

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

June 2026

President's Byline



With the primary election behind us, it is time to come together and focus on the vast work ahead. Since 1962 Plano Republican Women has always been built on the strength of dedicated women who believe in faith, family, freedom, and service to our communities. While the primary season may have brought different opinions and preferences, we now have a common goal: supporting our Republican candidates and advancing the conservative values that make our county, our state and our nation strong.

Grassroots activism has always been the heart of our success. Real change begins with neighbors talking to neighbors, volunteers making phone calls, knocking on doors, writing postcards, attending community events, and encouraging others to get involved. Every conversation matters, every volunteer hour counts, and every voter we reach can make a difference. As Republican women, we have a unique ability to connect with our communities, share our message, and inspire others to take action.

The road to victory in November starts with each of us recommitting to the mission. Let us move forward united, energized, and determined to make an impact. Together, we can strengthen our local communities, support our candidates, and help secure a brighter future for the next generation. The work of grassroots conservatives has never been more important, and there is no stronger force than dedicated Republican women working side by side for a cause they believe in.

Blessings,

Kathy Ward

President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

With YOU. We thrive.

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Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting
April 7, 2026, 11:30
Napoli's Restaurant
West Plano

Next General Meeting
April 21, 2026, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano



PRW August Meeting

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

August 18, 2026

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.

Lunch will be salad, entree with vegetable, and dessert.

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

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

To RSVP send an email to: <https://planorepublicanwomen.org/>.

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



**We have a fantastic
lineup of speakers
after summer break!**

August 18th - The Honorable Shelby Williams, Republican Candidate for Collin County Commissioner Precinct 4

September 15th - 470th District Court, Judge Brook Fulks & 493rd District Court, Judge Christine A Nowak

October 20th - The Honorable Steve Munisteri, Senior Advisor to the Governor

PRW August Meeting

Join us for our upcoming summer social. Please watch your email for an invitation to RSVP. We will come together for a night of fun as we celebrate 250 years of America.

SAVE THE DATE!
PLANO REPUBLICAN WOMEN INVITE YOU TO
America's 250th
July Summer
Social
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026 - 5:30-7:30PM
Love & War in Texas
601 E. Plano Pkwy
Plano, TX 75074
Bring the whole family!
Photo ops, games, light hors
d'oeuvres served and cash bar
www.planorepublicanwomen.org

May Meeting Photos





AMERICANISM REPORT



Over the next few months, we will explore the pinnacle of American heritage: iconic places, people, events and symbols of patriotism that played a key role in the early development of our country.

In celebration of America's 250th Anniversary



ICONS OF AMERICA: THE SHINING SYMBOLS OF OUR FREEDOM

By: Crystal Griffith, a descendant of John Dunlap (clan of Irish/Scottish origin)

When we think of America, what comes to mind? Certainly, our principles, ideals, and freedoms. Perhaps you imagine the skyline of New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles or Dallas, TX. Maybe you recall some of your best childhood memories: running around with small handheld rockets and sparklers as your parents celebrated the 4th of July on the back porch with the grill fired up. A family member or friend may have served in the armed forces, and you remember the moment they came back home from the war, if your family was fortunate for that happy ending. As Americans, we have all endured sacrifices and been grateful for the blessings bestowed upon us in this beautiful land. However, it is important to consider some of the hallmark symbols of our freedoms, the actual images of the soaring eagle, Old Glory, and those famous words “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,” to better understand where they came from and what meanings they serve us and our nation 250 years later.



