

Elephant Talk



Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

February 2026

President's Byline



January 31st was a wake up call. We sat home. We allowed others to determine the outcome of significant elections.

Conservative friends, we cannot leave one single stone unturned as we rapidly approach the November 2026 Election. What is your commitment?

What will you do? What will your place in history be after this crucial and critical moment? If you are looking for guidance and how to show your passion for faith, family and freedom - we have a job for you! There are a multitude of volunteer opportunities that are going on right now. Reach out to someone in our club and we can guide you towards YOUR way to make a difference this cycle for our beautiful country. As we approach the celebration of 250 years of America, what are you willing to do? Please remember all of the everyday people turned heroes who came before us and fought for the freedoms that we all sometimes take for granted. You are not being asked to risk your life. You are being asked to pick up your phone or turn to a fellow American and talk to them about this significant moment in our nation's history. You have the ability to make a difference.

The time is now.

God please continue to bless America.

Blessings,

Kathy Ward

President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

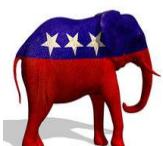
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Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting
Feb 3, 2026, 11:30
Napoli's Restaurant
West Plano

Next General Meeting
Feb 17, 2026, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano



PRW February Meeting



NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

February 17, 2026

February's Speaker - Miriam Zivin Mothers Against College Antisemitism

Miriam Zivin is the Board President of The MACA Foundation, Inc. and the Co-founder of DFW MACA

Miriam Zivin was born in Canada and has spent significant portions of her life in Texas and Israel. After completing the last two years of high school in Israel, she volunteered and served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Miriam earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Arizona in 1998, and in 2000 she obtained a master's degree in early childhood special education from the University of Texas at Austin.

With a passion for education, Miriam taught special education for 11 years and Hebrew language at Akiba Academy in Dallas, Texas, for six years. Additionally, she is a licensed educational diagnostician.

As the mother of two, she has been actively involved in Jewish campus life across various universities. In response to the events of October 7, 2023, Miriam became aware of Mothers Against College Antisemitism (MACA), a grassroots movement that has evolved into a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to combating antisemitism on college campuses. She is currently the board president of The MACA Foundation, Inc.

Recognizing the importance of this mission, she became one of the founding members of the DFW MACA chapter, established in December 2024. This chapter has grown to include 90 members who are committed to protecting and advocating for Jewish students in North Texas universities. The members of this group meet monthly, both in person and online, to strategize and implement initiatives that support Jewish life on university campuses.

Miriam is dedicated to fostering a supportive environment for Jewish students and combating antisemitism, making significant contributions to the community through her work with MACA and beyond. Miriam is married to Mitchell Zivin and is the mother of Ben (21) and Ella (19).

PRW February Meeting

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

February 17, 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.

Our Next Meeting is February 17, 2026.

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

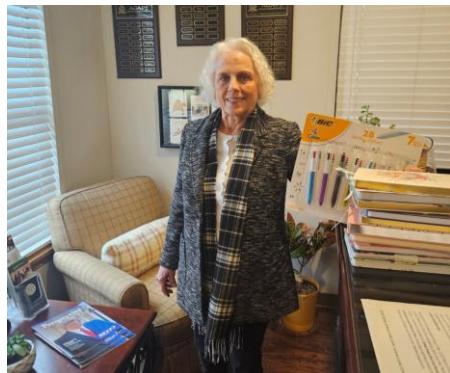
Please note: all Online Credit Card Payments include a processing fee.

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.



February Meeting Photos



Member Moment

Enough Is Enough!

As an elected official, Republican, Jewish parent and grandparent, I must sound the alarm on antisemitism in Plano Independent School District and surrounding school district as well. I believe deeply in the Constitution, equal treatment under the law, and the fundamental purpose of public education.

