



AUG 4 - COAST GUARD DAY

GOLDEN TRIANGLE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

GTRW GAZETTE

VOLUME 15

2nd Quarter 2023

**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
- Linda Sparkman, Recording Secretary
- Janie Farris, Corresponding Secretary
- Mary Wickland, PAC Treasurer
- Lisa Wolf, Chaplain
- Cindy Dishman, Voter Integrity/Immediate Past Pres.
- Evangeline George, Bylaws
- Allison Getz, Parliamentarian
- Louise Williams, Legislative
- Linda Nicholas, Campaign Activities
- Joy Crenshaw, Gerladine Lapham, Literacy
- Lynda Moncla, April Fox, Dee Howard, Decorations
- Marie Maggio, Barbara Shipper, Awards
- Stephanie Figari, Photographer
- Kim Huber, Photographer/Video/Special Events
- Ann Jones, Americanism/Community Involvement
- Danielle Faraci, Caring for America
- Marsha Morgan, Media/IT
- Mary Monroe, Greeter
- Patricia Duhon, Diana Licatino, Directory
- Theone Bradley, Newsletter
- Lajaunda Williams, Reservations/Hospitality

GTRW.mail@gmail.com 409-748-0013
(Please Text or call and leave a message)



Website:
gtrepublicanwomen.org

CALENDAR

- August 4 - Coast Guard Day-Fly U.S. Flag 
- August 7 - GTRW Luncheon Meeting
Speaker: Secty of State Jane Nelson
- August 28 - GTRW Executive Comm Meeting
- Sept 4 - Labor Day - Fly U.S. Flag 
- Sept 8 - Leadership Conference
- Sept 11 - GTRW Luncheon Meeting
Patriot Day - Fly U.S. Flag Half-Staff 
- Sept 16 - Texian Navy Day - Fly TX Flag
Rosh Hashanah 
- Sept 17 - Constitution Day - Fly U.S. Flag 
- Sept 18 - GTRW Executive Comm Meeting
- Sept 24 - Gold Star Mother's Day
Fly U.S. Flag 
- October 2 - GTRW Luncheon Meeting
Battle of Gonzales - Fly TX Flag 
- October 9 - Columbus Day/Indigenous
People's Day - Fly U.S. Flag 
- October 12 - TFRW Convention
- October 23 - GTRW Executive Comm Meeting
- October 27 - JCRP Lincoln-Reagan Dinner

**MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023
11:15 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.
ELEGANTE' HOTEL BALLROOM
BEAUMONT, TEXAS**

Featuring:

**JANE NELSON
TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE
"ELECTION INTEGRITY"**

Our meeting begins promptly at 11:30, so please check in and be seated at your table by that time

- R** Due Sunday, July 30, 6 p.m.
- S** Online @ <https://gtrepublicanwomen.org/event/august-7-luncheon-secretary-of-state-jane-nelson/>
- V**
- P** Checks must arrive by Monday, July 31:
GTRW, P.O. Box 12902, Beaumont, TX 77726

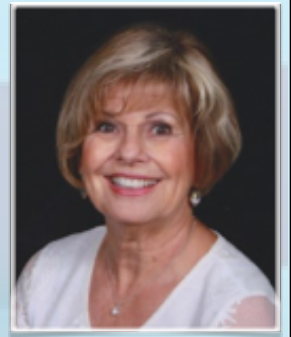
PLEASE Fill Out Your 2023 Membership Applications while you're on our website!

ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO JOIN GTRW!

Dear GTRW MEMBERS,

We can all agree that the last twelve months have been a busy and successful year for GTRW!

Our Executive Committees and GTRW members have done a fabulous job of planning and executing activities that have served our community well. We have (1) walked for the Cancer Society; (2) served crawfish for Boys Haven; (3) supplied flags, Flag Team vests, dictionaries and school supplies for BISD; and (4) helped special needs children for YMBL. Last, but not least, we helped turn Jefferson County RED! Voter Integrity Chair Cindy Dishman and her sidekick Stephanie Figari, along with many volunteers, proved that, *with hard work and determination, a county can conduct fair elections utilizing proper preparation and training.*



At our August luncheon, we will be selecting a committee who will nominate some of our fellow GTRW members to serve on our 2024-2025 Executive Committee. This is a monumental job! A select group of ladies with strong leadership qualities will be offered by the Nominating Committee in October and then voted on by membership at our November meeting. If you are interested in serving on GTRW's Executive Committee, please notify one of the Nominating Committee members. We need your TALENT! Please note that additional nominations for GTRW's Executive Committee will be accepted from the floor at our November meeting with prior consent of each nominee.

