

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

December 2024

President's Byline and Holiday Message



Happy Holidays everyone. This holiday season we have had a major blessing bestowed upon America. President Trump winning both the popular vote and the electoral vote was simply amazing. Americans are looking forward to his presidency. We took back the House of Representative and the Senate. Collin County became a lot redder thanks to the hard work and dedication of many people. A lot of those people are PRW members, associate members, patrons, and sponsors.

This astounding victory would not have been possible without all of you supporting local, state, and national candidates. Most of our members have spent months block walking, phone banking, writing out endless postcards, and volunteering for various campaigns. Many of you worked endless hours as VDRs at voter engagement events reaching out to the undecided voters or Democrats looking for some sense of normalcy. A lot of you worked at the CCGOP headquarters working long hours to meet the demands of the public coming in daily for information and merchandise. Let us not forget some of our sponsors who are also politicians, who had to win against a daily onslaught of negative and inaccurate information lobbied against them.

Our club also had many members working as election judges and clerks ensuring we had free and fair elections. Working for the CCGOP events committee and helping to develop amazing events for voter outreach and engagement. Poll greeting every weekend. Working on the Victory 2024 team. Working on Ballot board and for the Election office.

My point is the people of Collin County came together, and every last one of you made a difference. Everyone has carried the weight of this election season on their shoulders working to put strong Republican candidates in office from the White House to the Court House and done the impossible. Turning the tide of the relentless Democrat machine through volunteerism and dedication into a Red Tsunami

So please do me a favor this Holiday season, spend time with your families. Go to Christmas and Hanukkah parties and celebrate. Because without all of you, we would not be here today celebrating this astounding victory. Wokeness is dead, the American people have spoken. I know some of you are worried about President Trump getting all his cabinet picks nominated after a contentious start, so don't hesitate to contact Senator Ted Cruz and John Cornyn and let them know your concerns. We will move forward next year with a renewed sense of purpose to heal this nation. Restore the economy to help middle class families, fix our broken education system, stop the evils of an uncontrolled open border, bring back energy independence and restore American exceptionalism. See you in 2025 everyone!!!

Cleo Marchese

Prw_president@planorepublicanwomen.org

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Calendar of Events

**No Meeting
In December**

Next Board Meeting

January 7, 2025

Next General Meeting

January 21, 2025
11:30 am

Saltgrass - East Plano
3320 North Central Exp, Plano



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

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

November Photos





AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



THE WIT AND WISDOM OF SILENCE DOGOOD

DECEMBER 1, 2024

Benjamin Franklin, one of America's most celebrated Founding Fathers, began his public life not as a politician or inventor, but as a teenage satirist hiding behind the pen name "Silence Dogood." This pseudonym became his first foray into public discourse, showcasing his sharp wit, keen observations, and unrelenting desire to provoke thought. Franklin's adoption of the Silence Dogood persona not only cemented his future as a master communicator but also revealed his deeply personal struggles and the budding of his intellectual beliefs.

At just 16 years old, Franklin was an apprentice to his older brother James, who owned *The New-England Courant*, one of the earliest independent newspapers in the colonies. Their relationship was fraught with tension, primarily due to James's domineering attitude and Franklin's precocious intellect. Benjamin chafed under the restrictions of apprenticeship, longing for opportunities to contribute more than manual labor. However, James refused to publish anything from his younger brother's hand, likely dismissing his ideas as youthful and inconsequential.

Determined to bypass his brother's editorial gatekeeping, Franklin devised an ingenious solution: he would create a fictional character, Silence Dogood, to express his views. Portrayed as a middle-aged widow, Silence embodied a persona that was relatable, modest, and unassuming - qualities that allowed her bold critiques to fly under the radar. Franklin secretly submitted the letters to *The New-England Courant*, slipping them under the door of the print shop at night. To Ben's delight, James published the letters, completely unaware of their true author.

The ruse lasted until Franklin revealed his identity, which led to an explosive confrontation. James, furious at being deceived, responded harshly, and the already-strained relationship between the brothers deteriorated further. This fallout played a significant role in Franklin's eventual departure from his apprenticeship and set the stage for his pursuit of independence.

