

Approach the New Year with resolve to find opportunities hidden in each new day!



**GOLDEN TRIANGLE REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

# GTRW GAZETTE

VOLUME 14

4th Quarter 2022

TFRW Region 6  
TX SEN District 3  
TX SEN District 4

## 2023 GTRW BOARD

Linda Brown, President  
Janet Brown, 1st Vice President-Programs  
Elaine Henderson, 2nd Vice President-Membership  
Stephanie Figari, Recording Secretary  
Janie Farris, Corresponding Secretary  
Mary Wickland, PAC Treasurer  
Lisa Wolf, Chaplain  
Cindy Dishman, Voter Integrity/Immediate Past President  
Marie Maggio, Barbara Shipper, Achievement Awards  
Evangeline George, Bylaws  
Allison Getz, Parliamentarian  
Linda Nicholas, Campaign Activities  
Linda Sparkman, Legislative  
Joy Crenshaw, Geraldine Lapham, Literacy  
Lynda Moncla, Decorations  
Kim Huber, Thuy Tran, Photographer/Video  
Ann Jones, Americanism/Community Involvement  
Danielle Faraci, Caring for America  
April Hawkins, Kim Huber, Special Events  
Marsha Morgan, Media/IT  
Theone Bradley, Terri Sherlock, Newsletter/Social Media  
Lajaunda Williams, Communications/Reservations  
[GTRW.email@gmail.com](mailto:GTRW.email@gmail.com) 409-748-0013  
Website: [gtrrepublicanwomen.org](http://gtrrepublicanwomen.org)



## CALENDAR

Jan 1 - New Year's Day - Fly Your Flag 

Jan 9 - GTRW Luncheon Meeting  
RSVP's due Thurs, Jan 5-6pm

Jan 10 - Texas 88th Legislative Session begins

Jan 16 - M. L. King Birthday observed  
Fly Your Flag 

Jan 23 - GTRW Exec Board Meeting

Feb 2 - Groundhog Day

Feb 3 - TFRW Legislative Day

Feb 6 - GTRW Luncheon Meeting  
RSVP's due Sun, Jan 29-6pm

Feb 12 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday  
Fly Your Flag 

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day

Feb 20 - President's Day - Fly Your Flag  
GTRW Exec Board Meeting 

Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday &  
George Washington's B.D.

Mar 2 - Texas Independence Day  
Fly Your Texas Flag 

Mar 6 - Fall of the Alamo - Fly Texas Flag  
GTRW Luncheon Meeting  
RSVP's due Sun, Feb 26-6pm 

Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day

Mar 20 - GTRW Exec Board Meeting

Mar 22 - Beginning of Ramadan

Mar 27 - Goliad Massacre - Fly Texas Flag 

**MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023**  
**11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**  
**ELEGANTE' HOTEL BALLROOM**  
**BEAUMONT, TEXAS**

*Featuring:*

# "JOE OF TEXAS" PENLAND

*"Results of the Midterm  
Election and Where This  
Current Administration  
Is Heading"*

**R** Due Thursday, January 5, 6 p.m.  
**S** Online @ [gtrrepublicanwomen.org/speaker/](http://gtrrepublicanwomen.org/speaker/)  
**V** Checks must arrive by Sunday, January 1:  
**P** GTRW, P.O. Box 12902, Beaumont, TX 77726

**PLEASE Fill Out Your 2023 Membership  
Application while you're on our website!**

**ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND  
RELATIVES TO JOIN GTRW!**

*Greetings to all of our GTRW Members:*

### ***PROUD***

I am proud of the fact that GTRW helped ensure election integrity by having honest election workers and poll watchers at every location in Jefferson County. This occurred because of the dedication of Cindy Dishman and Stephanie Figari leading the charge through training courses and recruitment. To quote Cindy, her "Major League Poll Watchers" were Joy Crenshaw, Becky LaRocca, Barbara Shipper, Lyn Brown, Tamia Cooper, Louise Williams, Liz Welch and Mary Munro. The tenacity of these ladies and others helped propel the Red Wave that arrived in Jefferson County. Thanks for your energy and for serving as foot soldiers for GTRW.



One of the things that really pleases me is the fact that GTRW members are not single-minded. In addition to Party Politics, we are eager to become involved in other activities as well. Our Literacy Committee, Americanism Committee and Caring for America Committee have had record-breaking projects that made our county shine. Thank you, Joy Crenshaw, Geraldine Lapham, Danielle Faraci and Ann Jones for your leadership in these committees.

