in the underground economy avoid paying any income tax at all. If they do work for a legitimate company who takes out taxes, the amount per year they cost US taxpayers decreases only to \$957 after factoring in taxes paid by illegal aliens. Many illegal aliens actually receive a net cash profit through refundable tax credit programs. Forty-three percent of all food stamps are given to illegal immigrants. Fifty percent of all gang members in the US are now illegal immigrants. Sixty percent of HUD homes go to illegals. We are told we need them for the agriculture

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### Calendar of Events

#### Next General Meeting

January 21, 2025

11:30 am

Saltgrass - East Plano

3320 North Central Exp, Plano



## Byline and Holiday Message

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industry, however, only two percent of the illegal alien population work in US agriculture.

You might wonder why, after President Trump was re-elected, I am still concerned about the problem of illegal immigrants. It is because the majority of illegal aliens live in Democrat strong holds. The problem of illegal immigration should be something every American citizen is concerned about, especially in a time of increasing costs and shrinking resources. Is spending such large amounts of money on individuals who are illegally in the United States sound reasoning on the part of local, state and federal governments? But after the November rejections of the Democrat party, it is plain to see Dems plan on holding even harder to their areas of governance, letting this problem fester. They see every illegal immigrant and their US-born children as a future potential voter. Especially in Democrat states where they are allowed to vote in local and state elections. Many Democrat mayors and governors have pledged to thwart ICE at every turn. Some cities have already set up more costly programs to teach illegals how to avoid "unlawful deportation". After the November elections, it seems the Democrats may be disorganized and groping at how to appeal to working class Americans, but they are in lockstep in not doing anything about illegal immigrations, and the true cost to the American public is not just monetary. Prepare yourselves for the nightly images of "interment camps" and reminders of how inhumane Republicans are to the poor. Just remember, the Democrats caused this problem by their lust for power and disrespect for our laws. Do not let them control the narrative, while Republicans fix what the Democrats broke!

**Cleo Marchese**

**Prw\_president@planorepublicanwomen.org**



## BORDER CARE PROJECT



### Caring for the Agents Who Protect Us

Items Needed For Our Border Patrol Agents:

***Any kind of First Aide Item***

***Powdered Electrolytes (Gatorade, Propel)***

*Hand Sanitizer*

*Towelettes*

*Wound Wash*

*Insect Repellent*

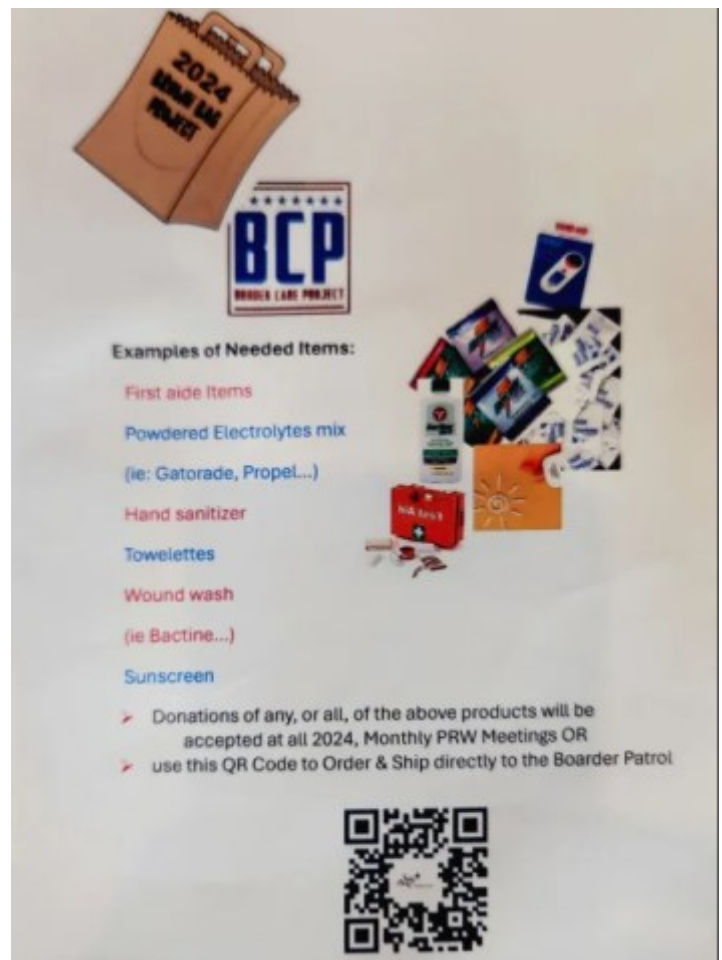
*Sun Screen*

**Please Help Us Support Our Border Law Enforcement**

Place Items in Containers With Name of Organization  
and 'Border Care Project'

Photos will be posted on BORDER CARE FACEBOOK page.

Deborah Wall- [210/325-1973](tel:2103251973) or [Debmwall@gmail.com](mailto:Debmwall@gmail.com)



# PRW January Meeting

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: January 21, 2025**

**Speaker - Collin County Sheriff Jim Skinner**  
**COLLIN COUNTY UPDATE**



Collin County Sheriff Jim Skinner is a 32-year law-enforcement veteran, trial attorney, and former prosecutor. He took office on January 1, 2017, and oversees 550 personnel, who deliver services to over 1.1MM citizens across 880 square miles in the northeast quadrant of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Like others, he recently lead his Office's response to the national emergency related to COVID-19 and is keeping an eye on a major project to renovate the intake, infirmary, kitchen, and housing areas of the county jail. He's honored to have been designated as a subject-matter expert in connection with the work of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice. In January 2020, he was a panelist and speaker at the White House's summit on human trafficking and commemoration of the TVPA 2000. As Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, Sheriff Skinner was proud to be a part of the efforts to persuade the people and the 86th Texas Legislature to pass a constitutional amendment and several statutes important to law enforcement, including SJR 32 and SB 2100 (2019), which improved the humane retirement of law-enforcement dogs and other service animals. And, in May 2018, he spoke, by invitation, at Texas Governor Greg Abbott's multi-disciplinary meeting in response to the May 18 Santa Fe High School shooting.

Since taking office, Sheriff Skinner has implemented several initiatives, including enlarging the Patrol Section to keep pace with County growth; starting a fugitive task force with assistance from the U.S. Marshal's Service and serving or clearing thousands of aging felony warrants; forming, with seven other sheriffs, the North Texas Criminal Interdiction Unit and arresting over 280 traffickers, seizing tons of illegal drugs, seizing several military-style weapons, seizing over \$6.9 million in bulk cash, stopping three loads of human cargo, recovering just over 110 stolen vehicles, and rescuing two missing children in separate traffic stops; forming a new detention intelligence unit and gathering intelligence from the county's 1,298-bed jail, including intelligence about gangs and drug cartels; and forming a child-exploitation unit that investigates internet-based child exploitation that has arrested 274 subjects on felony charges and seized terabytes of child pornography. Sheriff Skinner is also a member of county committees on courthouse security, jail population, and local mental-health care.

Sheriff Skinner is also an active member of the National Sheriffs' Association, where he sits on their Board of Directors and serves as the Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee. He is a member of the North Texas Crime Commission and a former member of its board of directors. He's a member of the board of the local Meals on Wheels as well.

Sheriff Skinner's career has spanned over 32 years in law enforcement. He has served as the Second Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Special Prosecution Division of the Collin County Criminal District Attorney's Office. In 2008, he prosecuted a District Attorney from the DFW Metroplex for official corruption (15-year sentence). He also separately served as an Assistant District Attorney and Special Prosecutor in the Office. In private practice, he both consulted on the investigation of financial crimes and represented child victims of sex abuse from around the country.

Before graduating the University of Houston Law Center in 2001, Sheriff Skinner served as the Chief Investigator for New Mexico's Ninth Judicial District Attorney's Office and over 19 years as a police officer in New Mexico and Texas. He worked in homicide, robbery, burglary, gangs, narcotics, vice, white-collar crime, and public corruption.