Between April and October of 1722, Franklin wrote 14 Silence Dogood letters, covering topics ranging from religion and education to the follies of colonial society. Though written under the guise of a widow, the letters are unmistakably infused with Franklin's sharp intellect, humor, and budding Enlightenment ideals.

One of the central themes in these letters is education. In Letter No. 7, Franklin, through Silence, critiques the shortcomings of the colonial education system, lamenting its neglect of virtue and intellectual rigor. He warns of the dangers of ignorance, emphasizing the importance of shaping young minds through proper instruction. Franklin's belief in the transformative power of education would remain a cornerstone of his later work, from founding libraries to creating academies that evolved into modern universities.

Franklin also used the letters to challenge societal norms and hypocrisy. In Letter No. 4, for example, Silence humorously critiques drunkenness, suggesting exaggerated remedies such as assigning women the task of governing men's behavior or making bitter concoctions to deter overindulgence. Beneath the humor lies a deeper commentary on personal responsibility and the importance of temperance - values Franklin would later champion in his own life through his famous virtues.

The Silence Dogood letters also reflect Franklin's evolving views on liberty and power. Although couched in satire, the critiques in these letters highlight Franklin's disdain for oppression, both in religious and political contexts. He mocks pompous preachers and unqualified leaders, subtly laying the groundwork for the democratic principles that would guide his later activism.



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



Continued from Page 4

What makes Franklin's Silence Dogood letters remarkable is how they reflect his personal philosophy even at a young age. Franklin's disdain for authority figures who wielded power unjustly was evident in his critiques of religious and political leaders. As Silence, he boldly questioned the integrity of those entrusted with guiding others, an attitude that presaged his later commitment to civic virtue and accountability in public life.

The letters also reveal Franklin's pragmatism and humanism. Silence's humorous tone made her critiques accessible and engaging, embodying Franklin's belief that persuasion is best achieved through wit and reason. This approach would become a hallmark of Franklin's public persona, allowing him to address controversial topics without alienating his audience.

Moreover, the Silence Dogood letters demonstrate Franklin's enduring optimism about human potential. Whether advocating for education or mocking societal flaws, Franklin's underlying message was one of self-improvement and progress. He believed deeply in the ability of individuals - and by extension, society - to grow and flourish through knowledge, discipline, and shared effort.

The Silence Dogood letters were more than just a teenager's clever prank; they were the foundation of Franklin's career as a writer, thinker, and reformer. The experience of creating Silence taught Franklin the power of the written word to influence public opinion and spark change. It also allowed him to explore ideas that would shape his later contributions to American society, from his aphorisms in *Poor Richard's Almanack* to his involvement in drafting the Declaration of Independence.

In retrospect, Silence Dogood was not merely a character but a vessel through which Franklin's youthful ideas took form. The letters, with their humor, insight, and boldness, capture the essence of Franklin's genius. They remind us that even in his early years, Franklin possessed the qualities that would define him: a relentless curiosity, a commitment to improvement, and an unshakable belief in the power of ideas.

In addition to Silence Dogood, Benjamin Franklin famously adopted other female pseudonyms throughout his writing career, showcasing his creativity and his strategic use of alternative personas to challenge societal norms. One notable example was Polly Baker, a fictional woman Franklin invented to deliver a satirical critique of colonial laws and attitudes toward single motherhood. In a fictional speech attributed to Polly, Franklin cleverly highlighted the injustice of punishing women for having children out of wedlock while ignoring the culpability of men, a commentary on the gender inequalities of the time. By writing from the perspective of women, Franklin could approach sensitive or controversial topics in a way that allowed readers to engage with them more openly, often under the guise of humor or relatability. These personas reflected his skill in adopting diverse perspectives to push boundaries, question authority, and advocate for fairness and reform in an era where such ideas were still taking shape.