The Declaration of Independence: While it is widely known that Americans celebrate Independence Day on July 4th because of its association with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it is a lesser-known fact that the signing did not even occur on July 4th. The magnificent parchment document behind bullet-proof glass on display in the Rotunda of the National Archives Museum, hand-signed by 56 representatives, notably John Hancock, was actually signed on August 2, 1776. The number of edits and changes made to this important document meant that previous editions existed in draft and typed form long before the handwritten scroll that we associate with today



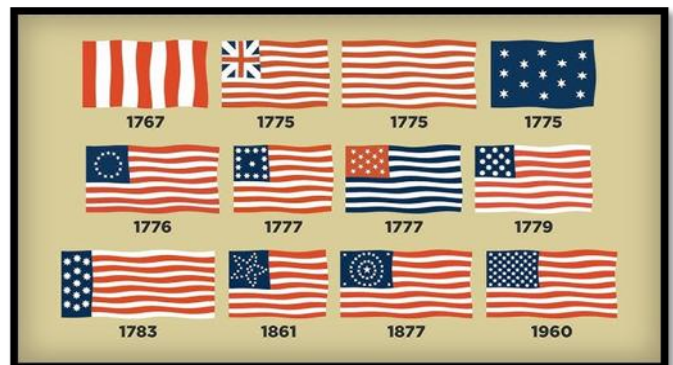
AMERICANISM REPORT



On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented a resolution to the Continental Congress, declaring in written form that the colonists ought to be free from Britain. With some delegates agreeing and others still reluctant to sever ties with the King (New York famously abstaining), the meeting was adjourned for three weeks. However, before dismissal, a committee of five members was chosen to put these thoughts and desires of independence in a more formally written document, with the intention that it be shown to the whole world. They were John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert Livingston of New York, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. Although there were a few edits here and there by the others, Jefferson was elected to be the main author. When Congress reconvened on July 1, the Lee Resolution was adopted, and the Declaration was considered next. Through a series of revisions that lasted all night on July 3, a final version was adopted by the Continental Congress in the early morning hours of July 4. The committee of five rushed the draft over to John Dunlap, the official printer for Congress, and he began to churn out copies that were hand-carried to various committees, conventions, assemblies and to the commanders of Continental troops on July 5. A copy was even added to the official July 4 historical journal for the Continental Congress. These Dunlap Broadside, as they were called, were mass produced, yet only 26 copies are known to exist today. They contain the names of three individuals, John Hancock, President of Congress, Charles Thomson, Secretary, and John Dunlap, the printer; three men who could have been hunted down and killed by the King for treason. Even the printer was a patriot. For an extra treat, visit the Dallas Public Library, downtown location, take the elevator up to the 7th floor, and view the only original Dunlap Broadside west of the Mississippi. You can be inches away from the document that was *really* created on July 4, 1776.

The Flag of the United States: Most Americans recall that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag of the thirteen colonies, but did you know there were many more iterations of flags created? Colonists took advantage of every opportunity during the formative years of our nation to create a new flag with practically every new event that occurred. The early flags from 1767-1777 were made and flown either in defiance of British rule or to

commemorate a particular battle, symbolizing resolve and courage, and in remembrance of the men who died under the flying colors of red, white and blue on the battlefield. For instance, the simple downward striped flag of 1767 was made in direct defiance to British rule, created by colonists who wanted to break free from the government. In 1775, the Continental Colors flag, the first national flag, incorporated the Union Jack as a symbol of the historic connection with Britain, but also asserted independence from the British government. At around the same time, other flags were created, such as the red and white striped Sons of Liberty flag, set to resist the tyranny of British rule, Washington's cruiser's pine tree flag "An Appeal to Heaven" was carried by naval forces as a righteous appeal to a higher power in the soldiers quest for freedom, and a blue flag with stars, Washington's Commander in Chief standard, was a personal flag used by General