Sheriff Skinner served our country for eight years as a U.S. Air Force Security Police Dog Handler, Investigator and EST (SWAT) Team Leader/Operator, stationed in Southeast Asia, New Mexico, and the Middle East.

**Location : Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East**

**3320 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074**

**Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, 11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program**

**Lunch is available for \$25.00 with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival**

**RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, January 17, 2025**

[RSVP here to pay with credit card](#)

**Please note: all Online Credit Card Payments include a processing fee.**

**To RSVP send an email to: [rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org](mailto:rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org)**

**Include your name in your email and specify whether you will/will not be having lunch**



# 2024 PRW Christmas Party Photos

## Matt's Ranchero



To my fellow Plano Republican Women sisters -

I was in Austin serving on the SCJC the night you gave me the Patsy Standerfer Award so I was unable to thank you. From the bottom of my heart, I am both honored and humbled. I love you ladies and have so much respect for you, so to be recognized by you in this way means the world to me. I am blessed to be associated with such patriotic and talented women. I love y'all!

Kathy Ward





# AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



## FREEDOM AND THE CHURCH

JANUARY 1, 2025

### Faith, Freedom, and Responsibility: The Church's Role in Defending Liberty

America was founded on a profound idea: that freedom is a gift from God. The Founding Fathers wove this belief into the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, affirming that our rights—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—are endowed by our Creator. These principles are deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian values, which emphasize the dignity of every individual, the sanctity of life, and the moral responsibility to protect the freedoms we cherish. Today, it's critical that the church boldly engage in the public square for the survival of those freedoms.

For too long, many churches have shied away from political engagement, misinterpreting the concept of “separation of church and state.” Yet the Founders never intended for faith to be excluded from public life. Thomas Jefferson's famous letter to the Danbury Baptists spoke of protecting the church from government overreach—not silencing it. In fact, the Founders recognized that faith is essential to maintaining a just and moral society. John Adams said it plainly: *“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”*

This moral foundation, drawn from Judeo-Christian values, guided the establishment of a system that protects individual rights while restraining government power. However, these principles are under increasing assault in modern America. From attacks on religious liberty to the erosion of freedom of speech, the very rights the Founders fought to secure are being challenged. The church, with its unique moral authority and commitment to truth, must not be silent.

### The Church's Moral Obligation

The church's role is not to endorse political candidates or dictate voting patterns but to educate and equip individuals to vote their values. People of faith should approach the ballot box with the same prayerful discernment they bring to other important decisions, guided by Biblical principles like justice, compassion, and stewardship. Church leaders, all who ‘teach’ Biblical values have a responsibility to address issues that affect their congregations and society at large—from the sanctity of life to the protection of religious freedom—without fear of being labeled “political.”

The truth is, politics is not just about elections; it is about the policies that shape our daily lives. If the church withdraws from this arena, it cedes ground to ideologies that may contradict those Biblical values. History shows us that when the church remains silent in the face of injustice, tyranny flourishes. On the other hand, when the church engages boldly, it has the power to transform nations.

Consider the role of pastors and faith leaders in America's founding. They were instrumental in teaching the moral principles that inspired the revolution and sustained the new Republic. Their sermons shaped public opinion and called people to action, rooted in the belief that defending freedom was a spiritual duty.

### Parallels to Today's Challenges

Just as the colonists faced threats to their God-given rights, we see modern parallels in challenges to religious liberty and freedom of speech. Government mandates that force individuals or businesses to violate their conscience, censorship of faith-based viewpoints, and hostility toward traditional values are all signs of a growing conflict between secular ideologies and religious convictions.

In the face of these challenges, the church must act as both a moral compass and a defender of freedom. This doesn't mean partisan activism but rather a principled stand for truth. For example, churches can:

- **Educate on Issues:** Host forums or discussions on how Biblical values intersect with current events and public policy.
- **Encourage Civic Responsibility:** Remind congregants of their duty to vote and participate in the democratic process as





# AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



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stewards of the freedoms God has given them.

**Stand Firm for Religious Liberty:** Advocate for laws and policies that protect the right to worship and express faith freely.