Franklin's journey from an apprentice hiding behind a pseudonym to one of the most celebrated figures in American history is a testament to the transformative power of intellect and perseverance. Silence Dogood and other women's pseudonyms he used may have been fictional, but the truths they spoke and the values they championed were undeniably real - echoes of a young man whose voice would soon shape a nation.

SOURCES: WIKIPEDIA, HISTORY.COM, <https://www.ushistory.org/franklin/courant/story.htm>, [HTTPS://FOUNDERS.ARCHIVES.GOV/DOCUMENTS/FRANKLIN/01-01-02-0008](https://FOUNDERS.ARCHIVES.GOV/DOCUMENTS/FRANKLIN/01-01-02-0008), <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/benjamin-franklin-was-middle-aged-widow-named-silence-dogood-and-few-other-women-18096178/>

Political Cartoons



BONHOEFFER

On Sunday afternoon, I went to see Angel Studio's latest release, "Bonhoeffer." I was familiar with Deitrich Bonhoeffer, but I really didn't know his whole story. This movie is based on Eric Metaxas book Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy. I do plan to read the book now that I have seen the movie. This is the story of how one German citizen stood up the Nazis and Hitler in World War II and exposed the atrocities that were being committed by Hitler on the Jews and any others this evil man deemed to be unfit to live. I don't want to say much more than that regarding the movie, but this movie needs to be seen by the masses. I highly recommend you take your older children and grandchildren to see it.

In my opinion, one of the reasons we are in the state we are in today is because the teaching of history has been pretty much thrown in the trash and what little is taught, is based on revisionist history such as the infamous 1619 project. I have always loved history and I do believe in the adage "if you don't know history, you are doomed to repeat it." A perfect example of that is what happened after the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas. When Israel defended their country, students in the United States at our colleges and universities started supporting Hamas and harassing and attacking Jewish students. They were shouting slogans such as "from the river to the sea." When asked if they understood what this means, most had no idea. If we were teaching history properly, they would know about the holocaust and the six million Jews who were put in concentration camps and brutally murdered. There is much that can be learned from history. But now leftist professors (and they are the largest percentage of college professors) indoctrinate students and are teaching hatred of Jews. The Founding Fathers have been judged by today's "so-called" superior standards and we have taken down statues as if by removing them we are somehow righting some wrong or erasing history. It is time for history to be given a place of honor in our schools and taught by teachers and professors who love this country and are willing to teach the truth. That will include parts of our history that were not good. "Bonhoeffer" does highlight one of our darkest times. But what we don't need is using bastardized history that teaches children to hate our country. I am hopeful that the 1776 project will correct this over time.

Catherine Gibb

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Honestly, Fairly Trump Won with Clear Anti-Progressive Mandate

By Eric Golub, November 19, 2024 for Newsmax

Opinion

Election 2024 Was a Complete Rejection of Progressivism

Donald J. Trump did more than become the first President since Grover Cleveland to recapture the White House after being voted out.

He increased his share of the vote in his third run.

He won nearly half of Hispanic voters, a majority of Hispanic men, a significant increase in Black men, and a shocking 45% of the Jewish population of New York.

Trump won the popular vote and the Electoral College.

Even some liberal news organizations conceded that Trump fairly and honestly won a clear governing mandate.

While Mr. Trump and his team deserve credit for winning, they also were very lucky.

They could not have asked for better political conditions for a party out of power.

Nearly 80% of Americans thought the country was on the wrong track.

Democrats were so scared of losing that they forced out a weak candidate in U.S. President Joe Biden for an even weaker candidate in U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump was imperfect, but Ms. Harris was a terrible candidate on every level.

She was terrible at governing.

Try finding a successful Biden-Harris governing accomplishment.

She was inept at national campaigning and ended her 2020 presidential campaign before a single caucus or primary vote had been cast.

Due to her left-wing ideology, she became a darling of the Obamas.

They practically forced then-Senator Joe Biden to add her to his ticket even after she called him a racist in a 2020 Democratic primary debate.

Additionally, Harris was inauthentic, and enough people saw through it.

She was not defeated because of racism, sexism, or any other Democratic excuse contradicted by hard evidence.

She lost due to a lack of competence.

