

# ECRW NEWSLETTER



## Prez Release

by Donna Kelm

### 2023 Elected Officers

President	Donna Kelm
VP Programs:	Debi Hays
VP Membership:	Jill Miller
Secretary	Ashleigh Amonett
Treasurer.	Heather Grimes
Past President	Rachel Minor

### Board Members

Legislation	Judy Calloway
Campaign Activities	Sandy Morris
Parliamentarian	Lori Crutcher
Chaplin.	Shaye Lane
VP Liaison	Traci Gregston
Caring for America	Theresa Edgmon
Corresponding Secretary	Diann McKee

### Standing Committee Chairs

Awards.	Judy Calloway
Badges.	Tonny Welling
Decorating.	Pam Kimbrell
Hospitality.	Becky Heald
Scholarship.	Dottie Chavez
Public Relations -	Sherry Hurt

It's May, normally spring, when we start experiencing beautiful growth in scenery and warm temperatures. Mother nature hasn't remembered where we live, or what time of year it is!

Just as nature is growing, so is Ector County Republican Women's Club. We've seen lots of new faces and some from the past join in. It's exciting meeting each of you. I hope we are meeting your expectations!



### An important note to follow on our US Government....

***US could default by June 1 unless debt ceiling is raised: Biden looks to meet with Congress.***

Per ABC News by: Adam Carlson 5/2/23

The U.S. can pay most but not all of its bill with the tax and revenue it takes in, and it must borrow the rest of the money. But Congress enforces a limit on how much debt the government can incur and when that ceiling-set at about \$31.4 trillion – is reached, lawmakers must increase it before the government can borrow more funds.

The U.S. hit the current debt limit in January and has been employing "extraordinary measures" since then to keep its bills paid, according to Yellen. The Treasury Department has also enacted some cutbacks, including contributions to employees' retirement plans.

The country is not widely thought to have ever truly defaulted on its debts before, though a [Congressional Research Service report](#) from 2016 noted that such a concept doesn't have a fixed definition. That report also detailed "three episodes in the federal government's fiscal history" -- amid the War of 1812, the Great Depression and in 1979 -- "when some have questioned the public credit of the U.S. government."

"Congress raising the debt ceiling is really the only alternative," Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said in March, in his own testimony on Capitol Hill. "There are no rabbits in hats to be pulled out on this."

McCarthy and other Republicans say the obligation now lies with Biden, who hasn't met with the speaker since February.

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*We the People*  
*... domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common*  
*... Peace, Liberty and Justice for all*

Here is a small sample of the convictions of some of the Founders:

It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Attributed to Patrick Henry | GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA



Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it: and my body I recommend to the earth . . . nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mercy and power of God.

John Hancock | SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.

John Jay | FIRST CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

. . . to the supreme head of the universe—to that great and tremendous Jehovah—Who created the universal frame of nature, worlds, and systems in number infinite . . . To this awfully sublime Being do I resign my spirit with unlimited confidence of His mercy and protection.

Henry Knox | REVOLUTIONARY WAR GENERAL



Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure . . . are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.

