



BRW NEWS

Senate District 17

Quarterly Newsletter

TFRW Region XVIII

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Diane Rinn, President



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Left: Dr. Shayne Green speaks at the ARW/BRW Christmas Social (see related story on pages 7-8)

Happy Birthday USA

By Linda Kellogg BRW Chaplain



Have you wondered why July 4, 1776, is America's birthday? The first blood of the Revolution was spilled 15 months before on April 19, 1775, followed by six grueling years of war until Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington on September 3, 1783. But the day 56 patriots signed their names to the Declaration of Independence was a day that changed the world.

From across the 13 original colonies these amazing men traveled to Philadelphia and met together for the first time September, 1774, forming the 1st Continental Congress, where they prayed and did their best to plan a war against the largest empire in the world. The men barely knew each other but they all held “these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,” and they needed a government without a king or a Parliament that was across the ocean to help procure those rights. History shows the signatures would bring terrible sacrifices to them.

Of the signers, 19 put on a military uniform and went to war, two died at the hands of the British, two were wounded in battle, five were prisoners of war, 17 lost their estates or fortunes, five incurred heavy debt by personally financing the war, 14 lost their families or were separated from them, two lost children, and three lost their wives. There is not a single recorded instance of any of the 56 refusing to deliver on his promise. Securing independence truly was costly for the signers.¹ These were men of integrity as well as courage and wisdom. Their actions actually matched their words; they sacrificed all in order to achieve the goals they had set forth in the Declaration, where they had signed under the famous words, “And for the support of this Declaration with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

John Adams penned, “Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make a good use of it! If you do not, I shall repent it in Heaven that I ever took half the pains to preserve it.”²

The birth of the United States was a petition to God for a miracle. The courage, sacrifice, resolve, and integrity of these first American citizens was extremely tested. John Adams predicted that July 4th would be celebrated for years to come. He might be shaking his heavenly head in wonder and praise as the United States of America celebrates its 250th birthday. Happy birthday to US!



¹The Founders' Bible, p.755

²Ibid

BRW Member Highlight:

Debbie Luquette



In this issue, we highlight Debbie Luquette. Like many of our members, Debbie is a very busy woman in her family life, her church and in the community. Please get to know Debbie, in her own words:

1. Where were you born? Austin, Texas.

2. Where have you lived most of your life? Houston, Texas

3. What was/is your favorite job? My most favorite job is being a "Gram".

I truly enjoy spending time with my grandchildren: Rhett, 3 years old and Renee, 8 months old. Renee is my middle name, so sweet Renee is named after me and I can't be more proud!

4. What are your hobbies? I love clocks. The more sound they make, the more I like them. I can honestly say that my clocks drive my family and friends crazy. Most of our rooms have at least two clocks in them, so if I am on the phone with you and it is the top of the hour, you may hear several of them ringing. Besides clocks, my other passion is collecting nativity statues and scenes. I have over 35 beautiful nativity statues so finding room at Christmas is a challenge, but one I am up for.

5. Please tell us about your involvement in the community and current leadership roles. Service has always been important to me. Through the years in Houston, I volunteered as my daughter's room mother, Girl Scout leader, President of the PTA, softball team mother, on my Church Pastoral Council and other church organizations, and as an election clerk. Currently, I am the secretary of the Brazosport Junior Service League and its Liaison for Junior Achievement. I am also volunteer at the Charity Guild of Catholic Women in Houston, serve on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, work as a Brazoria County election clerk, and work in my church office. I also volunteer in other church-related organizations.

6. How long have you been a member of BRW? I joined BRW after we moved to Lake Jackson in late 2021.



L-R Patton, Rhett, Rachel & Renee Ritter, Debbie & John Luquette.



Proud "Gram" with Renee



Debbie with Ariel Lara at a Brazosport Junior Service League event



John & Debbie Luquette

Recent Events: ARW/BRW Christmas Social

By: Diane Rinn, Contributing Writer



Diane Rinn introduces BRW officers at the ARW/BRW Christmas Social.

If you missed the 2025 ARW/BRW Christmas Social, you missed a beautiful day and possibly the biggest Christmas crowd ARW has hosted. Each year Brazosport and Angleton Republican Women take turns hosting, depending on who is installing officers for the coming two years. This year, ARW welcomed guests in the GOP barn in Angleton. Elizabeth Day, Brazoria County Appraisal Board member, swore in their 2026-2027 officers: Anita Bargas, President; Mirtha Neill, Vice President-Programs; Velma Perry, Vice President-Membership; Cindy Cardona, Secretary; and Judy Shaefer, Treasurer. Congratulations to each one!