## The Cost of Silence

The cost of disengagement is clear. When the church retreats, secular ideologies fill the void, often promoting relativism and moral confusion. This erosion of shared values weakens the fabric of society and opens the door to authoritarianism. George Washington warned in his Farewell Address: *"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."*

As Americans, we are blessed to live in a nation where we can freely worship and speak. But these freedoms are in danger; they must be vigilantly protected. The church, as a community rooted in truth, is uniquely positioned to lead this charge. The story of America's founding reminds us that faith and freedom are inseparable. It's time for the church to reclaim its role as a voice for liberty.

## A Call to Action

Let us remember that freedom is not just a privilege but a responsibility. The church must rise to the occasion, as it has in times past, to ensure that America remains a beacon of hope and liberty. We owe it to future generations to defend the rights endowed to us by our Creator and to live out the principles of justice, compassion, and truth that form the bedrock of our Republic.

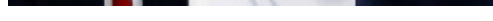
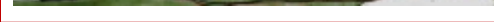
In the words of Abraham Lincoln, *"The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."* The church's influence today will shape the future of America. This is no time for silence; this is the time to speak and to stand.

And from Pastor John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, *"I am a clergyman, it is true. But I am also a patriot — and my liberty is as dear to me as to any man. Shall I hide behind my robes, sitting still at home, while others spill their blood to protect my freedom? Heaven forbid it! I am called by my country to its defense. The cause is just and noble. I am convinced it is my duty to obey that call, a duty I owe to my God and to my country."*



Sources:

<https://chalcedon.edu/resources/articles/the-power-of-the-church-john-peter-gabriel-muhlenberg-fight-like-a-man-or-die-like-a-dog>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Muhlenberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Muhlenberg), <https://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/soldiers-and-sailors-of-the-revolutionary-war/officers-represented-in-the-society-of-the-cincinnati/>, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/first-u-s-house-of-representatives-elects-speaker>, <http://www.orderofcenturions.org/muhlenburg.html>, <https://texasscorecard.com/podcasts/where-is-the-black-robe-regiment/>, <https://pathways.trexlerworks.muhlenberg.edu/items/show/78>, <https://www.nps.gov/york/learn/historyculture/muhlenbergbio.htm>. ChatGPT





I chose the topic of debt because the national debt is, according to Cato Institute, \$31.5 TRILLION and rising. The total federal debt burden per U.S. person is \$94, 000 and the debt per U.S. household is \$240,000 (Cato Institute). Very few households have an extra \$240,000 so I am concerned about where as a nation we go from here. I am hoping that DOGE will be able to find sources we can cut from the federal budget (the Department of Education is high on my list) and we can get spending under control. We cannot “tax” our way out of this. One thing I am sure of: there is massive waste and fraud all over the federal government and it’s just there ripe for the picking. Probably more than a few folks in the federal government should have to answer for this. But will they?

## DEBT DESTROYS LIBERTY

The Bible is clear about debt, telling individuals in Proverbs 22:7 that “the borrower becomes the lender’s slave.” To the degree that someone is in debt, to the same degree is that individual’s liberty diminished, for debt directly limits freedom by reducing the number of available options for what can be done with earned income, since a portion of it is pre-obligated to the noteholder. The greater the debt, the less options the individual has; the greater the debt, the more that someone else determines what you will do with your money.

It was the same reason that God also commanded His nation Israel to avoid debt:

*For the Lord your God will bless you as He has promised you, and you will lend to many nations, **but you will not borrow**; and you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you (Deuteronomy 15:6).*

Notice that if Israel was the lender, she ruled others, but if she was the borrower, the others ruled her. Our Founding Fathers understood this. As Thomas Jefferson explained:

*To preserve their [the people’s] independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election [choice] between **economy or liberty**, or **profusion and servitude**.<sup>1</sup>*

Notice the sequences: frugality produces liberty, but spending produces slavery. So, to enjoy liberty, practice frugality; but if you don’t mind bondage and oppression, spend away and get into debt! Jefferson warned of the consequences of excessive government spending:

*The forehorse [leader] of this frightful team is public debt. Taxation follows that and in its train wretchedness and oppression.<sup>2</sup>*