Across our country, and increasingly here in Texas, antisemitism is rising. Unfortunately, the Plano Independent School District, which holds a large Jewish student population, is not immune. Jewish students and families have filed complaints with the Texas Education Agency, United States Department of Justice's Antisemitism Task Force and Texas Attorney General's Office. These complaints include issues of harassment, exclusion, and an environment that feels increasingly hostile or dismissive toward their identity. These concerns deserve immediate attention, not silence, deflection or obstruction.

At the same time, many parents are alarmed by reports of religious practices occurring inside Plano ISD schools that appear to cross constitutional lines. Parents have reported that Muslim teachers are being permitted to pray for extended periods as long as 30 minutes during instructional time in front of students. There are also reports about religious neutrality in taxpayer-funded schools. One example is an Imam being present on school campuses during the school day to pray with students. If accurate, these practices raise serious concerns.

Plano ISD is not the only district where concerns have been raised about the presence of religious materials on public school campuses. A similar situation occurred in Wylie ISD, where a staff member invited an external Islamic religious organization to Wylie East High School. During this visit, the group distributed copies of the Quran and other religious materials on campus.

Let me be clear: this is not an attack on Muslims or on religious freedom. Religious liberty is a core American value, and Republicans have long defended the right of individuals to practice their faith. But religious liberty does not mean religious preference by government institutions.

Public schools are not churches, synagogues, or mosques. They are government entities bound by the Constitution. When a public school appears to accommodate one religion in ways it would never allow for others, it violates the principle of equal

Member Moment

Enough Is Enough!

treatment and undermines trust in the system.

As a Jewish Republican, I ask a simple question: would a Jewish teacher be allowed to lead prayer during class time? Would a Christian teacher be allowed to bring clergy onto campus daily to conduct worship with students during instruction? Would the abuse of Christian, Hindu, Sikh or Muslim students be tolerated? If the answer is no, and we all know it is, then the current situation is unacceptable. Favoritism, whether intentional or not, breeds resentment and fuels division. For Jewish students, who already face growing antisemitism nationwide, it sends a troubling message: your concerns come second.

Antisemitism does not always come in obvious forms. Sometimes it shows up through institutional imbalance, when administrators are quick to accommodate one group, but slow to protect another. When Jewish families raise concerns and feel unheard, confidence in leadership erodes.

Texas Republicans believe in parental rights, local control, accountability, and limited government. Those principles must apply here. School districts exist to educate children, not to advance or showcase religious practices of any kind.

Plano ISD must be transparent about its policies, investigate all reports of antisemitism, and ensure that religious accommodations comply with the Constitution and apply equally to everyone. Anything less is a failure of leadership. As Texans, and as Republicans, we cannot look the other way when constitutional boundaries are blurred and Jewish students feel unsafe or marginalized. Equal treatment under the law is not a partisan issue it is an American one.

Our public schools must remain places where every child can learn without fear, favoritism, or discrimination. That is not only the law it is our responsibility.

Yours In Service,

Staci L. Weaver



AMERICANISM REPORT



These American World War II Troops Trained to Fight on Skis



The 10th Mountain Division trained in Washington and Colorado and then captured a series of peaks in northern Italy that helped pave the way for Allied victory.

On a cold evening in February 1940, four men sat by a roaring fire at the Orvis Inn in Manchester, Vermont, after a day of skiing. By the time they repaired to their rooms for the night, they had conceived what became an entirely new division of the United States Army, a highly specialized unit devoted to fighting on skis in mountainous territory.

In the final months of World War II, the newly created [10th Mountain Division](#) captured a series of pivotal peaks in northern Italy that cut off any possible retreat by Nazi forces and helped lay the ground for final Allied victory.

Finland's Ski Troops Offer a Model

The inspiration for the division was a fierce battle underway 4,000 miles to the east. The previous November, a massive Soviet force had invaded Finland from the south and east, fully expecting to roll over the Nordic nation's defenses in short order. They hadn't reckoned on valiant resistance of Finland's ski troops, who destroyed multiple Soviet divisions and [humiliated the invaders for several months](#) before Finland was forced to seek peace after sustaining heavy losses.