### ***DETERMINED***

We are determined to hold onto our Number One position in Republican Women Membership across this mighty state of Texas. Elaine Henderson worked diligently to maintain that status in 2022. So help me say "thanks" to Elaine by signing up online TODAY. 2023 membership forms are available on our current GTRW website: [gtrepublicanwomen.org](http://gtrepublicanwomen.org).

Some members — especially us older ones — have noted the complexity of our present website. So GTRW has hired Americom to design and implement a new and improved website that will simplify joining and registering for luncheons. Our new website should be available by the first of February. For undertaking this task, our thanks go to Charlie Cooper of Americom and our Website Committee: Mary Wickland, Lajaunda Williams and Elaine Henderson.

### ***THANKFUL***

I am thankful for a fantastic year as President of one of the largest and best Republican Women organizations in our state. It was not a job I pursued, but who can say 'NO' to Van George?

Van, I must tell you: It's been a very rewarding year and I thank everyone for the support I've received.



***HOPE YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND LOVED ONES HAD  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH AND A  
DELIGHTFUL NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION!***

*Sincerely,  
Linda Brown  
GTRW President*







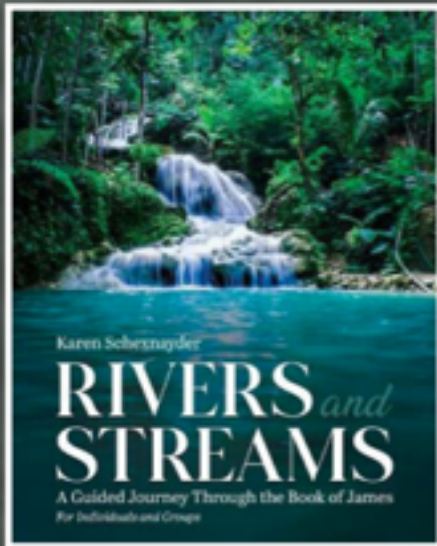






Karen Schexnayder is a wife, mother, grandmother and a member of GTRW. She is the former Teaching Director for Joy Bible Study and has participated in a disciplined Bible study for more than 40 years. She has been a keynote speaker at several women's events, and several years of her teachings can be accessed through YouTube or on the Joy Bible Study Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/joysetx>



GTRW is hosting Karen's signing of her new book, *Rivers and Streams, a Guided Journey Through the Book of James*, at our January 9 meeting. Please visit her table and JOIN US in supporting her latest endeavor.

Join in the fun at the January Luncheon

**GRAB A PROP AND STRIKE A POSE WITH YOUR FRIENDS**



**AT THE PHOTO BOOTH**

You are cordially invited to the swearing-in ceremony of  
Jefferson County Clerk-Elect  
**Roxanne Acosta-Hellberg**  
and  
Jefferson County Commissioner-Elect  
**Cary Erickson**

Tuesday ~ January 3, 2023 ~ 11:30 a.m.  
in the Jefferson County Courthouse Impaneling Room  
Oath of Office by County Judge Jeff Branick

# Membership Chat

Thursday  
Jan  
19th  
4-6 PM



Bring  
a  
Prospective  
Member

RSVP Text Elaine 409-656-5724

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
cordially invites you to the



**SWEARING-IN**  
*Ceremony*

of  
**THE HONORABLE GORDON FRIESZ**  
as  
*Judge of the 517th District Court*

Friday, January 6, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Jury Impaneling Room  
Jefferson County Courthouse





Visit our Website:  
[gtrepublicanwomen.org](http://gtrepublicanwomen.org)

## JOE FROM TEXAS

**FOUNDER OF QUALITY  
 MAT COMPANY DISCUSSES  
 RESULTS OF THE  
 MIDTERM ELECTION AND  
 WHERE THIS CURRENT  
 ADMINISTRATION  
 IS HEADING**



**Joe Penland** is a family man with children, grandchildren and great grand-children, who has had tremendous success and lived the American dream. His beliefs are both straightforward and deeply held. He believes in God, his family and the United States of America.

Joe began his full-time working career in the late 1960's in the oilfield, shipyards, then ironworking, carrying his tools and climbing hundreds of feet in the air. He traveled all over the country hanging iron on many buildings and bridges in the Gulf Coast region.

Joe recognized that after a large rain, the ground conditions prohibited all work using heavy equipment and this, of course, prevented him from working as well.

As a company man and a quick learner, Joe realized that if he could help the company continue to work during wet and muddy conditions, he could continue hanging iron and could better support his family. So, he borrowed \$2,750 and purchased the materials needed to build what would become the first 10 crane mats that he built. His mats were a huge success, allowing him and his company to continue working in poor weather conditions.

