

# Mesa Republican Women



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Honoring Our Veterans and Active-Duty Heroes

At our November meeting, Mesa Republican Women will proudly salute the brave veterans among us who have served our nation with honor, and we will extend our gratitude to those currently wearing the uniform in defense of our freedom.

We are preparing care packages for the active-duty family members of MRW, and we invite you to [CLICK HERE](#) to help us recognize their service. If you have a loved one serving in the military, please use the link above to send us their name, address, and branch of service so we may deliver this token of appreciation on behalf of MRW.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday, November 10th.

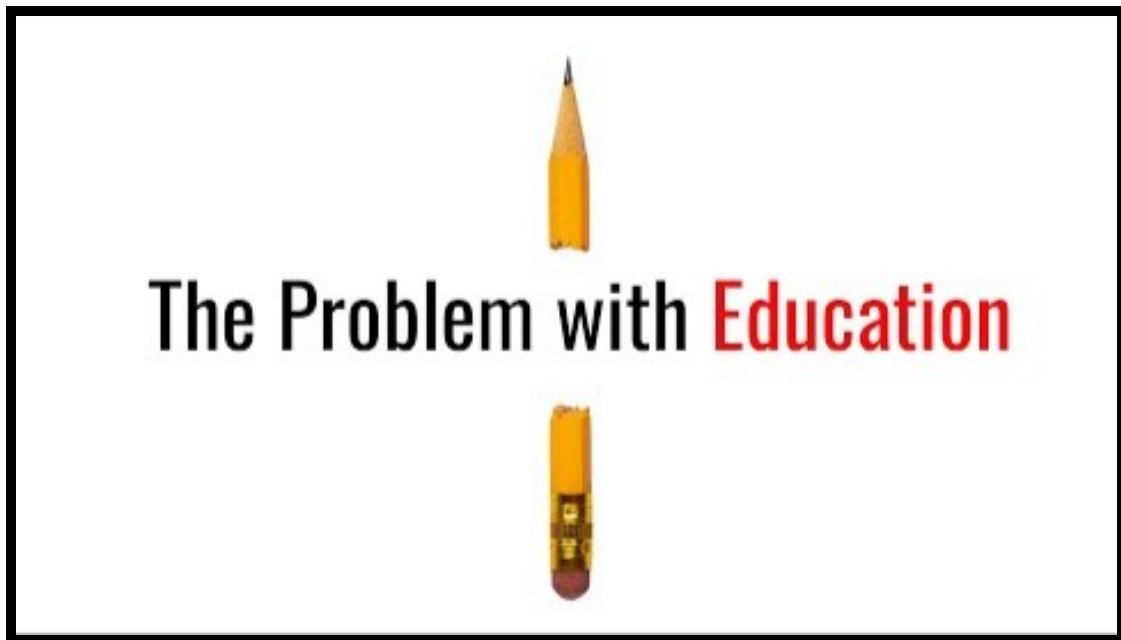
**God Bless and Thank You to Our Veterans,**  
Ashley Trussell  
President, Mesa Republican Women

**Next Meeting - Monday, November 10, 2025**

**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Doors open at 10:45 a.m.**

## WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?



### November Program – Honoring Service and Strengthening Our Schools

November is a time to give thanks and to give honor. We begin our November program by celebrating Veterans Day and paying tribute to those who have courageously served our nation. Joining us will be the East Valley Young Marines and their Unit Commander to present the Colors, followed by a special segment featuring several notable local veterans who will share remarkable stories about Arizona's proud military heritage—particularly right here in the East Valley.

From there, we will turn our focus to another vital front line: education. Our featured program, "The State of K-12 Education: Just What is Going On?", brings together four dynamic leaders who are "truth tellers" about what is happening in Arizona's classrooms—and what must change. These respected voices will cut through the noise, expose the root problems, and share strategies for winning the education conversation heading into 2026 mid-term election.

### Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for December 8, 2025, as we celebrate the season with fellowship, music, and a few special surprises you will not want to miss. 2025 has been a remarkable year, filled with friendship, purpose, and patriotic pride. As we prepare to ring in 2026 – the year of America's 250th Birthday – let us look forward with renewed spirit and gratitude for the blessings of liberty and the promise of our great nation.

## RSVP TODAY

**Guarantee your seat when you RSVP by Wednesday, November 5th**

Cancel at least 24 hours in advance  
[mrw@mesarepublicanwomen.com](mailto:mrw@mesarepublicanwomen.com)

[Click here to RSVP and Pre-Pay](#)

**PAY OPTIONS:**

1. Prepay via credit card using the links on your RSVP confirmation page (\$1 handling fee applies)
2. Pay the day of the meeting, at the door with cash or check
3. Pay at the door with credit card (\$1 handling fee applies)

## MEET OUR PANEL OF GUEST SPEAKERS



**Pam Kirby**

As the **President and Founder of The Arizona Coalition of School Board Members**, Pam will outline the crisis facing government schools, who is really to blame, and how parents and other stakeholders can stay a step ahead of the Left's tactics in 2026.

Pam Kirby is an education and finance leader committed to helping Arizona's schools serve students effectively and transparently. A retired CPA with executive experience at Fortune 500 companies, she also served two terms on both the Paradise Valley Town Council and the Scottsdale School District Governing Board. Pam is the President and Founder of The Arizona Coalition of School Board Members, a national trailblazing 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing training and resources to conservative school board members, along with its sister organizations, Friends of the Coalition (c)(4) and Students First PAC, which support conservative school board candidates across Arizona. She holds an MBA and a Master's in Education Policy and is currently pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Education Finance from Georgetown University. [www.azcoalition.org](http://www.azcoalition.org)



**Shelli Boggs**

As our **Maricopa County School Superintendent**, Shelli will provide a real-time view of the direction public education across the county is headed if misplaced administrative priorities continue to fail. She will share both progress and challenges as she continues working to keep politics out of the classroom and achieve excellence at the forefront.

Superintendent Shelli Boggs is a dedicated public servant, experienced educator, and the Maricopa County School Superintendent. With over two decades of leadership in education, she brings a results-driven, student-first approach to the office. In her role, Superintendent Boggs is responsible for overseeing school governing board elections, managing school finance, appointing members to fill school board vacancies, and maintaining homeschool and private school records. She also oversees the Maricopa County Regional School District, which encompasses detention education and the Hope Accommodation School. Superintendent Boggs is committed to restoring excellence in education by empowering parents, supporting teachers, and ensuring fiscal responsibility. As a former classroom teacher, board member, and education advocate, she understands firsthand the challenges and opportunities within our schools. <https://schoolsup.org/superintendent>



**Rachel Walden**

As **Commissioner and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board Member**, Rachel will explain why school choice strengthens—not weakens—public schools and makes them better. She shares what it takes to sustain success in Arizona’s largest district to remain viable as she prepares for another term.

Rachel Walden has lived in Arizona since she was a child. Mrs. Walden and her husband are lifelong Republicans and are raising their daughter in Mesa. She currently serves as a member of the Mesa Public Schools Governing Board, the largest school district in the state. As a Governing member she has prioritized academic achievement, parental rights, fiscal responsibility, and transparency. A resolute public servant, she was elected to the Corporation Commission in November 2024 and continues to be an advocate for rate payers, especially in the green project fight. Mrs. Walden holds a BS degree with honors from Arizona State University. She continued at ASU in a Master of Arts program (ABD), during which she was hired by the University as a Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant and was a fellowship recipient. Raised by a hard-working single mother in a family of 5 children, her mother was a self-employed financial planner. She credits her mother with teaching her family to never take a handout from the government because true freedom was found through self-reliance. <https://www.electrachelwalden.com/>





**Steve Smith**

As **Executive Director of the TW Lewis Foundation** and one of the original architects of Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) program, Steve will set the record straight on the facts behind the program and how to push back against false media narratives.