So strongly did the Founders oppose debt that Jefferson declared:

*I...place economy [frugality] among the first and most important of republican virtues, and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared.<sup>3</sup>*

Typical of their warnings on this subject are those of Alexander Hamilton, the nation’s first Secretary of the Treasury, who forcefully declared:

*Nothing can more interest the national...prosperity than...extinguishing the present debt and to avoid as much as possible the incurring of any new debt.<sup>4</sup> Establish that a government may decline a provision for its debts, though able to make it, and you overthrow all public morality, you unhinge all the*



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*principles that must preserve the limits of free constitutions, you have anarchy, despotism or what you please, but you have no just or regular government.* <sup>5</sup>

George Washington agreed:

*No pecuniary [monetary] consideration is more urgent than the regular redemption and discharge of the public debt.* <sup>7</sup>

President Thomas Jefferson was equally succinct in his declarations:

*I am for...applying all the possible savings of the public revenue to the discharge of the national debt.* <sup>8</sup>  
*But if the debt should once more be swelled to a formidable size, the entire discharge will be despaired of and we shall be committed to the English career of debt, corruption, and rottenness, closing with revolution. The discharge of the debt, therefore is vital to the destinies of our government.* <sup>9</sup>

The Founders understood that “the borrower becomes the lender’s slave.” —that debt destroys freedom and prosperity and produces taxation, servitude, and oppression. Never before has that been so frighteningly clear. America can no longer afford to mortgage its future. The American government (and its voters), as well as every individual citizen, should heed the Biblical advice to avoid debt by limiting spending. The Founding Fathers knew that national debt was an enemy to be shunned. We would be wise to do everything we can to contain and eliminate it, both personally and nationally, lest it completely overthrow what liberty we have.

Source: The Founders Bible, 2012 Edition

Signature Historian: David Barton

1 Thomas Jefferson, *Writing of Thomas Jefferson*, ed. Henry Augustine Washington (Washington: Taylor and Maury, 1854), Vol VII, p. 14 to Samuel Kercheval on July 12, 1816.

2 Ibid.

3. Jefferson, *Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, Vol. VII, p. 19 to Governor Plumer on July 21, 1816.

4. Alexander Hamilton, *Selected Writings and Speeches of Alexander Hamilton*, ed, Harold C. Syrett (New York: Columbia University Press, 1967) Vol. XII, p. 364, Civis to Mercator, September 11, 1791.

5. Alexander Hamilton, *Selected Writings and Speeches of Alexander Hamilton*, ed, Morton J. Finch (Washington: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 1985) p. 416, “The Declaration of the Funding System,” July ,1795.

6 George Washington, *The Writings of George Washington*, ed. Jared Sparks (Boston: American Stationers Company, 1837). Vol. XII, p. 53, “Speech to Both Houses of Congress,” November 19 ,1794.

7 Washington, *The Writings of George Washington*, Vol XII, p. 41, “Speech to Both Houses of Congress,” December 3, 1793.

8 Jefferson, *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, Vol. IV, p. 268, to Elbridge Gerry on January 26, 1799.

9 Jefferson, *the Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, Vol V, p. 477 to Albert Gallatin on October 11, 1809

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure working with Denise Voss as a co-editor of the newsletter. Denise returned to PRW as a member in 2009 and served as our First Vice President in 2010. But she also worked with Linda Schenck “behind the scenes” on the newsletter until Linda passed away in 2015 and Denise took over the newsletter at that time. She served as the Chair of Legislation starting in 2015 . My job has been to gather the articles, birthdays and cartoons for Denise to put in the newsletter. We have had many compliments over the years on our newsletters. We look forward to seeing the new team shine.

Catherine Gibb

# Plano Christmas Parade

Our very own, Kathy Ward, emceed the Plano Christmas Parade this years as she has done many years in the past. She did an amazing job and we wanted to share these photos with you.



## Note from Newsletter Editor—

I have so enjoyed working with many of our members over the years as we did the Elephant Talk newsletter. Since this is my last newsletter, I want to let you know how much I appreciate you trusting me with the newsletter, it has been an honor to work on it for you. I also wanted to let you know some of the changes that have happened with the newsletter's production over the years.