Soon after, his employer asked if he could build more mats. As word spread, other companies requested mats as well, and Joe's family-owned company was born. In the following decades, he would patent several designs and grow the company into the oldest and one of the world's largest manufacturers and suppliers of ground protection and construction mats.

Through the years, Joe's business has continued to grow through hard work and innovation. He has continually worked to improve his products and develop new products to meet emerging needs and, during this time, he has come to hold many patents.

Joe also has experience in the banking industry, having served on several bank boards (public and private) for over 26 years. Additionally, he served almost three terms on his local school board — a partial term followed by his election to two additional full terms.

Joe's faith has been a pillar in building his business as he has always sought to follow the Golden Rule of treating others the way that we would like to be treated. Building personal relationships with others has been a major contributing factor in his success and has led him to seek to give back.

Joe, his company and his family have long been involved with a number of charitable organizations that seek to help those who are in need.

They believe the best America is one in which fellow citizens look out for one another instead of waiting on the government as the main source of help.

<https://www.joefromtexas.com>







# CLUB UPDATES



# WE ARE THE 2022 #1 RW CLUB in TEXAS

Primary Members	423
Associate Members	<u>111</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>534</b>

## 2023 Membership Renewal Due by Jan 15th

### Classifications of Membership

**PRIMARY**  
\$35

**ASSOCIATE**  
\$25

**LIFETIME**  
\$1000

**YOUNG AFFILIATE**  
AGE 20-17 \$15

Choose your Membership type under JOIN at [gtrepublicanwomen.org](http://gtrepublicanwomen.org)  
Join/Renew online or print the form & mail your membership form

And please notify Elaine Henderson if you are  
**NOT RECEIVING GTRW EMAILS OR TEXT MESSAGES**

[ldh41655@aol.com](mailto:ldh41655@aol.com)

409-656-5724





# CLUB UPDATES



## Texas' 88th Legislative Session

*Submitted by Linda Sparkman, GTRW Legislative Chair*

### Texas House Republicans Back Keeping Dade Phelan as Chamber's Speaker

By Robert T. Garrett — The Dallas Morning News — Dec 3, 2022

**AUSTIN — Speaker Dade Phelan on Saturday easily cleared a hurdle long-demanded by the most staunchly conservative members of his party — endorsement by the House Republican Caucus, by secret ballot, of a would-be presiding officer of the chamber. And it was done before Democratic House members get to participate in the speaker election.**

Phelan, R-Beaumont, who served as speaker for the first time last year, defeated Arlington GOP Rep. Tony Tinderholt, 78-6.

The vote, taken at a closed-door session held at the Capitol weeks before the formal election of a speaker by all 150 House members on the first day of session, was the first contested speaker-endorsement vote held under a 2017 caucus bylaw change. It allows any Republican member to trigger a pre-session, intra-party vote if he or she desires to be the chamber's next presiding officer.

Phelan, who was just elected to his fifth term in the House, said in a written statement Saturday that he is "deeply grateful" to his Republican colleagues.

"The 88th Texas Legislature will include important debates on issues ranging from property taxes to foster care, and I'm confident that our chamber and our caucus will lead the charge on policy proposals that better the lives of all Texans," said Phelan, 47, a real estate developer. . . .

Republican Caucus Chairman Tom Oliverson of Cypress (TX House District 130 - NW Harris County), a Phelan ally, stressed that the vote, which involved distribution of ballots printed on light blue paper, involved tight security controls.

"It was completely free from influence of any kind," he said. "Members were free to vote their conscience." . . .

On Saturday, Oliverson, the GOP caucus chairman, denied in a written statement that last year's session was a repudiation of conservatism:

During a regular and three special sessions, lawmakers virtually outlawed abortion, allowed permitless carry of handguns and passed a controversial "election security" measure.

Last year's was "one of the most conservative sessions in our Legislature's history," Oliverson said.

*(Cont'd. on Page 11)*



***(Cont'd from Page 10)***

**COMPILATION OF NEWS FROM Republican Party of Texas - 12/9/2022:**

Much is happening in anticipation of January 10, 2023—the opening day of the 88th Texas Legislative Session. November 14, 2022 was the first day bills could officially be filed, and hundreds of bills have already been filed by Republicans and Democrats combined.

The State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) Legislative Priorities Committee is tasked with advocating for bills that advance eight priorities of the Republican Party of Texas that were passed by delegates at the Republican State Convention last June. <https://texasgop.org/priorities/>

As bills are filed, the SREC Legislative Priorities subcommittees review each bill and identify the ones that match the priority language.