AMERICANISM REPORT



Washington during his leadership in battle. Betsy Ross did indeed stitch the flag of the 13 colonies in 1776, but still, the flag-making marched on! Battle flags were created and flown over the long rolling hills where colonists fought the British at Saratoga and Yorktown as well as Fort Mifflin and Fort Mercer. In 1814, the Star-Spangled Banner, the subject of the famous poem by Francis Scott Key, flew over the battle of Fort McHenry and had 15 stars in an alternating pattern with 15 stripes for Vermont and Kentucky, who had recently joined the Union. A 20-star flag followed in 1818. During the mid-1800s, additional designs were created to celebrate an expanding union, such as a single star pattern in the upper left corner, the cross-cluster, and the wagon wheel of 1861, to commemorate Americans moving west in covered wagons. The Fort Sumter Diamond flag flew over Fort Sumter in 1861 at the start of the Civil War. Its stars were in a pattern of division, of course. A centennial flag in 1877 featured a circle of stars, reminiscent of the Betsy Ross flag, with an inner 2nd circle of stars, which symbolized the endurance of the Union over the past 100 years. In 1912, the 48-star flag was created when Arizona and New Mexico were admitted to the Union, completing the admittance of all territories in the contiguous United States. All that remained were the brief 49-star flag in 1959 (Alaska) and the final version, 50 stars in 1960 when the Hawaiian Islands became a U.S. state.

The Majestic Eagle Seal: It is typical for a country to have a seal, created by its government, for purposes of country identification and for official business, such as the signing of treaties and commissions, or for making special national declarations. When the United States made its famous declaration on July 4, 1776, it was not a formal statement regarding two British entities at war with each other but a historic claim that the souls on the other side of the pond truly intended to separate wholeheartedly from Britain and be known and recognized by all foreign territories as an independent, sovereign nation. The Declaration of Independence was our country's first foreign policy document, and now this new country needed an official seal. A resolution was passed on July 4th stating "Resolved, that Dr. Franklin, Mr. J. Adams, and Mr. Jefferson, be a committee, to bring in a device for a seal for the United States of America."



The hard part came later. What was this seal to look like? Benjamin Franklin suggested a depiction of Moses, dividing the Red Sea with his cane, while Pharaoh and his chariots drowned in the water. The motto: "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." Jefferson thought the country to be like the children of Israel wandering in the wilderness, led by the holy pillar of fire at night, and John Adams chose the mythical figure of strength, Hercules, gazing upon a figure of virtue, almost chiseled out of a rock of purity. Can we imagine for just one minute an America today with any of these founding fathers' visions coming true? It just doesn't seem to fit



AMERICANISM REPORT



The work took six years and three committees, but in 1782 it was Charles Thomson who landed on the majestic seal of the eagle holding the olive branch and arrows in its talons; a symbolic statement of peace and war - a head turned to the olive branch and desiring peace, but ready at a moment's notice to defend freedom. The patriotic shield on the breast of the eagle was, in Thomson's words, a shield "without any other supporters to denote that the United States of America ought to rely on their own Virtue." The original thirteen colonies were remembered in the number of arrows, stripes on the shield, and in the stars above the eagle. "E Pluribus Unum," our country's motto, is the Latin phrase "Out of many, one" and remembers the union of the original colonies. Today, the Great Seal of the United States resides with the Secretary of State and can be found on many important documents, such as treaties and commissions, and on the reverse of the \$1 bill. It is a bold symbol of strength, honor, peace and courage that represents America all over the world.



America 250 Celebrations are happening all around town in the months leading up to our country's anniversary. We will feature several of these events in upcoming newsletters.

250 Years of Us: Reading America's Past, Writing Our Future (June 25, 2026)

Hosted by the Dallas Historical Society, E Pluribus Texas Exhibition: An exhibit at The Hall of State (Texas State Fair grounds) highlighting Texas history and its connection to the American Story. https://www.dallashistory.org/event/e_pluribus_texas_2026

FREE ADMISSION: George W. Bush Presidential Library, celebrating the 250th (July 3-6, 2026)

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with free admission to the George W. Bush Presidential Museum July 3-6 only. Explore the permanent exhibit, which offers a moving exhibit on September 11, 2001, a replica Oval Office, and an interactive experience in presidential decision-making through the Decision Points Theater. <https://www.bushcenter.org/events-and-exhibits/bush-center-america-250-celebration>