These American World War II Troops Trained to Fight on Skis



Skiing Finnish soldiers, shown here in April 1942, helped inspire the creation of America's 10th Mountain Division.

The four men marveled at the skill and resilience of the Finns, according to Maurice Isserman in [*The Winter Army: The World War II Odyssey of the 10th Mountain Division, America's Elite Alpine Warriors*](#). One of them, [Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole](#), the well-connected founder of the [National Ski Patrol Service \(NSPS\)](#), observed that the Finnish resistance was "a perfect example of men fighting in an environment with which they were entirely at home and for which they were trained."

Dole and his companions began brainstorming about the United States developing its own alpine military force. In 1940, Dole pitched the idea to Army brass, who, initially, expressed little interest in it. However, his persistence and the [worsening situation](#) for the Allies in Europe prompted a rethink.

In October 1941, [General George Marshall](#) informed Dole that he would establish a mountain infantry regiment. Reasoning that it would be more effective and efficient to train skiers to fight rather than soldiers to ski, Marshall effectively handed Dole and the NSPS the task of recruiting its members. Writing in [Climb to Conquer: The Untold Story of WWII's 10th Mountain Division](#), Peter Shelton said, "of the fourteen thousand soldiers who constituted the 10th Mountain Division at full strength, about half were volunteers who came through the National Ski Patrol System."

AMERICANISM REPORT



Members of the 10th Mountain Division in the Rockies at Camp Hale, Colorado, May 1943.

The media loved the idea. *The New Yorker* ran a piece titled "["Minnie's Ski Troops"](#)" in the issue dated February 21, 1942. In November that year, *Life* magazine followed up with a [cover story](#). A 1943 Warner Bros. documentary short, ["Mountain Fighters"](#), was followed in 1944 by Paramount's ["I Love a Soldier"](#), which featured scenes of skiing soldiers swooshing down slopes in the Colorado Rockies.

Grueling Training at High Elevation

But preparation for mountain warfare was no easy day on the slopes. It began at Washington's Mount Rainier, where Isserman noted, "few American soldiers outside of airborne troops and Rangers would undergo such rigorous training. They were on the slopes six days a week, six hours a day, for eight straight weeks, all under the expert eye of some of the country's leading ski instructors."

Beginning in late 1942, the program moved to a base in Colorado, named [Camp Hale](#)—informally rechristened [Camp Hell](#) by those who trained there. Isserman quotes one young arrival reporting home that "It certainly is going to be a tough three months of training, I must say. The altitude is about 10,000 feet, and you certainly feel it. My nose bled today and everyone here has a cough." A planned five-week exercise in 1944 was curtailed after "temperatures dropped to 35 degrees below zero, tents collapsed under snow, and more than a thousand soldiers were evacuated with injuries or frostbite," [according to Military.com](#).

Finally, in late 1944 and early 1945, the 10th went to war. Its mission was to capture peaks in northern Italy where Nazi defenders had been bombarding Allied attempts to

AMERICANISM REPORT



push north. Ironically, wrote Shelton, after all the recruitment, all the training and all the hardships, unseasonably warm temperatures in January and February 1945 melted much of the snow on the slopes. As a result, the “vast majority of 10th men never saw a ski in Italy.”

Mountain Expertise Forces Nazi Surrender

But their mountain expertise proved invaluable, as, over the course of six days in February, the 10th ascended Mount Belvedere, a peak that overlooked what was then the only major road connecting Allied-occupied southern Italy with the Axis-occupied north. In the face of intense mortar shelling, the men [forced](#) the defenders off the peak and held it against German counterattacks.

The way was now open for further advances to the north. The following month, the 10th secured more peaks. Then, in April, they spearheaded the final Allied offensive in Italy, which led to the surrender of the last Axis troops in the country. The advance also cut off German escape routes into Austria, and hastened the end of the conflict in Europe.