The SREC met in Austin December 9-10, during which the Legislative Priorities Committee was tasked with evaluating and compiling priority bills. They will continue this process throughout the session, as well as encourage and work with legislators to file or amend bills that better reflect RPT priorities. Once approved by the Legislative Priorities Committee, bills will be posted on the [Texasgop.org](https://texasgop.org) website under “#txlege, LP Bill List.”

Texas Legislative Committee hearings begin March 11, 2023. Other important legislative dates/deadlines for the 88th Legislative Session are listed here: <https://www.texastaxpayers.com/88th-txlege/important-dates-deadlines/>

**88th Legislative Session – Overview**

The 88th Legislative Session is comprised of 140 days, with various deadlines imposed along the way via constitutional provisions and specific rules found within each legislative chamber. The following is a list of the most important dates/deadlines for Texas taxpayers to be aware of:

**Pre-Session:**

Pre-filing Legislation – Begins Monday, November 14

**Session Begins:**

Day 1 – Tuesday, January 10, 2023: 88th Legislative Session begins

House elects Speaker of the House

Senate elects President Pro Tempore

Day 2/3 – Wednesday, January 11 – Thursday, January 12, 2023:

House debates Housekeeping & Rules Resolutions

Senate adopts Caucus Report regarding operations of the Senate and temporary rules

Day 60 – Friday, March 10, 2023: Bill Filing Deadline

\*Committees for each legislative chamber are normally assigned within the first few weeks of the legislative session

\*\*The Governor normally presents his State of the State address to a joint session of the legislature near early February, where he publicly announces his emergency legislative priorities

**Mid-Session:**

Day 61 through Day 118 – Saturday, March 11 – Sunday, May 7, 2023:

Committees begin holding public hearings on legislation moving through the legislative process

The General Appropriations Act (Proposed State Budget for the next biennium) normally gets deliberated in early April.

(Cont'd on Page 12)



**88th Legislative Session – Overview (cont'd)****End of Session Deadlines:**

Day 119 – Monday, May 8, 2023: Last day for House committees to report HBs/HJRs

Day 120 – (By 10:00 p.m.) – Tuesday, May 9, 2023: Last House daily calendar with HBs/HJRs must be distributed (36-hour layout)

Day 121 – (By 9:00 a.m.) – Wednesday, May 10, 2023: Last House local and consent calendar with consent HBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)

Day 122 – Thursday, May 11, 2023: Last day for House to consider 2nd reading HBs/HJRs on daily or supplemental calendar

Day 123 – Friday, May 12, 2023: Last day for House to consider consent HBs on local and consent calendar on 2nd and 3rd reading and all 3rd reading HBs/HJRs on supplemental calendar

Day 128 – (By 9:00 a.m.) – Wednesday, May 17, 2023: Last House local and consent calendar with local HBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)

Day 130 – Friday, May 19, 2023: Last day for House to consider local HBs on local and consent calendar on 2nd and 3rd reading

First day Senate can consider Bills and Resolutions the first day after they are posted on the Notice of Intent

Day 131 – Saturday, May 20, 2023: Last day for House committees to report SBs/SJRs

Day 132 – (By 10:00 p.m.) – Sunday, May 21, 2023: Last House daily calendar with SBs/SJRs must be distributed (36-hour layout)

Day 133 – (By 9:00 a.m.) – Monday, May 22, 2023: Last House local and consent calendar with SBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)

Day 134 – Tuesday, May 23, 2023: Last day for House to consider 2nd reading SBs/SJRs on the daily or supplemental calendar

Day 135 – Wednesday, May 24, 2023:

Last day for House to consider local and consent SBs on 2nd & 3rd reading and all 3rd reading SBs/SJRs on the supplemental calendar

Last day for Senate to consider all Bills and JRs on 2nd and 3rd reading

Day 136 – (Before midnight) – Thursday, May 25, 2023: Senate amendments must be distributed in the House (24-Hour layout)

Day 137 – (Before midnight) – Friday, May 26, 2023:

House copies of the Conference Committee Report on the general appropriations bill must be distributed (48-hour layout)

Last day for House to act on Senate amendments

Senate copies of CCRs on tax, general appropriations, and reapportionment bills must be printed and distributed (48-hour layout)

Day 138 – (Before midnight) – Saturday, May 27, 2023:

House copies of CCRs on bills other than the general appropriations bill must be distributed (24-hour layout)

Senate copies of CCRs on bills other than tax, general appropriations, and reapportionment bills must be printed and distributed (24-hour layout)

Day 139 – Sunday, May 28, 2023:

Last day for House to adopt CCRs or discharge House conferees and concur in Senate amendments

Last day for Senate to concur in House amendments or adopt CCRs

Day 140 – Monday, May 29, 2023: 88th Legislative Session Ends (Sine Die)

**Additional Notes:**

**Abbreviations used above:** HB: House Bill; SB: Senate Bill; HJR: House Joint Resolution; SJR: Senate Joint Resolution; and CCR: Conference Committee Report

The Governor must sign or veto legislation within 10 days of transmittal (excluding Sunday), or it becomes law without his/her signature. For legislation transmitted with less than 10 days in the legislative session, the governor has 20 days after adjournment to act, or the legislation becomes law without being signed.