To help better prepare our GTRW leaders and members, 25 ladies will be traveling to the TFRW Convention held in Irving, Texas this October. The convention will be an electrifying experience which will propel us into 2024 with renewed energy and enthusiasm. We will be competing for awards in Americanism, Caring for America, Campaign Activities, Newsletter and Membership. Hopefully, we will bring home some trophies, awards and many special memories.

A huge shout out to my Executive Committee leaders and members who worked so hard to perfect GTRW. Because of their dedication to our club, we were able to submit applications for both State and National awards. Never did I imagine we would ever compete for National Awards! Not only were we able to compete, but we received confirmation that GTRW won the Diamond Award, which is comparable to the Achievement Award for TFRW, but with greater requirements. This success is largely due to the work of Barbara Shipper. Additionally, Danielle Faraci has submitted our Caring for America book in hopes of receiving recognition at NFRW's 42nd Biennial Convention in September.

For curiosity's sake, I contacted NFRW to see if we rank nationally in membership and . . . YES, WE DO! We currently rank THIRD in the nation! Elaine Henderson, you are spectacular, and I thank you for all your exceptional work to expand our membership.

It is my highest hope that we will be as successful in our last two quarters of this year as we have been in the first two. Wishing our club the greatest success at the TFRW convention in October!



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

Linda Brown

GTRW President



GTRW'S APRIL SPEAKER:

**EVA GUZMAN,
FORMER JUSTICE OF
TEXAS SUPREME COURT**

MONDAY, APRIL 3 - 11:15 AM
Elegante' Hotel Ballroom
Beaumont

**RSVPs DUE SUNDAY,
MARCH 26, 6 PM**

gtrepublicanwomen.org/speaker/







JOIN US IN PROMOTING
ELECTIONS & ELECTION INTEGRITY
WITH
**JANE NELSON, TEXAS
SECRETARY OF STATE**

JANE NELSON was appointed the 115th Texas Secretary of State by Governor Greg Abbott on January 5, 2023.

Secretary Nelson is a businesswoman and former teacher who served two terms on the State Board of Education and then, in 1992, began her service of 30 years as a State Senator representing North Texas.

The first woman in Texas legislative history to chair a standing budget-writing committee, Secretary Nelson was Chair of the Senate Finance Committee for four sessions. She was a member of the Senate State Affairs Committee, which oversees election policy, for eight sessions. She served as chair of the Sunset Advisory Commission, the Nominations Committee, the Select Committee on Cybersecurity and the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. She was also a member of the Legislative Budget Board, the Legislative Audit Committee and the Privacy Protection Advisory Council.

In addition to writing four balanced state budgets, Secretary Nelson has a long list of accomplishments, including establishing the Cancer Research & Prevention Institute of Texas (CPRIT), reforming medical liability, achieving tax relief, overhauling the foster care system, expanding access to mental health care, and passing over 30 bills to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Her work has been recognized with dozens of awards, including from the American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, Texas Association of Business, Texas Council on Family Violence, CASA, Texas Hospital Association, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Texas PTA, Texas Retired Teachers Association, the Women's Health Coalition and many others. She has a 100% voting record in support of Texas small businesses.

As Secretary of State, Nelson serves as chief election officer for Texas. The Office of the Secretary of State publishes government rules and regulations and commissions notaries. She is keeper of the state seal and attester to the governor's signature on official documents.

Secretary Nelson and her husband, J. Michael Nelson, owned and operated an aircraft component manufacturing company in Denton County. They have five children and 12 grandchildren.





CLUB UPDATES



THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE - June 22, 2023

By Louise Williams, GTRW Legislative Chair

The 88th session of the Texas Legislature opened January 10th and ended May 29. Since Governor Abbott did not feel our lawmakers had accomplished everything leadership desired in the first session, Governor Abbott has already called for a special session.

The Special Session is focusing on three issues:

1. School choice and the creation of vouchers for students who are in failing schools;
2. Property tax relief; and
3. Shoring up our Border Security.