Charles Carroll | SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



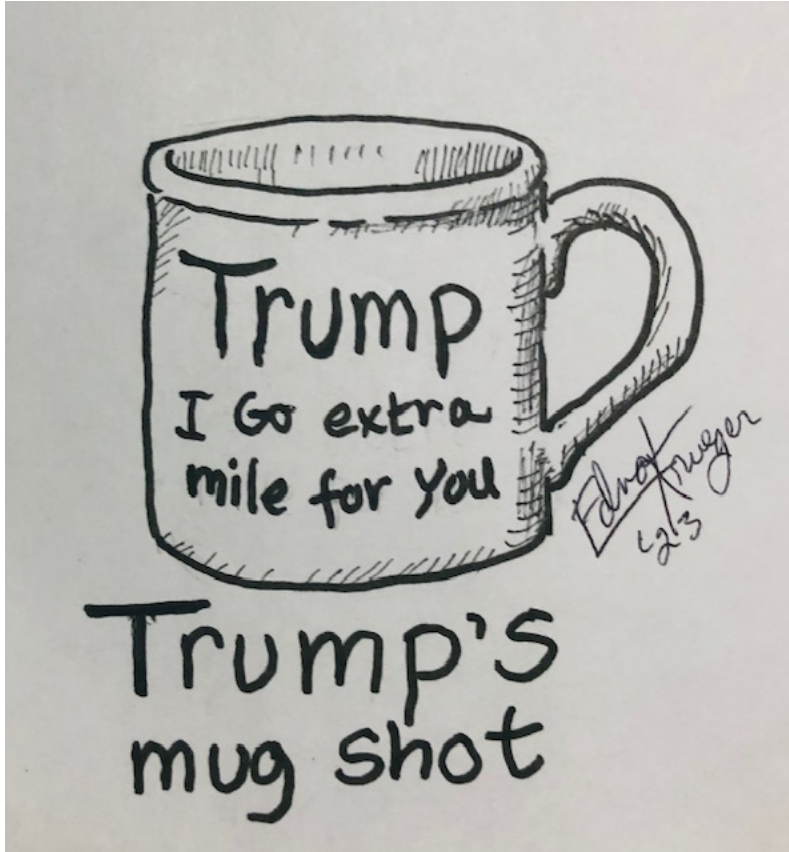


*ECRW has fun too!  
Home is where the wine is made! Homemade Wine does!  
Homemade Wines was a great way to spend some time with friends and meet new friends!  
This place is bright, relaxing atmosphere, friendly staff, wide variety of food, good wine wrapped into a good time!*



Cartoonist

Edna Krueger



I do not support the arrest of our 45<sup>th</sup> president. The cartoon is based on how Trump has a way of turning things around in his favor. I hope he has the charges dropped!



May 14th.	Mother's Day
May 17th	Luncheon
May 29 <sup>th</sup> .	Memorial Day
June 5th.	Board Meeting
June-	Don't meet
July-	Don't meet
July 10th.	Board Meeting
August 23rd	Luncheon
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon
October 18th	Luncheon
November 15th	Luncheon
December -	TBA



*We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who would pervert the Constitution. - Abraham Lincoln*

**Contact US!**

We welcome your feedback and want to hear from you.  
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 Odessa, TX 79768  
 Email: [EcrwTexas@gmail.com](mailto:EcrwTexas@gmail.com)

*Legislation, District Director SD31, TFRW*

*Judy Calloway*

## **MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS COMING UP IN 88<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATURE**



The Texas Legislature is in full swing with the Senate and House voting on bills of major importance. It is difficult to keep up with changes happening hourly at this time in the Legislative process.

### **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

House speaker Dade Phelen and Lt Gov Dan Patrick have dug in their heels on how to reduce property taxes. Patrick wants to raise the homestead exemption, which is lined out in SB3 authored by Senator Paul Bettencourt, a Houston Republican. This is a \$30,000 increase from \$40,000 to \$70,000 with homeowners over 65 getting an additional \$20,000 increase. Phelen wants to tighten the appraisal cap on how much the value of a homeowner's main residence can rise each year. With sky rocketing home values Phelen says the appraisal cap would mean bigger savings than exemptions. This standoff, between the top 2 Republicans comes with high stakes as Governor Abbott says he won't let lawmakers leave without putting a property tax relief bill on his desk. Stay tuned to see how these turn out.

### **SCHOOL CHOICE**

SB 8 is the primary bill this session which would create an education savings account with up to \$8,000 in taxpayer money per student. The difference in ESA and vouchers is that ESA would go directly to the parents instead of the school. The State Education Committee approved that bill on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The amount of money a school district receives per student is based on attendance, and a concern of the school choice plans for rural & small public schools is they would lose funding with exodus of students to private schools. Part of SB8 would give schools with 20,000 students or less with \$10,000 per student lost to private schools for 5 years. East Texas Legislators are going to be the ones not wanting the school choice not to pass and hardest to convince. The budget bills before the Easter break dealt a blow to School Choice with passage of HB 4807 that states no state funds in this budget should be used for paying for private schools. It was one of 444 amendments proposed for this budget. The actual battle for passage of SB 8 goes to the Texas House on Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **TEXAS FRESH WATER PROJECTS**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Texas Senate passed SB 28 that creates a new state fund tailored for large or long-shot water supply projects, including marine desalinations. This bill if it passes the house would pay for upgrades to the state's aging water infrastructure. This bill along with Senate Joint Resolution 75 were authored by Lubbock Republican Charles Perry and would create a new water supply fund administered by the Texas Water Development Board. That fund would pay for new water projects including desalinating projects and imports of water from other states. The bill would set aside dollars to upgrade water infrastructure, especially in rural areas. Water Advocacy groups have estimated the initial investment of at least \$3 billion to \$5 billion to address the state's crumbling infrastructure and projected water shortages. During the first two months of 2023, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality was notified about more than 500 boil water notices. During the drought in the summer of 2021 the states lakes and reservoirs lost 68% of their water. It is too expensive to build new reservoirs in drought ridden parts of the state. You may remember that Odessa experienced a water shut off for 48 hours on June 14<sup>th</sup> last year with a deteriorating water main on 42<sup>nd</sup> broke Odessa residents were on a boil water notice then and several times since all due to the crumbling infrastructure of the City Water supply lines. We are part of the rural area of Texas!