Successful legislation does not take effect until 90 days after its passage unless passed by a two-thirds majority.

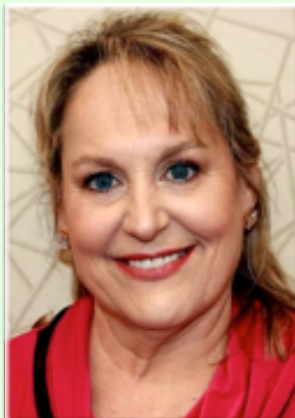
<https://www.texastaxpayers.com/88th-txlege/important-dates-deadlines/>





## By Danielle Faraci, Chair GTRW Caring for America

2022 was a busy year for GTRW's *Caring for America Committee*. We participated in several multifaceted projects and events to include many demographics of Americans. The goal of *Caring for America* is to help as many groups within our community as possible.



### 1 - Caring for Americans Fighting Cancer

After meeting with an American Cancer Society leadership team to assess volunteer needs for the 2022 **Southeast Texas Relay for Life**, GTRW went to work *Caring for Americans Fighting Cancer* on April 29, 2022. Three talented ladies of GTRW opened the event with a performance of the National Anthem (presentation of the flag), while other members volunteered in the Survivors' Tent. There was also a collection taken at our GTRW April 4 meeting, "Cards and Cash for a Cure," to raise funds donated at this event. We also attended many fundraising events hosted by several Relay participants.

### 2 - Caring for Young Americans

In May, GTRW volunteered at the annual **Boys' Haven Crawfish Festival**. Beginning in 1945, Boys' Haven has provided a safe place to live for at-risk boys in Southeast Texas who have experienced various traumas. The Crawfish Fest is their main fundraiser for the year during which members of GTRW sported a newly designed T-shirt so Republican Women could be better identified when sharing our time, talents and treasures!

### 3 - Caring for New Americans

July produces not only patriotic feelings for our beautiful country, but also reminds us of how blessed we are as citizens to be born in these United States of America. One of our GTRW members teaches U.S. citizenship classes, so several GTRW members attended a **Naturalization Ceremony** at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Beaumont. A few other local groups attending brought "Welcome" gifts to distribute to our new American citizens following the ceremony. We so appreciated their gesture that we purchased U.S. flag lapel pins as gifts for new American citizens at the next Naturalization Ceremony we attended on July 27. This Welcome Gift program is tagged *Caring for New Americans*. (Cont'd. on Page 15)



**VOLUNTEER TO HELP**  
GTRW's "CARING FOR AMERICA" GROUP  
**"MAN" THE BEER BOOTH**  
**FOR BOYS' HAVEN**  
SIGN UP FOR A 2-HOUR SHIFT  
SAT, MAY 7 - 10 AM to 6 PM  
BEAUMONT EVENT CENTRE

BOYS' HAVEN'S 37TH ANNUAL  
**CRAWFISH**  
**FOOD & MUSIC**  
**FESTIVAL**  
May 7, 2022  
10am - 6pm  
Event Centre Great Lawn  
700 Crockett St, BMT  
NEW LOCATION



*(Cont'd. from Page 14)*

#### 4 - Caring for Voting Americans

July through November 2022 was high time for supporting our Jefferson County Republican candidates and our Jefferson County Republican Party, with our *Caring for Voting Americans* initiative. We kicked off this project at the Texas State Capitol in Austin during our training on Texas Election Laws. That training was followed by many more trainings hosted by GTRW volunteers, candidates and GTRW associates — and was by far our largest and most influential volunteer program in 2022.

GTRW members and associates put together trainings on Poll Watching, Poll Working and Precinct Chairs. Like soldiers, we block-walked, put out signage and scheduled volunteers to work the phones. Trained volunteers registered many first-time voters in Jefferson County inclusive of diverse communities and rural areas. GTRW members volunteered their homes, rented venues and held meet-and-greets to help our Republican candidates get elected in this Midterm cycle.