After introducing BRW officers, President Diane Rinn discussed the February 1 Candidate Forum. Several candidates spoke and Dr. Shayne Green, Brazoria County GOP Chair, noted that a Democrat candidate is running in almost every County ballot position this November using George Soros' money here and throughout Texas. He urged all to attend the precinct convention on March 7, senatorial convention on March 28, and state convention in Houston, June 11-13. The party ended on a high note when he hinted who might be our keynote speaker for the February 14 Lincoln Reagan Dinner. (Spoiler alert: Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick!—who is sure to renew our enthusiasm and refresh our budget for the 2026 campaign.)



The GOP party barn was full of guests for the ARW/BRW Christmas Social.



Becky Green, SREC-SD 17 speaks to a packed crowd in Angleton.



Elizabeth Day swears in new ARW officers.

Tribute to Veterans

By: Cindy White, Contributing Writer

On November 16, 2025, a celebration of veterans was held at the Doris Williams Civic Center. The event began with the National Anthem, sung by military mom and BRW member, Kacey Roman. Louis Ciaccio, Jr., a Vietnam veteran and BRW Associate Member, led the United States Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Texas Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Stroschein, US Navy Captain-Retired, also a BRW Associate Member. Marv Amerine created an outstanding slide show presentation of the family members of BRW members who have served in the military.



Ariel Lara, Board Secretary of The Warrior's Refuge, then introduced the Key Note Speaker, Robert Heckler, Executive Director of The Warrior's Refuge. The Warrior's Refuge is a Veteran 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was founded in 2019 whose commitment is to end veteran homelessness. Warrior's Refuge has a 60-bed transitional housing facility in West Columbia, Texas.

One of the highlights of the event was the recognition of Sonya Broadway, who recently retired as the Veterans Services Director of Brazoria County. God bless our veterans! God bless America!



Robert Heckler
Exec Dir-Warrior's Refuge.



Louis Ciaccio, Jr. leads the US
Pledge of Allegiance.



Sonya Broadway accepts an
award of appreciation.



Tom Stroschein leads the Texas
Pledge of Allegiance.



BRW President, Diane Rinn
addresses the audience.



L-R: Reagan Madill, Robert
Heckler, Sonya Broadway & Ariel
Lara

BRW / ARW Candidate Forum

Past and Present

By Gayla Baker, First VP-Programs

In 2009, President of Brazosport Republican Women's Club, Gayla Baker, had an idea for a candidate forum allowing local voters the opportunity to see and hear some of the candidates appearing on the primary ballot that spring. The public would be invited to attend, with no charge to the voter. The plan was presented to the BRW members and the forum was born. The Angleton Republican Women were invited to work with BRW with this new undertaking. As a result, the BRW and ARW co-sponsored that first forum, January 30, 2010, and each one since.

In 2012, the second forum was held and the ten candidates that were invited to participate were vying for the congressional seat that Ron Paul had announced he would no longer seek. Among these candidates was Randy Weber. This forum, like the first one, was different in how they are now conducted. A panel was chosen from the two clubs with the responsibility of asking the candidates questions. The questions came from club members and the voting public in attendance. An article in the February 3, 2012 BRW Newsletter reported the candidates were each given four minutes to speak followed by the question-and-answer period. The last question allowed them to state or repeat their qualifications.

Questions were not so different from the concerns that are being voiced today: border security, eminent domain, regulations being enforced with not enough or no congressional oversight, and supporting a balance budget including line-item veto. Other areas of questions addressed the Port of Freeport and Obamacare. All the candidates agreed they would like to eliminate the Department of Education among others.

The 2012 master of ceremonies was Judge Jeremy Warren. Club members that were recognized for their help included Deanne and Marv Amerine, Linda Kellogg, Shayne and Becky Green, Jorene Aycock and Mary Kathryn Pickle, as well as those members who are no longer with us: Jane Watson, Georgia Crosley and of course, Yvonne Dewey.

Starting in 2014, questions were no longer part of the program. More candidates were invited and each given 3 minutes to speak. Since 2010, the voting public has had the opportunity to become more informed by personally meeting and hearing from more than 250 candidates and elected officials by attending the forums that BRW and ARW have sponsored. The forums have been successful in achieving the goals of providing the voters an opportunity to see and hear those that they vote to elect to serve our citizens.



Your Elected Official: Dr. Shayne Green

Brazoria County Republican Party Chair

*Each quarter, an elected official is highlighted in BRW News. **Dr. Shayne Green** was born at Fort Stewart, Georgia, during his father's service in the United States Army, and was raised in Mayfield, Kentucky. He is a graduate of Murray State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, and the University of Alabama, where he earned a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry. With more than 36 years at The Dow Chemical Company, Shayne currently serves as an R&D Fellow and holds two patents.*

Shayne has been married to his wife, Becky, for 43 years. They consider their greatest accomplishment raising their two sons, both of whom are successful, employed Christian conservatives. He is the proud grandfather of June and Penny Green.