## 1920 Famous Ritz Carlton Lemon Pound Cake Recipe

### Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup unsalted butter at room temperature
- 1/2 cup shortening at room temperature
- 5 large eggs at room temperature
- 1 cup whole milk or 1/2 cup milk plus 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 6 tablespoons fresh squeezed lemon juice
- Zest of 1 lemon



### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Grease and flour a tube pan (angel food cake pan) or Bundt pan. Set aside.
3. Sift flour, baking powder and salt into a medium bowl. Set aside.
4. Using an electric or stand mixer, cream together butter, shortening and sugar.
5. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each one.
6. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl.
7. Add dry ingredients in three additions to butter mixture alternately with half of the milk, beginning and ending with flour mixture.
8. Beat at low speed just until blended after each addition.
9. Gently stir in lemon juice and zest.
10. Pour batter into prepared pan.
11. Bake cake in 350° oven until cake is golden on top and tester inserted into center comes out clean, 55 - 70 minutes. (Start checking at the 55 minute mark.)
12. Be careful not to open the oven if you don't think it's finished baking. (Opening the oven prematurely could cause the cake to fall.)
13. Cool cake in pan.
14. Using a sharp knife, gently separate cake from cake pan edges wherever you can, including around the center tube.
15. Turn cake out onto rack.
16. Serve with a dollop of fresh whipped cream or a spoonful of lemon curd.



*Debi Hayes, Guest Speaker – Tikj Davis, Rhonda Lacey.*

*ECISD – Dennis Jones, Judy Calloway, ECHD- Wallace Dunn*



*Texas State Senator, District 31*

*Kevin D. Sparks*

Greetings from Austin,

When it comes to foster care and mental health, one size doesn't fit all, and it never has. Unfortunately, that's been the model handed down from Austin for decades and--particularly for West Texas--it has created more problems than it has solved. One of my goals this session has been to create new opportunities and programs designed to improve these systems. To do this, I have filed and joint-authored three bills this session to address these issues.



SB 593 requires the state to hire a third party to perform a thorough assessment of child welfare licensing and regulations while prioritizing child safety and looking to remove needless barriers to entry for child-placing agencies, residential child-care facilities, foster families, kinship families, and adoptive families. This addresses the concerns that have been raised regarding the regulatory oversight process that has contributed to a shortage of high quality-potential placements. There is a desperate need for clarity in child welfare regulations, so that these children may be served safely and effectively.

SB 1585 clarifies how we identify minors with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities, because the identification and forensic evaluation process is different for minors than it is for adults. This bill does this by consolidating the different areas of statute that judges must reference down to one. This would provide much needed clarification as to what judges can do in juvenile court proceedings involving minors.

SB 26 seeks to expand mental health capacity, especially for children and adolescents, through the creation of an innovation grant program. Currently, the Texas State Hospital system lacks the dedicated staff needed for transitioning hospital patients back into our communities. This creates a pressing need for increasing access to services targeted at these children, particularly for those at risk of entering the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. This new program will improve transparency, accountability, and access for Texas community-based mental and behavioral health systems.

These bills are only the start, as it's clear that we must take action to secure our children's future. I am deeply moved by the testimony given so far this session. It's our duty to speak up for those who cannot protect themselves, and for the sake of our great state, I look forward to passing these important bills.