Then the big day arrived — Election Day — and we marched out before daylight to all of our polling posts. GTRW “generals” and JCRP leaders tirelessly led our army of volunteers to VICTORY! Jefferson County is now RED.

We are truly a group of people who are *Caring for Voting Americans* and will continue our training, education and love of country into 2023 and beyond. It takes one well-oiled machine, full of passion, energy and creativity — mixed with grit and hard work — to attain Victory. I'm beyond proud to be a part of this team!!

#### 5 - Caring for Senior Americans

Caring for America finished off a fantastic year with a food drive we termed *Caring for Senior Americans*. GTRW collected 350 pounds of food and \$165 in donations for Southeast Texas Food Bank's Senior Program which addresses the nutritional needs of the elderly. SETX Food Bank is a wonderful avenue for alleviating the hunger issues in our local areas.

2023 holds much promise for an exciting year. I hope everyone is ready and willing to do what we at GTRW do best: CARING for our American brothers and sisters!

**Thank You and Thank a Veteran!**

**God Bless All Patriots,**

**Danielle Faraci, Chair  
GTRW Caring for America Committee**



**Join GTRW  
Caring For Senior  
Americans**



**Join GTRW for  
We CAN for Christmas  
Canned goods  
& Donations Collection**





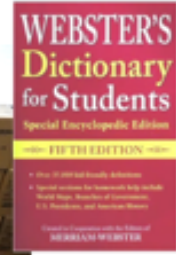
Hundreds of school supplies were generously donated by the Golden Triangle Republican Women's group in August including paper, spirals, glue, pencils, crayons, markers, and much more.



Additionally, BISD has been blessed with a donation of over 1,300 Webster's Dictionary for Students for every Beaumont ISD 3rd grader and their teachers from the Golden Triangle Republican Women's group. The ladies personally delivered dozens of boxes of dictionaries to the BISD Annex in early September.

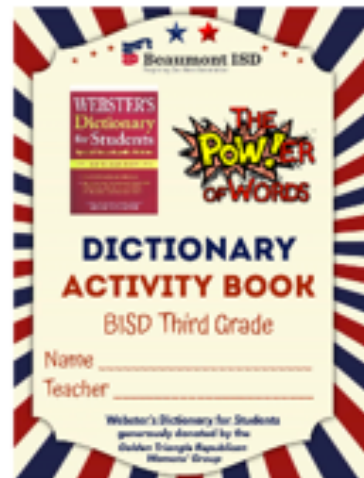


# GTRW'S LITERACY COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED



The dictionary donation is a perfect example of the community supporting our Board Outcome Goals, one of which is to continually increase the number of 3rd graders reading at or above grade level.

To build upon this donation, BISD is creating a Dictionary Activity Packet that every 3rd grader will receive, as well as celebrating National Dictionary Day on October 17. Students will showcase their dictionary skills, create interactive word walls for their classrooms, hold vocabulary parades, contests, and more.



# WEBSTER'S Dictionary for Students

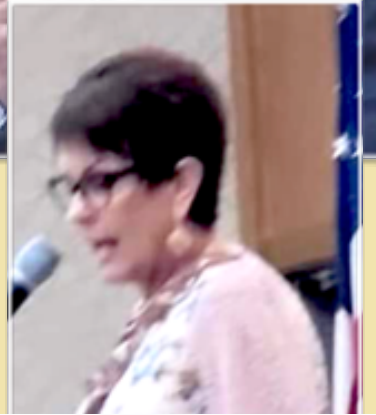
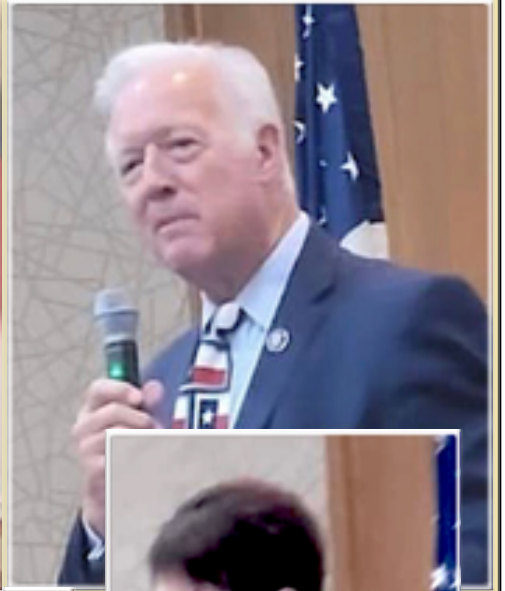
Special Encyclopedic Edition

SIXTH EDITION

- Over 37,000 kid-friendly definitions
- Special sections for homework help include World Maps, Branches of Government, U.S. Presidents, and American History

Created in Cooperation with the Editors of MERRIAM-WEBSTER











***Dear Golden Triangle Republican Women,***

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you and our shared values in the Texas Legislature. I was very excited when parts of Jefferson County were added to Senate District 3 as result of redistricting. You can be sure that with Senator Brandon Creighton and Speaker Dade Phelan also representing Jefferson County, you will be well represented in the 88th Legislative Session.