Seventeen billion dollars has been set aside for tax relief, but there is disagreement on how to spend it. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick wants most of the relief to go to homeowners, but Governor Abbott and House Speaker Dade Phelan want relief to be spread among landowners, businesses AND homeowners.

As to Border Security, the legislators have passed bills that tinker around the edges, but more can be done. HB 7, which deals with the border, passed the House. Currently, the Senate is looking to resolve their differences with the House version so the bill can proceed to final passage.

As to successes of the first session, there are many. First, a State Budget of \$321 billion was passed and the following matters were addressed:

Election Integrity

1. Our lawmakers passed the Alan Vera Memorial Bill which eliminates the Electronic Voter Registration Center called ERIC. ERIC is a controversial voter roll interstate cross-check program that is vulnerable to issues of voter security. Many red states withdrew from ERIC when they discovered the program could not be trusted. Texas will now set up its own voter data center that will clean up Texas voter rolls. (FYI Alan Vera spoke to GTRW August 2022 and passed away May 4, 2023 at the Texas Capitol).

2. A law was passed to increase punishment for illegal voting from a misdemeanor to a felony.

3. Lawmakers authorized the Secretary of State to conduct random election audits in smaller counties with recurring problems.

4. Legislators voted to abolish the county elections administrator position in certain counties. Harris County is one of those as Houston's 2022 election last fall presented major problems. For example, Harris County ran out of ballot paper in 119 precincts that lean Republican. The elections will now be returned to the Harris County Clerk and the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector.

(Cont'd. on Page 9)

(Cont'd. from Page 8)

Gun Rights

Banks and other financial institutions are banned from coding and reporting firearms and ammunition purchases unless it's part of a criminal investigation or prosecution.

This protects Texans from violation of our Second Amendment rights.

Culture

1. SB 12 criminalizes performers who conduct sexually explicit shows (drag shows) in the presence of children as well as any businesses that host them.
2. No longer will transgendered men participate in women's Texas college sports.
3. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) has been banned in Texas public colleges. DEI offices, programs and training will be eliminated. All hiring practices must be color-blind and sex-neutral. Governing boards must adopt policies to discipline employees who violate these rules. University leaders cannot spend state money until they have declared to the state they are in compliance with the new law. They have six months to comply. Texas is the second state after Florida to pass such a law.
4. Sexually explicit books will be prohibited in Texas public school libraries. This will need to be continually monitored.
5. Puberty blockers and hormone treatments for children up to age 18 have been banned in Texas.

Miscellaneous

1. Pertaining to public safety, an armed person will be required at every public school campus. Also, every public school classroom must contain a silent alarm. The bill to require the age of buyers of semi-automatic shotguns be raised from age 18 to age 21 did not pass.
2. People who sell fentanyl can be charged with murder if a death occurs.
3. Retired teachers 75 and older will receive a 13th check of \$7500 and retired teachers ages 70-74 will receive \$2000. A cost of living increase (COLA) in tiers of 2%, 4% and 6% will be put to the voters in November.
4. Two billion dollars has been allocated to increase the water supply and reduce flooding. Broadband has been expanded. Measures have been taken to strengthen the grid, but more can be done.

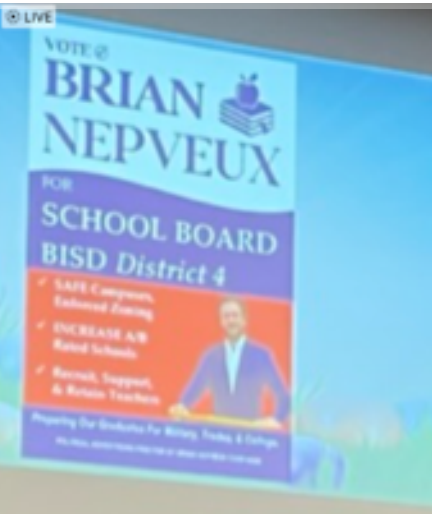
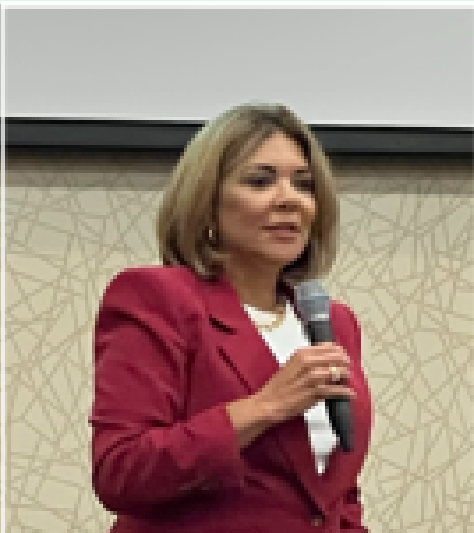
Keep in mind that thousands of bills have been written and just a portion of that number passed the legislature. This report includes a very small part of the bills that have been sent to the Governor which he will either sign or veto.