I joined Plano Republican Women's Club (PRWC) 40 years ago in 1985. Since then, our name has changed to Plano Republican Women (PRW) and the newsletter has also changed along with the times. I started helping Patsy Standerfer in with the newsletter as soon as I joined our club. In those days all chairmen wrote out their reports by hand and either brought them to the Executive Committee meeting or mailed them to us by postal mail. We then typed the master letter and I took it to my church which let me use their mimeograph machine to make copies. Then we met and folded the letters, addressed them and mailed them out to our members. It took quite a bit of time, but we had such fun visiting while we did it.

About 1990 we started using copy machines to make the copies. Sometimes we paid to have them printed and sometimes we used the office where I worked to run the copies. The letters looked much more professional in clean black print but sometimes I miss the purple color the old ones came in. In 2002 I designed the logo for PRW and created our first website. We started uploading the newsletters to the website. At that time, we also had the resources to email the newsletters out to members who had email, though some still preferred for us to mail them. I maintained the website for many years but when I went back to work full time had to give it up.

Once we wrote the newsletters on a computer, we had the option to use color. That was quite exciting. It allowed for much better photos and cartoons. The first templates for the newsletter were more like a patchwork quilt than a newsletter but we were so excited to learn to use the new technology and were quite proud of our finished products.

As technology continued to improve, we could use links to articles and videos. When working with Linda Schenck we completely redesigned the newsletter to allow for the new technology. All new bells and whistles made the newsletter much more interesting. It was so much fun working with Linda, she had so many ideas and was open to new technologies. We switched from using Illustrator to using Publisher so any one could work on the newsletter. Publisher was available to everyone while Illustrator was quite expensive and only graphic designers had it.

For the last 10 years I have Co-Chaired the newsletter Catherine Gibb. Catherine has improved the content so much with her knowledge of articles written all over the country and her fresh outlook on how to share information. She has been a pleasure to work with and I appreciate her so much. Her ideas have improved the newsletter in so many ways, she is a treasure.

The newsletter has changed and evolved over the years. I hope you have enjoyed watching the changes and reading the content. I am excited to see what the new team will do. I know there will be many changes in the future, and I am sure they will all be exciting.

Denise Voss-Newsletter Co-Chairman



# Guest Article by Dan Rather and Team Steady

## President Jimmy Carter, 1924-2024

### A man of honesty



Last week we lost a singular figure in American history. The world has lost a tireless advocate for peace, hope, and healing. There has never been a president or a former president quite like Jimmy Carter.

One-term presidents have been the exception in American history, each with their own story. Carter's was one of an unlikely rise to power, an uncommon set of attributes for a politician, and an unprecedented dedication to the service of others.

The conventional wisdom about Carter is that he was an ineffectual president but a formidable ex-president. The latter is surely justified, but I think the first part of that analysis is misplaced, or at least in need of revision. Carter had his struggles, blind spots, and failures. But in the decades since he left office, as the inevitable din of the news cycles that consumed his administration drifted away, we can see a level of accomplishment that warrants a better reputation.

Carter was far ahead of his time on many issues, especially the environment. He was an early advocate for green energy and energy conservation, famously installing solar panels on the White House. Imagine where the world would be today if it had followed his lead instead of mocking him.

Carter led in a number of other areas, too. He was an early ally to what was then called the gay rights movement. Trained as a naval engineer on nuclear submarines, he realized that technology could transform our military and set out to do it. He recognized that America could be a leader for human rights around the world. He championed consumer protection and created the Department of Education to expand federal support for schools. He helped broker peace between Israel and Egypt.

His shortcomings were coupled with strengths. He was a tireless worker who could get lost in minutiae instead of seeing the big picture. He never embraced or liked the necessities of backroom Washington dealmaking, which undermined his effectiveness. The American people seemed to like him a lot as a person but came to feel that he was overwhelmed by the requirements of his job.