Shayne became Precinct 30 Chair of the Brazoria County Republican Party after the long-time chair retired and was later appointed Treasurer of the BCRP PAC by former Chairman Yvonne Dewey. In May 2019, Shayne was elected Chairman of the Brazoria County Republican Party following Mrs. Dewey's resignation. Under his leadership, the BCRP raised and spent a record-breaking \$300,000 during the 2020 election cycle, helping elect Republicans to offices through Brazoria County

In addition, Shayne founded the Brazos River Republican Club to expand donor engagement and established the Brazoria County Republican Voter's Guide, which is mailed to Republican voters across the county. His most recent initiative is the creation of an election integrity task force to help ensure that Brazoria County elections remain fair, transparent, and accurate.

The following message, written by Shayne, provides the current state of the Republican Party in Brazoria County. Also included are the challenges faced by the party and how to overcome them.



Shayne Green speaks at the 2024 Lincoln Reagan Day Dinner.

Brazoria County's elected offices have been solidly Republican for over a decade, but that success cannot be taken for granted. Every election matters, and the 2026 election cycle will be no exception. Our county is changing, with a steady influx of new residents from Houston, particularly visible along the SH 288 corridor. These demographic shifts make strong conservative turnout more important than ever.

When a party holds power, complacency becomes its greatest threat. History shows this clearly in midterm elections, where low turnout often leads to unnecessary losses. We've seen the consequences firsthand across the country. In Virginia's November election, more than 600,000 voters who supported President Trump in 2024 did not turn out, contributing to disappointing results. That same risk exists here in Brazoria County if we fail to stay engaged.

The Republican Primary Election will be held on **March 3**. Once the Primary results are in, it is critical that we unite behind our nominees and work together to secure victories in the **November 3 General Election**. Unity and turnout will determine our success. Meanwhile, nationally funded Democrats backed by major donors such as George Soros are investing heavily in local races. Yes, George Soros' political action committee (PAC) is supporting Democrats in Brazoria county. Nearly every Democrat on the ballot supports policies that would raise taxes, expand government and subsidies, allow biological males to compete in girls' sports and use girls' restrooms, and make abortion more accessible. Democrat beliefs are out of step with Brazoria County values.



Democrats are organizing aggressively at the local level. Beto O'Rourke's upcoming visit to Pearland later this month underscores their determination to compete in our county. They are working to win, and we must work even harder to stop them.

President Trump has accomplished a great deal in his first year, but that progress will stall if Democrats regain control of Congress. The path forward is clear: support the Brazoria County Republican Party, support our Republican candidates on the November ballot, and get involved at every level.

The stakes are high. Victory depends on participation, commitment, and unity. Together, we can **Keep Brazoria County Red**.

[For more information about Brazoria County Republican Party and how to get involved go to: <https://brazoriagop.org/>]



TFRW Tidbits: Policies on Candidates

By: *Tiffany Miller, VP Bylaws*
TFRW Today, Oct. 2025



Rules for Hosting Candidates During Primaries, Run-Offs and Special Elections

The Candidate Fairness Rule is often an issue for clubs. TFRW Bylaws:

ARTICLE III – POLICY, Section 5. Candidate Fairness: “After the end of the candidate filing period for any office and ending the day after the final election for that office, it is the policy of TFRW that all Republican candidates for that office shall be treated fairly and equitably. When one Republican candidate for an office is invited to speak at a Federation or local club meeting, then all Republican candidates for that office shall be offered equal presentation time at the same meeting or another meeting before the election.”

When following this policy, it is the club’s responsibility to know the candidate filing deadline and election completion date for the relevant election.

Another area of concern is endorsements. **ARTICLE III – POLICY, Section 1. Candidate Endorsement:** “The President of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, the Vice President-Political Activities, all other currently elected TFRW officers and local federated clubs, their Presidents and Political/Campaign Activities Chairs shall not publicly endorse any candidate for public office in contested Republican Primaries, Runoff Elections, Special Elections and/or non-partisan elections when more than one Republican is in the race. No candidate shall use the TFRW logo in any political advertising, and any political advertising shall contain the following disclaimer: “This endorsement is given by the individual(s) only, NOT the Texas Federation of Republican Women.”

Both policies are incorporated in the Federated Club Bylaws for all local clubs. Understanding them can prevent issues with candidates and within the club.

For Federal Candidates, please see pages 25 and 26 of the Leadership Handbook found on our website, www.tfrw.org.