Steve Smith currently serves as the Executive Director of the TW Lewis Foundation supporting dozens of local and national Christian/conservative non-profit organizations. Previously, he was the Director for the American Federation for Children and was featured nationally as one of the top leaders in K-12 education for his work in helping to implement school choice in Arizona and across the country with the Universal ESA program. Steve is best known for his work in the Legislature when in 2010 he was elected as one of the youngest Senators in Arizona's history. He served 8 years and was the Chairman of the powerful Commerce and Public Safety and Military Committees. Recipient of numerous lifetime achievement awards, Mr. Smith was ranked as the #1 conservative Legislator in Arizona by every top scorecard. He was named 'Friend of the Family' for his 100% pro-life and religious freedom record and was Legislator of the Year for his work for the disabled community. Most notably though, Steve authored the original 'build the border fence' legislation in 2012 and was a leading national figure on the effort to secure the border. Steve and his wife Jamie live and raise their 5 children in the city of Maricopa. <https://twlewis.com/>

**BIG PRIZE MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE**



## It's Membership Renewal Season — and We're Giving Away CASH!

Mesa Republican Women are gearing up for an incredible 2026 — and it all starts with YOU! It's time to renew your membership and stay part of one of the most energized, influential, and patriotic women's groups in Arizona.

This year, we're making renewals extra exciting with **a chance to WIN up to \$500 in cash!**

✓ **Renew in October:** Submit your 2026 Membership Application and payment **by October 31** to be entered into a raffle to **win \$500!**

✓ **Renew in November:** Complete your renewal **by November 30** to be entered to **win \$250!**

✓ **Renew in December:** Get your renewal in **by December 31** and you could **win \$100!**

Don't miss your chance to stay connected, make your voice heard, and start 2026 off as part of a strong, unstoppable network of conservative women making a difference across Mesa and beyond.

**Click below to renew your membership today and secure your raffle entry — the sooner you renew, the bigger the prize!**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM AND  
PAYMENT LINK**

**CALL TO ACTION**



🚩 **Calling All Volunteers — Help Us Make the Mesa PD Blue Santa Golf Tournament a Success!** ❤️ 🎅

Mesa Republican Women — we need YOUR helping hands!

Join us on **Friday, November 1st** for the **Mesa PD Blue Santa Golf Tournament**, a fantastic community event supporting our local law enforcement and spreading holiday cheer.

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist during the following shifts:

- 🕒 **7:30 AM – 10:00 AM**
- 🕒 **10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

Whether you can cover one shift or both, your time and energy make all the difference. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow members, support a worthy cause, and represent Mesa Republican Women in the community.

**Ready to help?**

Reach out to Ashley Trussell at [trussell.ash@gmail.com](mailto:trussell.ash@gmail.com)

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENTS**

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES BOARD CANDIDATES

## 2026-2027 Mesa Republican Women Board Slate Announcement

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the **slate of nominees** for the **2026-2027 Mesa Republican Women Executive Board**. We extend our gratitude to all who have stepped forward in service to our club and its mission.

### Proposed Slate of Officers:

- **President:** Lori King
- **1st Vice President – Programs:** Francesca “Frankie” Bower
- **2nd Vice President – Membership:** Tamera Bates
- **3rd Vice President – Ways & Means:** Sarah Andrews
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Antonnette Andruzzi
- **Recording Secretary:** Beverly Appleton
- **Treasurer:** Jessica Wilhelmsen

Members interested in being considered for an open position are encouraged to come forward during our November meeting when called for candidates from the floor.

Leadership within Mesa Republican Women offers a rewarding opportunity to shape our programs, grow our membership, and strengthen our conservative voice across Mesa and beyond.