Many of the headwinds Carter faced were a result of an elemental character trait: honesty. He told people what he thought, often without a filter. It's a quality that the business of politics doesn't usually reward, and often punishes.

In August 1980, right before the Democratic National Convention where Carter faced a primary challenge for reelection from Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy, I sat down with the president and his wife, Rosalynn, for what became a full episode of "60 Minutes." We touched on a wide

## Guest Article by Dan Rather and Team Steady

range of subjects that were top of mind for the day: the drama within the Democratic Party, the president's sinking poll numbers, the Soviet incursion into Afghanistan, the boycott of the Moscow Olympics, and even the political embarrassments caused by the business actions of the president's brother, Billy. One exchange stands out more than any other.

I asked him to grade himself on his time in office. Though I expected candor, I was surprised by just how honest he was.

On foreign policy, he gave himself a "B or C plus." He eventually settled on a B minus.

On overall domestic policy, he said, "Under the circumstances, I think about a B, the actual results may be a C."

"I don't want to be held on account of those scores," Carter told me with a smile and a laugh. "I'll see what the American people say." A few months later the American people spoke. Carter was on his way back to Georgia.

That time with President Carter was a remarkable conversation. And I remember thinking that of all the politicians I had ever interviewed, and certainly the ones who had risen to that level of power, almost every other person would have given a very different set of answers. How do you ask the American people to reelect you when you're giving yourself Cs?

I have reflected on this interview often over the decades, and especially in recent days. What an unusual person to become president.

Carter was not only honest, he was smart. He was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and served with the Navy's elite nuclear forces. A self-proclaimed man of faith, Carter would also score high on knowledge of the Bible.

Many point to the work Carter did in the more than four decades since leaving the White House as his greatest legacy, and with good reason. He wrote numerous books, including political memoirs, poetry, and children's literature. He worked as a diplomat in places like Israel, North Korea, and Taiwan. He founded the Carter Center in 1982. For his work there on eradicating disease, advancing human rights, and improving the quality of life for people in more than 80 countries, he received the Nobel Peace Prize. He helped build thousands of homes with Habitat for Humanity — and I mean *build*. I saw him up on ladders hammering two-by-fours in his 80s.

Today we celebrate a life of service and mourn a leader who tried his best. He loved this nation. He cared for this world with unbounded empathy and heart. We are all better because he served. His was a life well lived.



# Political Activities

By Jennifer Groysman

## Many Thanks To Our Club Patrons

**These members have donated \$100.00 in cash, given items to the club, or paid budgeted expenses valued at \$100.00 or more.**

**Cathie Alexander**  
**Sara Billingsley**  
**Ushma Ferguson**  
**Catherine Gibb**  
**Madelon Issaef**  
**Pam Little**  
**Lynn McCoy**

**Debby Arrant**  
**Deb Blencowe**  
**Nuray Fuller**  
**Jennifer Groysman**  
**Donna Krauss**  
**Cleo Marchese**  
**Leah Slaughter**

## We are now accepting 2025 memberships!

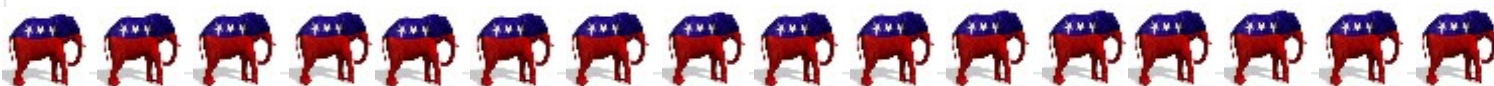
In 2024, was a fabulous year for club growth. We hope that 2025 will bring even more women in to network and work together for Republican values and Republican candidates.

Membership dues can be paid at the meeting, online through our website or checks can be mailed to the PRW Post Office Box.