Our lawmakers have worked diligently these past six months to improve our way of life in Texas, and it is a big reason so many citizens from other states have decided to join US.

***Respectfully submitted,
Louise Williams, Legislative Chairman***

The Texas legislators of Southeast Texas are:

Senator Robert Nichols, District 3	(512) 463-0103
Senator Brandon Creighton, District 4	(512) 463-0104
House Speaker Dade Phelan, District 21	(512) 463-1000





It's Randy Weber here! I wanted to share some important information with y'all about the future of our country.

In Congress, I fight to uphold our Republican Party's principles and conservative values, and one of the most fundamental things that our party believes in is the **Rule of Law**. Over the past several years, we've seen a disturbing trend with the Democratic Party and their allies in the federal government **using our institutions of justice** — like the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), **which are sworn to uphold and fairly implement justice — to go after political opponents unfairly.**

And this year, Merrick Garland and the DOJ have set a dangerous precedent: If you are an “opponent” of a sitting Democratic President, they will do everything in their power to put you behind bars. But if you are the son of a sitting Democratic President, you'll get a slap on the wrist and a plea deal so you avoid doing time.

We've all seen the images back in the Spring of Donald Trump being led into a courthouse in Manhattan at the behest of a liberal District Attorney who campaigned on “getting Trump” with the help of George Soros' endless pockets. And now we've seen Donald Trump in Miami having his house raided as if it were an episode of “Cops.”

Do you think they would have thrown all of these indictments at him if he weren't running for office again . . . ?

All the while, Hunter Biden — a man with multiple allegations of accepting bribes and kickbacks from foreign countries while his father was a senator and now President — gets to commit every crime in the book and still manages to avoid jail time. These are the kinds of things that happen in banana republics — NOT a country like ours, where justice is supposed to be blind and applied fairly for all.

You've probably heard about the concept of a two-tiered system of justice: Where (1) the political elites — and those who can pay themselves off and have connections — have the power to avoid criminal prosecution; and where (2) regular Americans with conservative convictions, who do not have those luxuries, are at the complete mercy of the system. I'm here to tell you that it's not a conspiracy . . .

From (a) parents standing up for the education of their children being labeled “domestic terrorists”;
(b) Catholic schools who stand up **for life** being



Congressman Randy Weber and wife, Brenda

threatened with the removal of their funding; to (c) conservative organizations being held at the mercy of the IRS; and so much more. We see examples of this two-tiered system of justice time and time again, and it must be stopped for the sake of our republic.

If they can weaponize and politicize justice like this, what is stopping them from coming after Americans like you and me who reject the erosion of our civil liberties and believe in conservative principles?

Double standards are NOT the kind of justice our institutions are sworn to uphold. Thankfully, I have great allies here in Southeast Texas (like Congressman Brian Babin, District 36) who still believe in the Constitution as I do and are ready to hold these agencies accountable to their commitments to law and the public.

It won't be an easy fight, but I am dedicated to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives and with the Golden Triangle Republican Women to turn the tides. And I'd love to have you on board to help in this battle!

Strong women have always been the backbone of the Republican Party and it's time to stand up again! I trust that the Golden Triangle Republican Women will continue to answer this call!

Randy Weber
Texas Congressman, District 14

CLUB UPDATES



GTRW MEMBERS CONTINUE TO AMAZE ME!

As of June 30th, we had 390 Primary Members, 96 Associate Members, and 2 Affiliate Members. We are on track to meet our goal of over 425 Primary Members and a total of all members over 530 by August 13th.

We are currently ranked #1 in Membership in Texas and #3 in the Nation!

A big THANK YOU for everyone who helped us work toward meeting our goal this year.