Primary Election Day is March 3

For a Braz Cty March 3
Primary Ballot go to:
[https://brazoriagop.org/
BALLOT-
CERTIFICATION-
REPORT-REV.pdf](https://brazoriagop.org/BALLOT-CERTIFICATION-REPORT-REV.pdf)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: JAN-MAR 2026

Date	Event, Time and Place
JAN 6	BRW Monthly Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lake Jackson Public Library
JAN 12	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
JAN 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
FEB 1	BRW/ARW Candidate Forum-LJ Civic Ctr 2-4:30 p.m.
FEB 3	BRW Monthly Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lake Jackson Public Library
FEB 9	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
FEB 14	Brazoria Cty GOP Lincoln Reagan Day Dinner, LJCC 5-9 p.m.
FEB 16	Presidents Day
FEB 17	Early Voting Begins https://www.early voting locations & times
FEB 27	Last Day of Early Voting
MAR	BRW Monthly Meeting - To Be Determined
MAR 3	Primary Election Day https://www.election day polling places
MAR 7	Precinct Conventions - 10:00 a.m.
MAR 8	Daylight Saving Time begins
MAR 9	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
MAR 28	Senatorial Convention

SAVE THE DATE

**REPUBLICAN
CANDIDATE FORUM**
Sunday, February 1, 2026
Doors Open at 1:15

**MEET & GREET
CANDIDATES**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - FREE ADMISSION
Forum 2:00 to 4:30
Doris Williams Civic Center
333 Highway 332 East, Lake Jackson

Sponsored by the
**Brazosport Republican Women
and
Angleton Republican Women**

For additional information
Gayla Baker - gabbaker@sbcglobal.net
Mary Kathryn Pickle - mkpickle2004@yahoo.com

BRAZORIA COUNTY GOP

**LINCOLN
REAGAN**
Valentine's Dinner

Keynote Speaker
DAN PATRICK
DEFENDING GOVERNOR OF TEXAS

When
FEBRUARY 14, 2026

Where
**DORIS WILLIAMS
LAKE JACKSON CIVIC CENTER**
333 TX-332 LAKE JACKSON, TX 77566

For tickets go to: [https://brazoriagop.org/
lincoln-reagan-day-dinner-ticket-purchase/](https://brazoriagop.org/lincoln-reagan-day-dinner-ticket-purchase/)

Elected Officials Contact Info:



President Donald J. Trump	1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20500	www.whitehouse.gov/contact/	
Senator Ted Cruz	167 Russell Washington, DC. 20510	www.cruz.senate.gov/contact	202-224-5922
Senator John Cornyn	517 Hart Senate Office Washington, DC. 20510	www.cornyn.senate.gov	202-224-2934
Congressman Troy Nehls	1104 Longworth House Office Bldg Washington, DC 20515		202-225-5951
Senator Joan Huffman	129 Circle Way S101 Lake Jackson, TX 77566	senatorjoanhuffman@gmail.com	979-480-0994 512-463-0117
Representative Cody Vasut	222 N Velasco St S 25 Angleton, TX. 77515	www.house.texas.gov/members/4065/email	979-848-1770 512-463-0564



Contact Info & Helpful Links

BRW Officers & Special Committee Chairs

President	Diane Rinn	mddRinn@gmail.com
1st Vice President, Programs	Gayla Baker	gbsBaker@sbcglobal.net
2nd Vice President, Membership	Cecilia Gabba	GabbaFam@gmail.com
Secretary	Jodie Slade	slade.tx@gmail.com
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Publicity/Newsletter Chair	Cindy White	dwhite77485@comcast.net
Social Media Platforms Chair	Jodie Slade	slade.tx@gmail.com
Historian	Gayla Baker	gbsBaker@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain	Linda Kellogg	linda.kellog50@gmail.com

Find us on:



Brazosport Republican Women

Comments or photos? Email us at:

brazosportrepublicanwomen@outlook.com



Check out our Website!



Just go to: www.brw.gop

BRW Campaign Activities

QTR	# HRS	# CALLS
4th Qtr '25	5811	1049

Most hours 4th Q 25: Kacey Roman 594

Most calls 4th Q 25 : Gayla Baker 80

Special Thanks to: Linda Kellogg, Diane Rinn, Gayla Baker, Mary Kathryn Pickle & all the contributing writers.

Texas Federation of Republican Women

www.tfrw.org

National Federation of Republican Women

www.nfrw.org

Greater Houston Council of Federated RW

www.ghcfrwpac.org

BRW typically meets every first Tuesday at 6:00 pm at
the Lake Jackson Public Library, 250 Circle Way.

Political Advertising paid for by Brazosport Republican Women.