Yet this still misses the big picture.

The Harris-Walz loss was far from an anomaly.

She is a progressive, and progressives suffered their most humiliating defeat since the 1994 midterm wipeout.

Continued from Page 8

Too many American voters are disgusted with failures emanating from progressivism's toxic political ideology. Even notoriously liberal areas in the last two years have tried to reverse the most insane of their destructive policies. Democratic lemmings ignored the warning signs and marched off of the left-leaning cliff anyway. In July of 2022, San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin was ousted.

In the 2024 Democratic primaries, Squad members Reps. Jamaal Bowman of New York and Cori Bush of Missouri were bounced from the U.S. House.

While an overwhelming majority of the electorate was fed up with "The Squad," the chronically tone-deaf Harris campaigned the day before the election in New York with original Squad darling Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.

On election day 2024, former San Francisco and current Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon suffered a landslide election blowout.

Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao and Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price were both recalled. San Francisco Mayor London Breed was ousted.

Former New York Congressman Mondaire Jones's comeback attempt failed badly. Far left Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Jon Tester, D-Montana, will no longer be voting against the will of their deeply conservative constituents.

Both were shown the door by wide margins. Despite being given \$100 million by outside interests, Rep. Collin Allred, D-Texas, soundly lost his Texas Senate bid to incumbent Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas.

Progressive policies were being reversed to stem the tide of future election losses.

Four years after legalizing all drugs, Oregon voted to recriminalize hard drug use.

The 2020 maneuver by Alaska Democrats to rig future elections through rank choice voting was narrowly repealed.

Attempts by Democrats in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon to install the rank choice voting scheme were defeated.

Anti-crime measures in Arizona, California and Colorado all passed.

Efforts to legalize recreational marijuana failed in Florida, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Even Massachusetts, the American bastion of liberalism, voted against legalizing psychedelic drugs by a 15-point margin.

California's initiative to raise the state minimum wage from \$15 to \$18 per hour failed.

Uber-left Washington State voters passed an initiative banning their state government from restricting access to natural gas.

While blue states were shifting into reverse, red states were happy to hit the accelerator to advance conservative policies and run over leftist ones.

Kentucky voted to allow state funding of non-public schools. Kansas voted to force Kansas City

Continued from Page 9

to *refund* their police. Attempts to ban non-citizens from voting won by landslides.

At least 62% of voters in eight states approved ballot measures banning this practice, with 86% of South Carolina voters favoring the prohibition.

Election 2024 was a complete and total rejection of progressivism because progressivism is failure and Americans are anti-failure.

Rich liberal celebrity one-percenters offered vibes, joy and twerking.

Four years of progressive government policies forced Americans to endure mandates, bans, censorship, inflation, and violent crime.

Conservatives are imperfect, but progressivism is crazy.

Voters in 2024 overwhelmingly cast their ballots for sanity.

Eric Golub is a comedian, author and retired stockbrokerage and oil professional living in Los Angeles. His interests include football, politics, Judaism, the stock market, and Angela Lansbury's "Murder, She Wrote." He has written for the Jewish Journal, The Daily Caller, and Breitbart's Big Hollywood.