The cost was high: In just 114 days of fighting, the 10th suffered almost [1,000 deaths and more than 4,000 wounded](#). But, despite their unconventional composition, Minnie Dole’s ski troops were described by German General Fridolin von Senger und Etterlin as “my most dangerous opponent.” When his forces in Italy were defeated, it was to a detachment of the 10th that he made a point of surrendering.

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One [designed shorter skis](#) that made it easier for beginners to learn. The specialized gear that the division developed for the war became available to the public. Division alumni helped found companies such as [Outdoor Research](#), ensuring that the influence of Minnie Dole’s skiing soldiers persists on America’s slopes.

Political Action Hours

by Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman



Last year our members turned in over 10,000 hours. I know there are more hours that our members have not turn in. This year my goal is to collect 11,000 hours. You can turn in your hours on our website. 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



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 (kitchen, as many as you can get)
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner for curly hair
- Swiffer Mop Replacement Pads, off brand is fine, wet
- Kids toothpaste
- Diaper Cream
- Kids Tylenol
- Kids ibuprofen
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

GOP GUEST ARTICLE



Building Republican Strength Through Primaries

Part 2 of a 3-Part Series

By Michael Slaughter, Candidate-Elect Collin County Commissioner Pct 2

Primaries as a Training Ground

Primaries are more than a selection process. They are a proving ground for our party. A well-run primary tests candidates, sharpens messaging, and prepares the eventual nominee for the intensity of the general election. When candidates are challenged, they are forced to listen more closely, articulate their positions clearly, and build real support instead of relying on name recognition alone. That process ultimately produces stronger Republican nominees.

Grassroots Engagement Matters

Strong primaries energize grassroots Republicans. Door knocking, phone calls, block walking, club meetings, and neighborhood conversations all increase during contested races. This activity expands our voter base, identifies new volunteers, and brings first-time participants into the process. Even voters who support different candidates are still engaging with Republican ideas and values, which strengthens the party long term.

Do Your Homework

Campaign advertisements, mailers, and social media posts are designed to persuade, not educate. Voters should never accept an ad at face value, whether it is positive or negative. Take the time to research the claims being

Continued on Page 11

GOP GUEST ARTICLE

(Cont'd.)



made, verify records, and look beyond headlines or talking points. Even better, attend a meeting, a forum, or a local event and speak directly with the candidate. Ask questions. Listen to how they explain their positions. You may be surprised by what you learn when you engage face to face instead of relying solely on campaign materials.

Unity After Competition

Competition does not weaken us if we handle it correctly. The real test of a party's strength is what happens after the primary is decided. Once voters have spoken, unity must follow. Personal grudges, lingering attacks, or refusal to support the nominee only serve our political opponents. A disciplined party understands that primaries are temporary, but governing and winning elections require teamwork.

Accountability to Voters

Primaries also reinforce an important principle: no one is entitled to office. Every candidate, incumbent or not, answers to the voters. That accountability keeps our party healthy and responsive. When voters know their voice matters in the primary, they are more likely to stay engaged through November and beyond.

Strong primaries build strong Republicans. They develop better candidates, activate the grassroots, and remind us that our party belongs to the voters. If we respect the process, do our homework, and commit to unity afterward, primaries become a powerful tool rather than a point of division.

Thank you to the Plano Republican Women for allowing me to share this as part one of my three part series.

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

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Deb Blencowe

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Joan Hart

Donna Krauss

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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](https://planorepublicanwomen.org/become-a-member)

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Ellen Kinnebrew**
Collin County Pct. 2

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Judge Mike Missildine
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Justice Court Precinct 3, Place 2

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Lynn McCoy, 3rd VP Awards

Ashley Bergerson, 4th VP, Ways and Means

Janet Troutman, Recording Secretary

Trina Westberg, Corresponding Secretary

Dana Sickler, PAC Treasurer

February Birthdays

Katie Lunsford	2/5
Mavis Sullivan	2/14
Beth Bean	2/19
Roswitha Hasenyager	2/20
Catherine Gibb	2/24
Lily Bao	2/27
Reva Bartlett	2/28
Kay Barnett	2/29



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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.