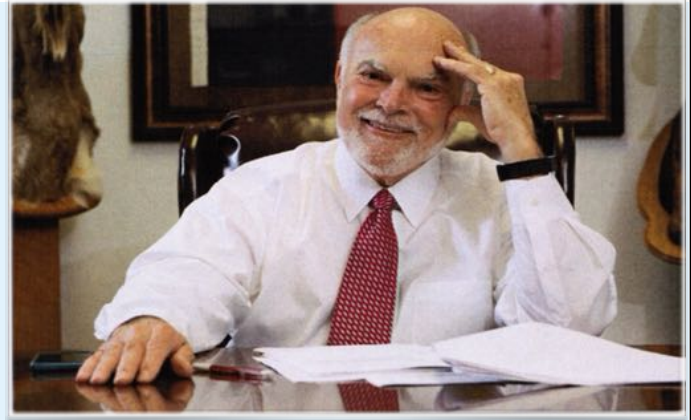
I have always said Republican Women are the “wind in the sails of conservative government.” What you and your membership set your minds to, you go out and achieve. So I’d like to share with you my commitment to work on the following and ask for your input regarding other issues which deserve attention.

1 - Property Taxes. We will enter the 88th Legislative Session with a significant budget surplus due to unprecedented federal stimulus and high inflation driving up the state's sales tax revenues. I will always remember that these are your tax dollars that you worked to earn. I am committed to returning as much as we can through substantial property tax relief. Earlier this year, Texans voted overwhelmingly to increase the school district homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$40,000. I will absolutely support measures to further reduce property taxes.

2 - Border Security and Law Enforcement Officers. Because the federal government is failing to address border security, I also believe Texas should continue to support our law enforcement officers. Texas' investment in border security has now reached nearly \$4.4 billion for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. These funds support the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Military Department, as well as other state agencies and local law enforcement officers through grants.

But there are still thousands of people pouring into Texas every day. Since Governor Greg Abbott launched Operation Lone Star in March of 2021, DPS has seized more than 354 million lethal doses of fentanyl. That's enough to kill every Texan 10 times! These men and women who place their lives on the line deserve our thanks and support.

3 - Election Security. We will also be looking at ways to further secure our elections. I am absolutely thrilled that Governor Abbott has chosen a colleague of mine, Senator Jane Nelson, to be our next Secretary of State. I know she is committed to fair elections with accurate and timely results. She has a lifelong commitment to public service and a deep understanding of state government due to her chairing the Senate Finance Committee for the last seven years. As I said earlier, when Republican Women take on a task, they do it the right way!



One of the highlights of each Legislative Session is when members of the Texas Federation of Republican Women come to the Capitol. As TFRW's largest organization, Golden Triangle Republican Women provides the avenue for so many women in your area to influence policy, develop candidates and elect the leaders of Texas. I thank GTRW for furnishing the structure and support for political activists to learn, engage and flourish. And I look forward to seeing you in Austin February 3rd.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent you in the Texas Senate. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at any time to ask for my assistance. My Capitol office can be reached at (512) 463-0103 or email me at [robert.nichols@senate.texas.gov](mailto:robert.nichols@senate.texas.gov).

***Sincerely,***  
***Senator Robert Nichols***  
***Texas District 3***

**Robert Nichols (R) — 3rd  
Senatorial District of Texas**

[https://www.senate.texas.gov/  
member.php?d=3#Office](https://www.senate.texas.gov/member.php?d=3#Office)

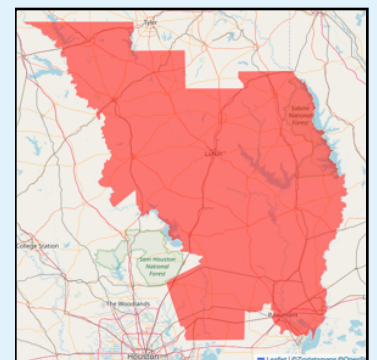
The Honorable Robert  
Nichols  
P. O. Box 12068  
Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