Memberships are still being accepted. You can have your family and friends go to our wonderful new website and join online.

www.gtrepublicanwomen.org and click on "Membership."



Elaine Henderson
GTRW Membership Chair

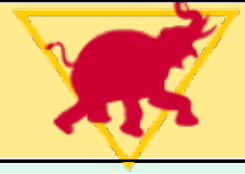
GTRW LITERACY COMMITTEE WORKED WITH BEAUMONT ISD TO PROVIDE NEW, HIGH QUALITY FLAGS FOR EVERY SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT.



Geraldine Lapham, Jenny Angelo, Dr. Charisma Popillion, Joy Crenshaw and BISD School Board Member Joe Evans welcomed the Flag Team from Homer Drive Elementary School to the April GTRW monthly luncheon.

These students gave a special presentation about their responsibilities, and it was heart-warming to hear each student's story of how they earned the right to be part of the Flag Team for their school.

CLUB UPDATES



Brenda Gail Weber



**Elaine
Henderson
GTRW
Membership
Chair**

"April showers bring May Members"



The
Golden Triangle
Republican
Women

Invite you to a Special Chat
For all Orange County Republican Women
Thursday April 6th 5:30 to 7:30
Tequila's Mexican Restaurant 1085 Texas Ave, Bridge City,
Special Speaker - Brenda Gail Weber
RSVP Required - Text Name and Number attending to Elaine 409-656-5724






Congratulations!

Congratulations!

Golden Triangle Republican Women:

YOU ARE AMAZING!

2ND QUARTER 2023 HOURS WERE 62,109!

EVEN LARGER than the LAST QUARTER of 2022 when we won the award for Most Hours by a Super Club with 53,112 Hours!

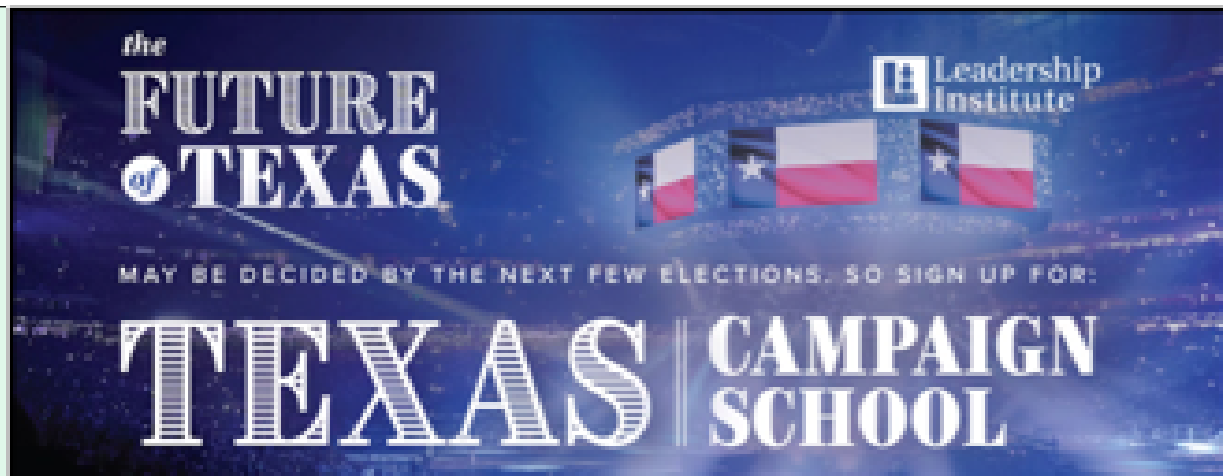
LOCAL RACES IN 2023 WERE SO IMPORTANT AND GTRW MEMBERS RIGHTLY IDENTIFIED THE AMOUNT OF WORK NEEDED TO WIN THOSE ELECTIONS.

WE MADE 26,738 POLITICAL/CAMPAIGN CALLS IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND MET OUR GOALS!

**TOGETHER,
We CAN Do It
again and again!**

*Linda Nicholas
Campaign Activities
Chair*





Have you thought about running for office or helping a campaign, but don't know where to start?

The Campaign School helps current and prospective candidates, as well as their teams and volunteers, identify the steps required to run a successful campaign.

Ideal attendees for Campaign School are individuals who are looking to become more politically active. Candidates, spouses, campaign staff, activists and volunteers should attend.