For Texas,

Kevin D. Sparks  
Texas State Senator  
District 31



*May 17th*  
*Odessa Country Club*  
*11:30 am – 1:00 pm*  
*\$30 in advance; \$40 at the door*  
*Ecrwodessa.com*

**Sherronna Bishop, AKA America's Mom**, is a Constitutional Conservative and American Patriot who stepped into the freedom ring to protect her children from harmful government policies. She tenaciously defends core values of God-fearing Patriots who do not want to lose the freedoms and rights of all citizens who live in the greatest nation in the world. She tirelessly researches issues of our culture and constitution, and has a passion to ensure that all people, starting with the individual, maintain the right to life, liberty, and personal property. As a wife and mother of four, she is resolute in her defense of the relentless attack on our children and parental rights. In the midst of continuous assault on the Western way of life, she brings hope and inspiration to those who feel arrested by political correctness and false narratives of our time. She is a mother of 4, wife to one, slave to none.



*Sherronna Bishop,*  
*"America's Mom"*



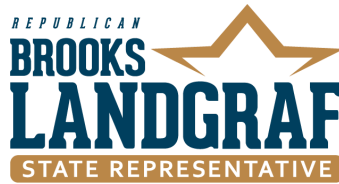
*Dr. Scott Muri*

Dr. Muri joined the Ector County ISD family as Superintendent of Schools on July 1, 2019. Prior to that, he spent four years as the Superintendent of Schools for Spring Branch Independent School District in Houston, TX. During that time achievement gaps narrowed in all academic areas while overall student achievement rose. He fostered innovation in the system by incorporating the redesign process to transform the student learning experience. Prior to taking over at Spring Branch ISD, Dr. Muri served as the Deputy Superintendent of Academics in Fulton County Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, a large school district with 96,000 students and 100 campuses.

Before joining FCS in Atlanta, Dr. Muri spent five years with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in Charlotte, North Carolina. His roles included Area Superintendent, Zone Superintendent, and Chief Information Officer overseeing research and evaluation, along with technology infrastructure and instructional technology innovation.

Dr. Muri's educational experiences include serving as one of the first National Board Certified Teachers in the United States, high school principal, and administrator at Disney's Celebration School in Celebration, FL.

Throughout his career, Dr. Muri has demonstrated a passion and ability for leading change, driving organizational effectiveness, and significantly improving student achievement while closing achievement gaps. With a focus on collaboration and excellence, Dr. Muri creates a positive and effective teaching and learning environment.



## Texas Energy Freedom

*April 30, 2023*

by State Representative Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa)

As a general rule of thumb, if California is doing something, then it's a safe bet to do the opposite. It's no secret here in West Texas that many in Washington, D.C. get this rule straight up backwards, but unfortunately some politicians in our great state do too.

In July of last year, the State of California, home to Hollywood liberals and state budget deficits, enacted its ban on all small gasoline-powered engines, including lawn mowers, gas generators, and power washers.

Concerned that they would miss out on the new liberal fad, left-leaning politicians who now run the City of Dallas recently proposed a plan to phase out the use of small gasoline-powered engines by 2027.

We've known for years that the big cities in Texas regularly enact ordinances that limit individual liberty, constrain business, and make government bigger. Thankfully, most of these ordinances remain far away where the only people they can hurt are those who live in the major population centers.

But the Dallas engine ban is different, and it would directly harm the hard-working people of West Texas by reducing the demand for gasoline, discouraging new investment in the Permian Basin, and weakening the Texas economy as a whole.

In response to these threats, I proudly sponsored Senate Bill 1017 and authored House Bill 2374.

This week, I am thrilled to announce that the Texas House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 1017 by a vote of 116 to 30. SB 1017 boldly counters the big city politicians who want to California our Texas in two ways.

First, SB 1017 ensures that local governments cannot adopt or enforce any regulation or ordinance that limits access to gasoline, diesel, or any other fuel source.

Second, SB 1017 prohibits local governments from directly or indirectly prohibiting or restricting the use, sale, or lease of an engine based on its fuel source.

Since my first election to the Texas State House, I have fought hard for the interests of West Texans. As your state representative and the chairman of the House Environmental Regulation Committee, I will keep fighting for common sense legislation like this that makes Texas more free and protects oil and gas jobs. No big-city politicians are going to California our Texas on my watch. I will continue to fight and win for West Texans and our way of life, whether it be politicians in the city hall of Dallas, politicians in the Texas House, or politicians in the White House.

God bless Texas,

Brooks Landgraf



*Sherry Hurt, one of our own ECRW members with Senator Ted Cruz and NFRW President Eileen Sobjack. Sherry Hurt is Chairman of the National Regents Program that hosted Senator Cruz at recent Spring NFRW Board*

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If there is a specific topic you would like to learn more about or specific speaker, please reach out to Debi Hayes at [ecrwtxas@gmail.com](mailto:ecrwtxas@gmail.com). We are here for you!