**NICHOLS SETX:**  
769 S. Main Street, Suite 100  
Lumberton, TX 77657

Phone: 512-463-0103

Phone: 409-755-9893  
Fax: 409-755-9899

**Texas Senatorial  
District 3 Border**





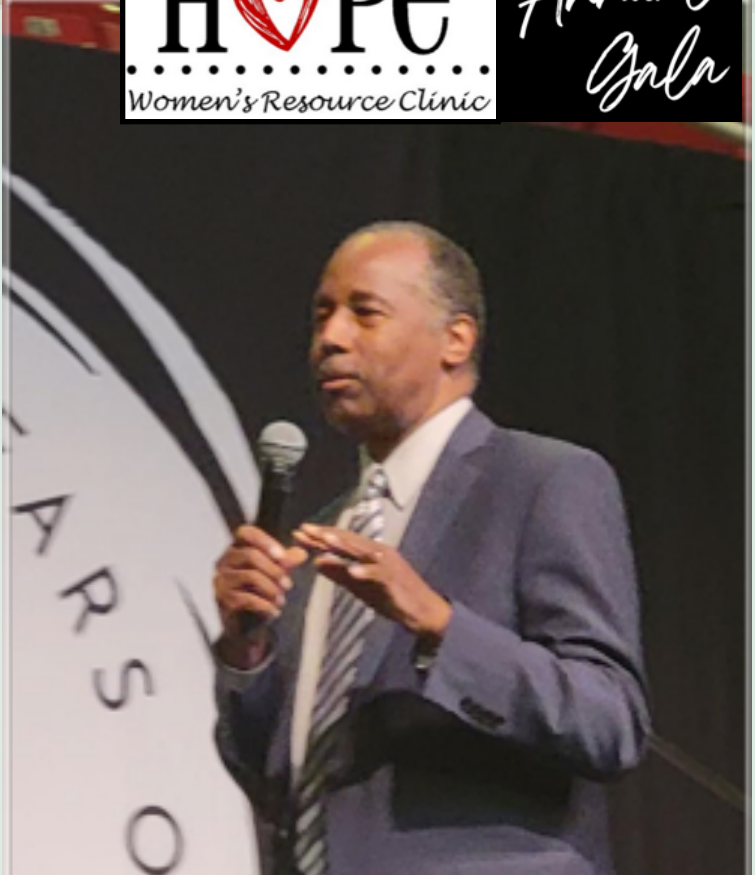


**HOPE** *Annual Gala*  
 Women's Resource Clinic



GTRW'S Literacy Committee celebrated BISD's Dictionary Day, October 17, by visiting two BISD 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms, where they were able to see students and teachers working with the dictionaries we had donated to each student. The students were also using the dictionary activity booklet created by the school district.

The Literacy Committee gave each child a packet of stickers they could use to decorate their dictionary. Students at both schools presented us with large hand-crafted thank you cards to show their appreciation. Literacy Committee members present were Joy Crenshaw, Geraldine Lapham, Marie Maggio and Linda Brown.



HOPE CLINIC GALA, November 15, celebrating 40 years of service to the community, featured Dr. Ben Carson, a pioneer in the field of neurosurgery, 2016 candidate for President of the United States and HUD Secretary, 2017 to 2021.





**FEBRUARY 3, 2023**

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center  
1900 University Ave, Austin, TX, 78705

Republican Women will be recognized  
in House Chamber  
Thursday, February 2 at 10 a.m.  
Gather in Gallery

**Don't wait! We expect this event to sell out!**

*Discounted ticket pricing of \$85 ends on Friday, January 13th.  
Regular registration is \$110 until Friday, January 20th, when  
ticket prices will go up to \$135.*

**Ticket sales end Friday, January 27th.**

**Don't forget to wear your RED! We look forward to seeing you in Austin!**

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO RSVP ONLINE:

<https://www.tfrw.org/event/legislative-day-2023/>











THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!

As we leave 2022 behind and begin a new year,  
I thank each and every GTRW member for all your hard work!

The number of 4th Quarter hours reported for GTRW will be 53,112 —  
AGAIN, a record-breaking number —  
bringing our total for the year 2022 to 212,089.

During this last quarter, we all worked intensely for our candidates and  
the evidence of that hard work and devotion showed up in the results!

The Midterm Elections in Jefferson County are *Proof Positive* that  
when we all get behind a cause, we make it happen!

**AND WE DARE NOT STOP NOW!**  
**LOCAL RACES IN 2023 ARE SO IMPORTANT &**  
**WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!**

— But for now —

Pat yourselves on the back,  
Jefferson County!

**WE DID IT!**

*Linda Nicholas*  
*Campaign Activities Chair*