**\$5 FOR 1** **RAFFLE** **\$10 FOR 3**  
**TICKETS**

**FOR A BEAUTIFUL PATRIOTIC  
THROW BLANKET  
(AND OTHER GREAT PRIZES)**



**TOP QUALITY YARN MADE WITH  
LOVE BY SON HEE WILLIAMSON**

**DRAWING HELD ONCE  
ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD**



## 🎉 Stars, Stripes & Prizes: Get Your Raffle Tickets! 🎉

There will be a **special patriotic raffle in December** with **10 amazing prizes**:

- ★ Grand prize: a **hand-crafted patriotic throw blanket**
- ★ **Various gift cards**
- ★ Other patriotic goodies to celebrate the season

🎫 **Raffle tickets**: \$5 each or 3 for \$10

Tickets will be available at the **November meeting**—grab yours before they're gone!

Don't miss your chance to win and take home something special while supporting our cause!

## OUR NEW MEMBERS



### Welcome to Mesa Republican Women!

We're thrilled to have you join our **strong, patriotic community**! As a member, you're part of a dynamic group dedicated to **conservative values, leadership, and making a real impact**.

Get involved, connect with fellow members, and help us stand for the freedoms that make America great. **We're honored to have you with us!**

### Please welcome our new members!

Angela Gorazd  
Jennifer Hallstrom  
Lucylle Danyelle Jones  
Jennifer McWilliams  
Lori Nottingham  
Therese Teasdale

## NOVEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| Name              | Day |
|-------------------|-----|
| David Mayne       | 3   |
| Michelle Young    | 6   |
| Andy Biggs        | 7   |
| Janet Hansen      | 8   |
| Cindy Truman      | 8   |
| Karen Jacobson    | 9   |
| Carol Winstanley  | 9   |
| Lana Hitchens     | 10  |
| Pam Cappelletti   | 12  |
| Deborah DeVold    | 14  |
| Joyce Applegate   | 17  |
| Jackie Mullens    | 18  |
| Linda Rizzo       | 18  |
| Clara Giemsoe     | 21  |
| Thelma Emmons     | 23  |
| Myra Moody        | 25  |
| Jean Christianson | 26  |
| Sherry Pierce     | 26  |
| Claudia Rypka     | 26  |
| Paulette Dunn     | 29  |



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Co NMLS: 76801

### Mesa Republican Women 2025 Officers

President – Ashley Trussell | [mrw.ashleytrussell@gmail.com](mailto:mrw.ashleytrussell@gmail.com)  
 First Vice President/Programs – Nancy Cottle | [nancy@thebrandedimage.com](mailto:nancy@thebrandedimage.com)  
 Second Vice President/Membership – Lori King | [loripenaking@hotmail.com](mailto:loripenaking@hotmail.com)  
 Third Vice President/Ways & Means – Caroline Helton | [cchelton1@gmail.com](mailto:cchelton1@gmail.com)  
 Treasurer – Jody Slechta | [jody.slechta@gmail.com](mailto:jody.slechta@gmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary – Frankie Bower | messanaf@hotmail.com  
Recording Secretary – Patsy Ballentine | ballentine.ps@yahoo.com  
Immediate Past President – Nancy Salmon | mrw.nancys@gmail.com

## Mesa Republican Women Membership Form

MRW Bylaws

MRW Standing Rules

Find us on Facebook:



*Mesa Republican Women is a chartered club affiliated with the Arizona Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.*

*You received this email because you are a Mesa Republican Women Member,  
Associate Member, Guest, or prospective Member  
Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you at our next meeting!*

Mesa Republican Women  
Meeting location address is:  
Apache Wells Country Club  
5601 E. Hermosa Dr.  
Mesa, AZ 852135

Website: [www.mesarepublicanwomen.com](http://www.mesarepublicanwomen.com)  
Email: [MRW@mesarepublicanwomen.com](mailto:MRW@mesarepublicanwomen.com)  
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