***OFFICIAL AMERICA'S 250TH EVENT* - America's 250th Birthday Celebration** (July 4, 2026)



AMERICANISM REPORT



***OFFICIAL AMERICA'S 250TH EVENT* - America's 250th Birthday Celebration** (July 4, 2026)

In partnership with Downtown Dallas, a family-friendly celebration honoring America's 250th birthday will extend from Main Street Garden along Main Street during Social Saturday and will feature a classic car show, kids activities, a snowball fight, a pie-eating contest with Norma's Café, Fletcher's Corn Dogs and food trucks, family activities, and photo opportunities throughout the park and along Main Street. Attendees are encouraged to continue the July 4 celebration just a few blocks north with afternoon and evening festivities at Klyde Warren Park. <https://downtowndallas.com/event/americas-250th-birthday-celebration/>

City of Plano: All American 4th (July 4, 2026)

Come celebrate America's 250th anniversary at the All-American 4th event. Join us on Saturday, July 4 for an unforgettable evening of free family fun, including games, food and drinks (available for purchase) and a spectacular fireworks show at 9:30pm. <https://www.plano.gov/1042/All-American-4th>

Sources:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zo0bdC_1TLw
<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-history>
<https://diplomacy.state.gov/the-great-seal/>

I want to thank the Plano Republican Women for the opportunity to visit and speak about local government budgeting and the importance of transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Several attendees have asked for a copy of the presentation, so I am happy to share it here: <https://www.michaelslaughter.com/budget-presentation>

If you have any questions about the presentation, county government, or local budgeting, please feel free to reach out to me at Michael@MichaelSlaughter.com or by phone at [469-922-4427](tel:469-922-4427). I am always happy to visit with residents and discuss the issues that matter most to our community.

Michael Slaughter

Candidate - Collin County Commissioner Pct 2

www.MichaelSlaughter.com

469-922-4427

May Meeting Photos



Political Action Hours

by Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman



You can turn in your hours online at www.planorepublicanwomen.org

Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!



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!

CARING FOR AMERICA



AGAPE

Resource & Assistance Center, Inc.

Your Gift Changes Lives – Donate Today

The Agape Resource & Assistance Center in East Plano, TX, helps women, moms and their children facing situational homelessness. With the help of case workers and counselors, women and children typically stay with Agape from 6 months to a year, during which time they gain the skills, strength and stability for self-sufficiency. **Bring donations to the meeting.**

Move in Items:

- Laundry Baskets tall baskets or collapsible
- Coloring Books
- Planners (no dates)
- Trash Cans (small for bedroom)
- Tumblers/Water Bottles for kids and women
- Welcome Mats for our homes
- Treats/Snacks for welcome bags, like chocolate and candy
- Heating pads
- Cozy socks

Move Out Items:

- Trash Bags
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner
for curly hair
- Swiffer Mop Replacement Pads
- Kids toothpaste
- Diaper Cream
- Kids Tylenol
- Kids ibuprofen
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper



Membership Report

by Membership Chair Joan Hart

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.

Debby Arrant

Deb Blencowe

Ushma Ferguson

Catherine Gibb

Jennifer Groysman

Joan Hart

Madelon Issaeff

Donna Krauss

Cleo Marchese

Lynn McCoy

Dana Sickler

Merrie Spaeth

Kathy Ward

Di Wike

We are currently accepting Membership Renewals for 2026! And we always welcome new members!

Membership dues can be paid at the meeting, online through our website <https://planorepublicanwomen.org/become-a-member>

Or checks can be mailed to Plano Republican Women, P O Box 940461, Plano, TX 75094-0461.

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](#)

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Charla Reamy, Court Reporter
Ty Jones, Bailiff



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Bailiff, Shane Capps



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June Birthdays

Jean Kelly	6/2
Debra Havranek	6/4
Laurie Guilot	6/8
Donna Ratkowski	6/9
Donna May	6/11
Cindy Stachiw	6/19
Marty Rimbey	6/25
Susan Bushey	6/29



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Vision and Mission Statement:

Plano Republican Women is an American political club, bringing together women to positively impact the direction of our nation. We come together as a collective force advancing the power of women through political access and participation. Our mission is to see women from all age groups and walks of life as key players at the political table of national, state, and local issues.