Memberships:

\$40 Full Active Single Membership (PRW receives \$15, TFRW and NFRW receive \$25)  
 \$45 Full Active Membership with Spouse  
 \$25 Associate Membership – for Men or Active Members of other Republican Women Clubs  
 \$20 Young Affiliate (young woman, age 10-17)  
 \$140 Patron Member (includes Full Active Single Membership)  
 \$145 Patron Member with Spouse

[Become A Member](#)



# Political Activities

By Jennifer Groysman

## Political Action Activities Report

By Jennifer Groysman

At the time I am writing this our members have turned in 13,408 hours for 2024. This is wonderful ladies. I know you all still have December hours to turn in. Remember you don't have to wait until our January meeting to turn in your hours. You can turn them in on our website [www.planorepublicanwomen.org](http://www.planorepublicanwomen.org). I need to turn our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter hours for 2024 to the Texas Federation of Republican Women in January, so I need your December hours by January 10<sup>th</sup>. Keep up the good work ladies.

What counts as

## Political Activity Hours

- **Attending Political Meetings**
  - Political Events & Fundraisers
  - County or State GOP meetings
  - School Board or City Council meetings
- **Travel**
  - Any time you spend traveling to and from political events and meetings.
- **Legislative Advocacy**
  - Time spent calling, writing, about legislative issues
- **Campaign Activities**
  - Block walking, sign waving, phone banking, digital work
  - Running for office
- **Election Support**
  - Election Judge, Election Clerk, Deputy Voter Registrar
- **Appointed or Elected Service**
  - Prep time, travel time, and attendance at meetings you were appointed or elected to serve at any level

*Any political activity you do that is not for your primary job counts!*






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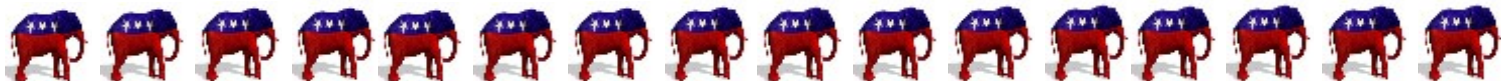
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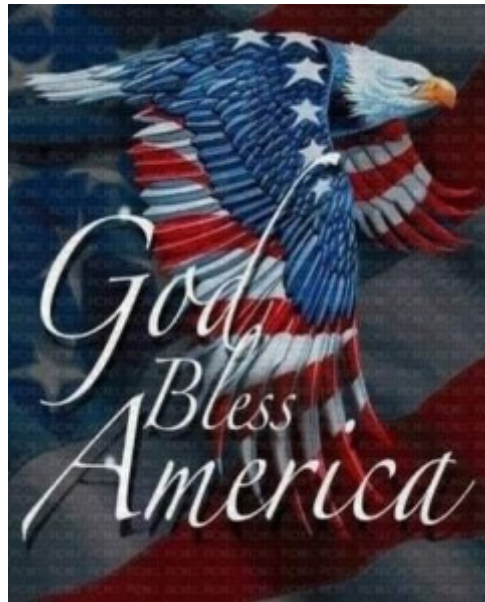
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Plano Republican Women  
P.O. Box 940461  
Plano, TX 75094



## Plano Republican Women

meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month  
(except June, July & December)

Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East

3320 North Central Expressway

Plano, TX 75074

11:15 am check-in

11:30 am meeting, lunch and program

Lunch is \$25 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the door.

You do not have to have lunch to attend,

But please RSVP to

[rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org](mailto:rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org)

## PRW OFFICERS for 2024

**Cleo Marchese, President**

[President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org](mailto:President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org)

**Ushma Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP - Membership**

[RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org](mailto:RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org)

**Lynn McCoy, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP - Awards**

**Catherine Gibb, 4<sup>th</sup> VP - Ways and Means**

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**Denise Voss, Co-Editor Elephant Talk**



## January Birthdays Member Birthdays:

Madelon Issaef	1-6
Cathie Alexander	1/12
Gloria Ray	1/16
Peggy Threadgill	1/18
April Myrick	1/19
Dianna Yee	1/21
Lynn McCoy	1-26
Joan Hart	1/30
Vickie Preston	1/31
Gela Ross	1/31



## Associates and Sponsors Birthdays

Pam Little	1/4
Cheryl Williams	1/8
Liesl Ricciardelli	1/14
Sue Reeves	1/17
Larry Little	1/21
Robert Groysman	1/24
Ann Huffines	1/28