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*Caring for America*

*by: Theresa Edgmon*



ECRW is having a fundraiser to support **West Texas Gifts of Hope**. May 20<sup>th</sup>, WTGH is having their annual fundraiser "Night at Legends". If you wish to attend, contact Brenda at 432-934-1751. ECRW is helping WTGH raise money to build four additional rooms for cancer patients that travel to Odessa for their procedures. If you would like to help with this fundraiser, please contact Theresa Edgmon at 432-352-8339.



*Gloria, Irene, Debi*



*April Luncheon*

*Stephanie & Melanie*



*Donna & Speaker, Tiki Davis*



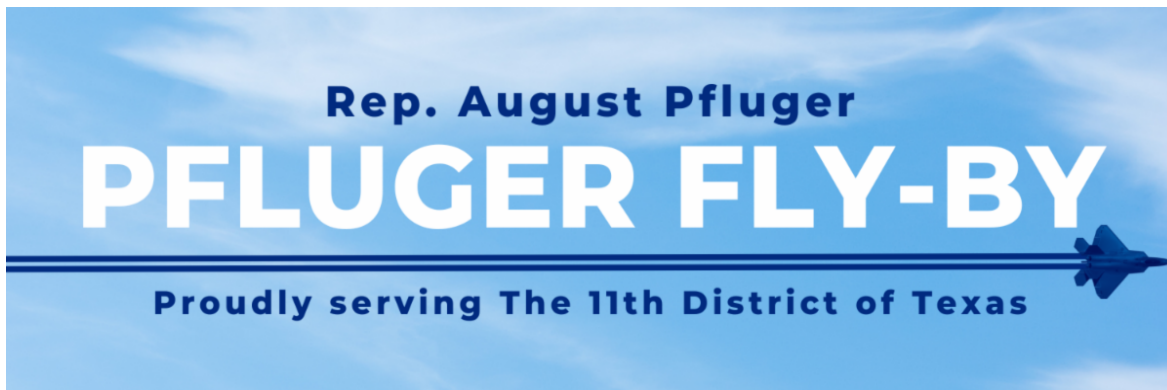
*Kaisha & Emilee*



*Gloria & Christopher*



*Rachel, Traci, Judy, Rhonda and Debi*



April 21, 2023

**Delivering Results in the First 100 Days**

I made a Commitment to America to deliver an economy that’s strong, a nation that’s safe, a future that’s built on freedom, and a government that’s accountable.

This week we reached 100 days of our House Majority. I am proud to report on a few of the results my office has already delivered on behalf of the 11<sup>th</sup> District of Texas.

*TX-11 FIRST 100 DAYS OF 2023:*

- 10 Public Town Hall Meetings
- 167 Constituent Service Cases Resolved
- 14 of 20 Counties Visited
- 15 Bills Sponsored
- 2 Provisions Passed the House
- 2 Pro-Life Amicus Briefs Filed
- 2 Field Hearings on the Border
- Hosted the Energy & Commerce Committee in the Permian Basin

*HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOUSE REPUBLICANS FIRST 100 DAYS:*

- Defunded Joe Biden’s army of 87,000 IRS agents
- Passed H.R.1, the Lower Energy Costs Act
- Eliminated the Military Vaccine Mandate
- Blocked Biden’s Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule
- Protected and strengthened America’s SPR
- Nullified DC's Soft on Crime Bill
- Defended the right to life with the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act
- Terminated the COVID-19 national emergency
- Passed H.R. 5, the Parents’ Bill of Rights



**Upcoming New Office Open Houses**

In the next few weeks, I will be hosting Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies and Open Houses celebrating our newest office in Killeen and our recently-relocated office in Odessa.

Both of these offices are open assisting constituents with issues they may be facing with the IRS, Social Security Administration, VA, and more. I hope you will be able to join me at one of the two upcoming Open Houses.