ATTENDEES WILL LEARN HOW TO:

- Structure a campaign and organize staff
- Raise funds
- Develop a winning message

SPONSORED BY GOLDEN TRIANGLE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

**Led by Cat Parks at
Rockin' A Cafe
3520 W. Cardinal Dr
Beaumont, TX**

**Get Your Seat at LI's
Texas Campaign School Today!**

<https://www.litraining.org/texas>

September 8, 2023

8:15 AM - 4:45 PM

Light Breakfast & Lunch Included



Training Conservatives Since 1979

Leadership Institute

Texas Campaign School

I am so excited to see GTRW bring the Leadership Institute to Southeast Texas!

In the early 1990's, I was able to attend a week-long Leadership Institute campaign school which helped dethrone a Democrat and later allowed me to spearhead my husband David's campaign for the Texas State Board of Education. David had the privilege of serving District 7 families and students in that volunteer position for 22 years, first elected in 1996 and ending in 2018.

We are so happy that Julie Pickren now serves District 7 in that role.

Theone Bradley, GTRW Newsletter





A Message from Speaker Dade Phelan

Dear Friends and Fellow Southeast Texans,

As your State Representative, I want to take the opportunity to share with you the incredible conservative successes we achieved during the legislative session. Together, we have fought tirelessly to defend our values and protect the future of the great State of Texas. Let us take a moment to celebrate these victories that shape the foundation of our conservative vision!

Fighting the Woke Agenda - First, we made historic strides to fight the woke agenda and protect Texas children. The Texas Legislature passed bills to prohibit gender mutilation surgeries on minors and preserve the integrity and fairness of girls' sports.

We also passed bills banning pornographic materials from public school prohibiting drag shows in front of children, banning "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" (DEI) offices at institutions of higher education, and empowering parents with more control over their children's social media activity.

Securing the Border - Where Joe Biden and the federal government have faltered, Texas has risen to the challenge of securing our border. The Texas House allocated a record-breaking \$5.1 billion for border security, completing the wall and supporting our dedicated troopers who have risked life and limb to protect our state from transnational crime. By designating Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations and prosecuting fentanyl deaths as murder, we took decisive action to combat the drug crisis and protect our communities.

Property Taxes - In line with our shared conservative principles, the Legislature passed a fiscally responsible budget that remains below all constitutional spending limits. Most significantly, we dedicated a remarkable \$18 billion to property tax relief – the largest state property tax cut in American history. On July 10th, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and I were proud to announce the House and Senate had come to a consensus on property tax legislation. The agreement we made includes \$12 billion to buy down property taxes statewide, a \$100,000 homestead exemption, and a 3-year pilot program to limit appraisal increases of non-homestead properties valued at \$5 million and under to 20 percent. Because property tax relief is not a "one and done" issue, I established a new committee to identify long-term solutions to cut property taxes further and consider the possibility of eliminating them altogether.

Local Issues - In addition to these "big ticket" items, there were several bills passed that will greatly benefit House District 21. As with all my sessions as your State Representative, I fought for increased funding for flood control and mitigation projects, increased funding to support improvement projects for our coastal ports, secured tuition reductions and millions of dollars in funding for higher education (which has had and will continue to have positive impacts on Lamar University and Lamar State Colleges), and provided the necessary funding for Beaumont Baptist Hospital to build the first mental health hospital in Southeast Texas. To further expand access to healthcare in HD 21, I am continuing to work with our leaders in D.C. to obtain the resources necessary to build a new VA health facility in our area and believe we are very close to making that a reality.

There is much to be proud of this legislative session. None of this would be possible without your advocacy to advance conservative causes, and I am so grateful to represent the amazing, hardworking women of GTRW in Austin.

I hope you will continue to stay involved as we once again embark on a statewide effort to protect our conservative majority in the Texas House and prepare for Governor Abbott to call us back into a special session on other matters later this year. **Onward!**

Contact: 409-745-2777
512-463-1000

Dade Phelan
District 21 State Representative





GTRW'S MAY SPEAKER:

MAYRA FLORES
 FORMER
 U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN
 TEXAS DISTRICT 34

MONDAY, MAY 1 - 11:15 AM
Elegante' Hotel Ballroom
 Beaumont

RSVPs DUE SUNDAY,
APR 23, 6 PM