Political Cartoons



Promises made, promises broken

Political Activities

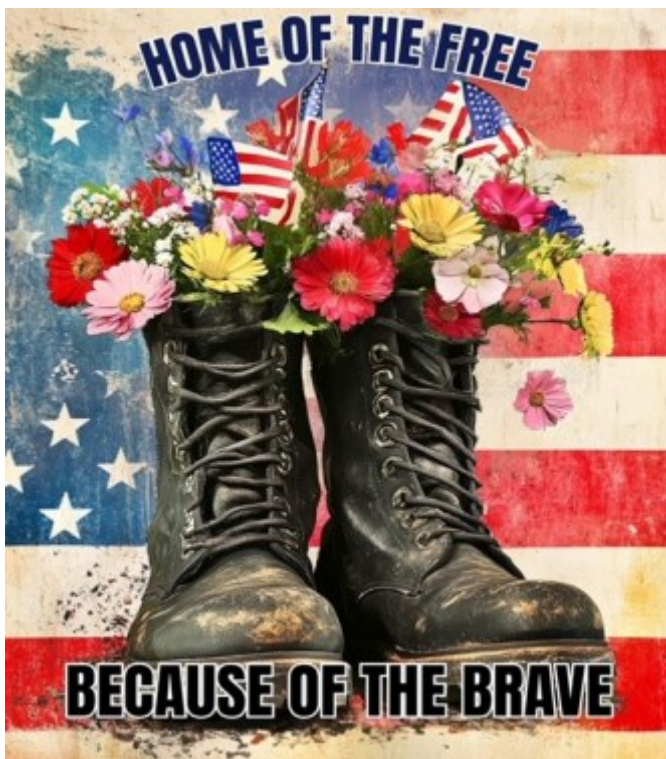
By Jennifer Groysman

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



Political Activities

By Jennifer Groysman

At the third quarter board meeting for Texas Federation of Republican Women it was announced that all the local clubs have turned in 2,582,899 hours and 700,000 phone calls from July 2023 - October 2024.

Our own members have contributed thousands of hours to that number and more that are most likely not being turned in.

The members of PRW have worked so hard this election, so please keep track of all the hours you are putting in. Then turn in those hours to me.

You can turn them in on our website www.planorepublicanwomen.org

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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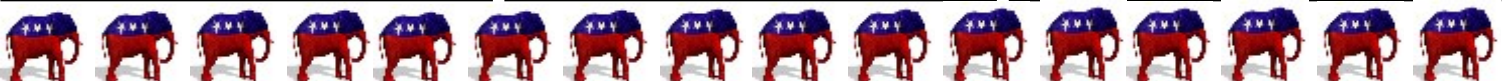


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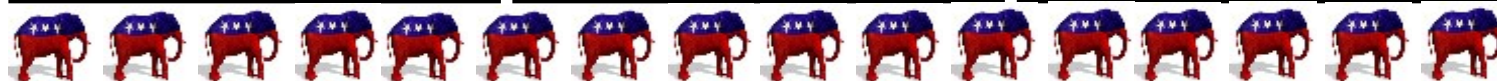
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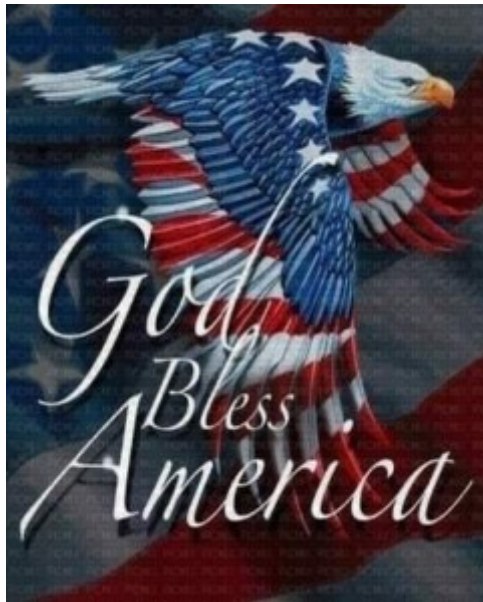
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Plano Republican Women
P.O. Box 940461
Plano, TX 75094



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

PRW OFFICERS for 2024

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President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Jessica Bartnick, 1st VP - Programs

Ushma Ferguson, 2nd VP - Membership

RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Lynn McCoy, 3rd VP - Awards

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December Birthdays Member Birthdays:

Kathy Ward	12/1
Cynthia McDonald	12/4
Dianna Wike	12/6
Donna Krauss	12/7
Sheila Patterson	12/15
Devin Fleming	12/15
Stepanie Moncrief	12/17
Jessica Barnett	12/18
Teri O'Donnell	12/19
Denise Midgley	12/22
Sara Billingsley	12/26
Cheri Wachholz	12/27
Jill Brooks	12/28



Associates and Sponsors Birthdays

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George Flint	12/11
Juanita Flint	12/25
Eileen McCoy	12/26