**Killeen Office Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House**

Monday, April 24th at 11:30 AM

The Pratt Learning and Leadership Center, 505 E Jasper Drive, Killeen, TX 76541

**Odessa Office Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House**

Monday, May 1st, at 4:00 PM

Ector County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom, 1010 E 8th St., Odessa, TX 79761

**Thank you for reading. It is the honor of my lifetime to serve you in Congress. Please follow me on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for daily updates.**

Rep. August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



Hear ye, hear ye

If you are interested in submitting information to be placed in our newsletter please email to: [ecrwtexas@gmail.com](mailto:ecrwtexas@gmail.com) ECRW allows all Republican candidates to place articles as well. ***ECRW Club does not support one Republican candidate over another. Information contained in our Newsletter is for informational purposes only.***

We support Republicans as a whole! If you have any questions, please contact:

Donna Kelm cell: 432-413-8894.



We want to wish everyone a safe, fun-filled Memorial Day! Please keep our ***Veterans & Military*** in your prayers!

*Congressman August Pfluger moves into to his new office in Odessa, located in the Annex Building.*



*Chamber CEO, Renee Earls*



*Congressman Pfluger*



*Jenny Cudd & Congressman Pfluger*

This week we had the incredible celebration at our new office location in Odessa, which is inside the Ector County Administration building!

If you need help with a federal agency, visit us at 1010 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Odessa, or you can always go online to [pfluger.house.gov](http://pfluger.house.gov).



*Region 2 Nuts & Bolts**by: Judy Calloway*

Lynda Hogue TFRW Region 2 President organized this training session on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Lubbock Republican Club at 2200 Broadway in Lubbock. The ladies from the Lubbock Area Republican Women's club hosted this training in their club's lovely facility. Attending were at least 60 ladies representing 6 counties. Brand new clubs in SD 28 had ladies attending to soak up all the training they could from these very knowledgeable TFRW Board members. Levelland is newly federated "South Plains Republican Women" with ladies from Plainview also attending. Two more clubs that are not yet federated Cotton Country Republican Women (Hockley County) and Rolling Plains Republican Women (Cottle County) I had the opportunity to visit with all these ladies and share some tips to help in getting their clubs going. Lynda Hogue and Joni Matthews have done an excellent job in getting new clubs started. The new club in Abilene is in region 2 also. So that make 5 new clubs for her Region in last 12 months. Only Rhonda Lacy and Juandell Lacy Roberts attended from the Midland club, and I was only one from ECRW attending.

Zenia Warren always gives a good training talk and spoke on Membership growth, Website navigation and Awards. Mary Jane Avery is delightful very bubbly and was outstanding in her Campaign Activities talk. Mary Jane is President of the Burnet County RW and SREC for SD 24. I have made copies of both handouts from Zenia and Mary Jane sessions for our club. In the after-lunch session Zenia Warren spoke on New Presidents checklist, Holding a Successful Meeting and Protocol. This is something the new clubs attending needed and appreciated. Rhonda Lacy considered herself as the closer and talked about so many important parts of the strike force and VEP projects. She shared the importance of club business cards making your club stand out and how important the work we do is to keeping Texas Red.

The best presentations were by Crystle Cloud who is with Leander Area Republican Women and TFRW Technology Committee and Digital Marketing. Crystle started the Leander club during the Pandemic in 2000 and has helped grow it into a jumbo club in a little over 2 years. Her presentation on what websites and technology are needed to grow and manage a club that is growing, or wants to be on the cutting edge of modern tech. All the processive organizations are using QR codes. She would be excellent to bring to Odessa for board and committee training.

We were served lunch during working session as Lynda Hogue did Red Dialer training. We were privileged to hear from 3 outstanding Texas elected officials. State Senator Charles Perry gave a very informative talk on the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Senate Bills. Perry is warning people that the big Property Tax breaks is costing other bills. One he pointed out was the Water Infrastructure Bill that is only getting a small amount and need 500 billion to do the work needed on Texas water infrastructure The huge amount poured into property tax breaks will only mean savings of about \$800 to a household a year. State Representative Carl Tepper is a freshman in this session and has eye opening experiences to share. Representative Dustin Burrows has been involved in many of the big bills on education and others. All three gentleman sang praises for the work of TFRW clubs.

Upcoming conventions were another item stressed. With many clubs not meeting in the summer, lots must be done in May as June is the deadline for many awards. **The state convention in Irving, Texas on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>- Oct 14<sup>th</sup>** early registration Early Registration for Irving is from May 15<sup>th</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> at \$195 and goes to \$250 on July 1 to September 30<sup>th</sup>. This means we need to decide who is a delegate and is for sure going to get this all done by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

happy  
MOTHER'S  
day