



BRW NEWS

Senate District 17

Quarterly Newsletter

TFRW Region XVIII

Volume 2 | Issue 2 | April, 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Diane Rinn, President



What's Inside

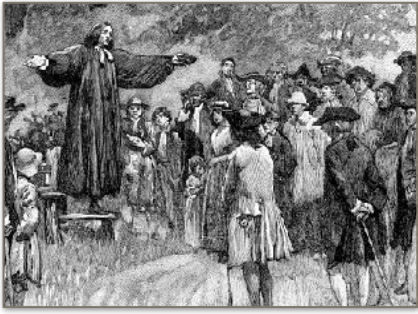
- President's Letter from Diane Rinn.....I
- The Hand of Providence in an Unusual Friendship.....2
- Member Highlight—Dynise Finley.....3-4
- TFRW Tidbits: Preparing for State Convention.....4
- BRW/ARW Candidate Forum.....5
- Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner.....6
- GHC's Nuts N Bolts Workshop.....7
- Your Elected Official: Precinct Chair-Mary Kathryn Pickle..8
- Legislative Corner: S.A.V.E. Act.....9
- March 3 GOP Primary Election Results.....10
- Mark Your Calendar.....11
- Elected Officials Contact Info.....12
- Contact Info and Helpful Links.....13



Left: Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick speaks at the February Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner (story on pg 6)

The Hand of Providence in an Unusual Friendship

By Linda Kellogg, BRW Chaplain



Evangelist George Whitefield

“Whoever shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world.” - Benjamin Franklin, 1778

An unusual friendship between Founding Father Benjamin Franklin and the First Great Awakening evangelist George Whitefield developed before the War for Independence. Whitefield's fiery preaching got him banned from the Church of England, so in 1739 at 25 years old, he made his first of 7 trips to the American colonies. With a wooden pulpit secured to his horse he galloped from one city to another. It is estimated that 80% of American colonists heard the “primitive”

gospel message, many more than once. And with his booming voice, amplified and anointed by God, crowds swarmed to hear him. “His preaching up and down the Eastern seaboard of America did more than anything else to turn the 13 isolated, individual colonies into one country.” [*America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations*, William J. Federer, P. 684.]

One of Whitefield's regular stops was Philadelphia where Founding Father Benjamin Franklin had his print shop. Franklin was impressed by Whitefield and they remained close friends. Their friendship strengthened both of these world changers. Franklin read and published Whitefield's sermons and printed his itinerary regularly.

It is easy to see how these two men complimented each other in the fight for Independence and then in the formation of the most successful governing document in the history of the world, the U.S. Constitution. Though George Whitefield died in 1770, his impact on Ben Franklin's life and America remained evident and strong.

The War for Independence was fought and won but the United States of America was about to fall apart by the divisiveness among delegates of the Constitutional Convention. After 5 months they couldn't agree on the right governing document for the fledgling nation. As delegates threatened to leave and summer made the room miserable, at 81 years of age, Franklin rose and addressed the convention. “I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir in the Sacred Writings, that ‘except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.’ I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel...I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business.”

A few days later, the convention made its first appeal to God for His help, and prayers continue to start deliberations each day in Congress. Not long after prayer was instigated, the deadlock was broken and the U.S. Constitution was drafted and signed September 17, 1787. Thank you, Jesus, for uniting Franklin and Whitefield in friendship, who helped unite the United States of America.



Rev. George Whitefield (L)
Benjamin Franklin (R)

BRW Member Highlight:

Dynise Finley



In this issue, we highlight Dynise Finley. Dynise has been a BRW member since 2021 and served as BRW Secretary from 2023 to 2024. She is always ready to pitch in and help out whenever there is a need. And she does it with a smile. Please get to know Dynise, in her own words:

1. **Where were you born?** I was born in Mesa, Arizona but I got to Texas as soon as I could. My dad played professional baseball, a pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1950's, but by the time I was born he was playing minor league ball. He claimed he hit the first home run at the Astrodome during batting practice for the Colt 45 team, but not sure about that story.
2. **Where have you lived most of your life?** I've lived most of my life in Lake Jackson, Brazoria County. As a kid I lived in Florida, Arlington, Houston, Alvin and graduated from Tomball High School. I met my husband, Barry, at Texas A&M where we were both studying Accounting and we've been happily married almost 42 years.
3. **What was/is your favorite job?** Not really a job but my passion is my family. We have 3 incredible children Derek, Laura Beth and Kristen and 2 super in-laws, Amber Finley and Trevor Williams. And 4 amazing grandkids: Miles, Isla, Max and August. I love them more than life itself and enjoy watching them grow into faithful God-loving people who will make the world a better place. Can you tell I'm a proud Mama Bear?
4. **What are your hobbies?** I have always loved to read books. One book that has changed my life is the Bible and every time I read it I learn something new. My newest hobby is flower gardening. We are blessed to have a cabin in the mountains in North Carolina where I spend hours gardening just to have deer and bears eat my hard work. But I'm not giving up. We put fences around my newly-planted apple trees. We'll see if this deters them but I doubt it. They are very determined creatures.
5. **How long have you been a member of BRW?** I joined BRW in 2021, right after my mom moved in an LJ assisted living community. Our first meeting was at Carriage Inn and I've been hooked ever since. The people of BRW are patriotic and totally committed to make our county, state and nation a place where God-fearing people can live their best lives. And I appreciate having the privilege and freedom to be a delegate at the state conventions and learn the process of how governing works in the greatest state in America.

BRW Member Highlight (cont.)

Dynise Finley

6. Who or what has inspired you throughout your life? My inspiration for living my life comes from my Savior Jesus. He is and will always be my dearest and best friend. I trust Him in the uncertainty of this life because He has never left me and His promises to me are kept without exception. My prayer is for everyone to find the peace that He offers. I could not imagine life without Him.



Barry and Dynise Finley



Dynise with grandsons, Miles and Max. And furry friends.



Laura Beth, Amber, August, Isla, Miles and Max. Derek and Barry Finley (standing).



Dynise and Cindy White at the 2022 RPT State Convention.

C A L L T O A C T I O N

TFRW Tidbits: Preparing for State Convention

Looking Ahead: RPT State Convention

The next major milestone for Republican grassroots leaders is the Republican Party of Texas State Convention, where delegates from across the state will gather to:

- Elect party leadership
- Debate and adopt the platform
- Set priorities for the next two years
- Connect with candidates, activists, and organizations
- Celebrate the work and impact of Republican women

TFRW members play a vital role in this process. Whether you're attending as a delegate, alternate, volunteer, or guest, your presence strengthens our voice and ensures the Republican women remain the heart of the party's future.



By: Bergundi Cain, First VP
TFRW Today, April, 2026

BRW/ARW Candidate Forum

By: Shelly Layman, Contributing Writer

I had the opportunity to attend the Republican Candidate Forum for the first time this February. The event is co-sponsored by the Brazosport and Angleton Republican Women Clubs and 2026 was the ninth year of the event. It was a perfect year to have a one-stop shop to get information as this year's primary field had a deep slate of well-qualified candidates. As an example, the race for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2 had six candidates. The Forum lasted several hours, and I left with a bag full of pamphlets, a notebook full of notes and an easy way to look up the websites of candidates I wished to research further.



Even candidates for statewide races made the effort to attend our Brazoria County Forum. State Senator Joan Huffman spoke on her candidacy for Attorney General and State Senator Mayes Middleton sent a representative for his candidacy for the same race. All the candidates in contested races were given a 3-minute window to speak and uncontested candidates were given one minute. We heard from

Texas House and Senate candidates, many judicial candidates and, of course, candidates for our local races.

Our work as primary voters is not done as there are run-offs that still need our attention and vote. The run-off is May 26 with Early voting May 18-May 22.

Moderator and Republican County Chair, Dr. Shayne Green, reminded the audience the Democrat party is working diligently and spending a great deal of money in an attempt to flip Texas counties blue.



Senator Joan Huffman



BRW Young Affiliates Aryel Roberts and Liberty Slade



BCRP Chair Shayne Green



BRW President, Diane Rinn addresses the audience.



Deanne Amerine and Linda Kellogg check in candidates.

Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner

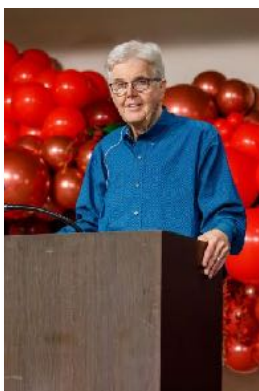
By: *Cindy White, Contributing Writer*

On Valentine's Day, 2026, Republicans flocked to the Doris Williams Civic Center in Lake Jackson to show their love for the Brazoria County Republican Party. The annual fundraiser, which featured Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick as the keynote speaker, also included a Valentine's Day dinner and a live auction. Elected officials in attendance were also recognized. Brazoria County Republican Party Chairman, Shayne Green, introduced Patrick who entered the stage wearing a jacket that was worn by John Wayne who played Davy Crockett in the 1960 movie, "The Alamo".



The Texas legislature increased the general homestead exemption by \$40,000 and \$60,000 for homeowners 65 and older, providing property tax relief, the lieutenant governor said. He said the 65 and over exemption was \$15,000 when he took office and it is now \$200,000. Patrick was recently appointed by President Trump as Chairman of the Religious Liberty Commission, which was formed to protect and preserve religious liberty in America. "Follow God or you will fail", he said. To rally the audience to victory at the polls, Patrick said we need to vote, support the GOP and support those GOP candidates that win in the March primaries.

The primary election that was held on March 3rd was the main topic of discussion by Shayne Green and others at the dinner. In order to keep the county red, it was stressed that we need to unite and continue to support Republicans in the November general election.



Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick



BCRP Chair, Shayne Green



Jim and Pam Mahon



A packed crowd at the Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner.

GHC Nuts 'N Bolts Workshop

By: Clara Webb, Contributing Writer

Three members of our club—Diane Rinn, Cindy White, and I—recently attended the *Nuts 'N Bolts* workshop hosted by the Greater Houston Council. This annual training provides valuable guidance for both long-time members and those who are new to Brazosport Republican Women.

After a morning breakfast, attendees divided into 12 breakout sessions. Each of us selected different topics so we could bring back the widest range of information to share with our club.

My first session focused on bylaws. I learned that all associated clubs must update their bylaws at least every two years and ensure they include the required elements outlined by both the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) and the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW).. One notable requirement discussed was the inclusion of a definition of “woman,” which has been added in response to recent public debates.

The second session I attended centered on strategies for increasing membership. Several organizations shared their creative ideas, with a common emphasis on reaching younger women. One suggestion was to host a casual gathering at a local park and offer popsicles for children to help make the event more family-friendly.

As always, Robert’s Rules of Order made an appearance on the agenda. Just like studying the Bible, there’s always something new to take away.

My final session of the day focused on fundraising, and the ideas were flowing. Attendees shared successful events from their own clubs, including lively activities like pickleball tournaments.

Overall, the workshop was informative, energizing, and full of practical takeaways that we look forward to applying within our club.



BRW Pres. Diane Rinn is recognized at Nuts N Bolts.



GHCFRW Pres. Renee Lunsford



TFRW Pres. Jill Tate reports on a Nov. 2025 trip to Israel



Bergundi Cain speaks about Community Engagement

Your Elected Official:

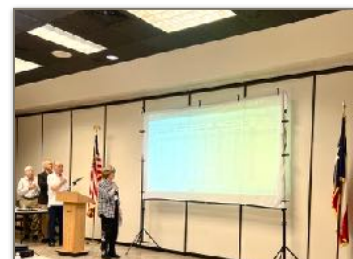
Mary Kathryn Pickle, Precinct 2 Chair



Mary Kathryn Pickle
Precinct 2 Chairman
BCRP

*Each quarter, an elected official is highlighted in BRW News. BRW Associate Member, **Mary Kathryn Pickle** grew up in Albany, Texas. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University and has served as a Speech Language Pathologist in public schools in Lubbock, Graham, Brazosport, Columbia-Brazoria, and Sweeny, primarily specializing in therapy to develop effective communication skills in young children. Retirement brought her back into the political scene. She has served for many years as Precinct 2 Chairman for the Brazoria County Republican Party and was honored with cherished awards such as 2012 Brazoria County GOP Hall of Honor and the 2013 Senatorial District 17 Volunteer of the Year. She has served as Chairman of the Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner, Chairman of the SD 17 Senatorial Convention and has served often as a state convention delegate. According to the Republican Party of Texas' Precinct Chairman's Handbook, the main job of the Precinct Chairman is to "get as many voters in your precinct to vote for Republicans in elections," which Mary Kathryn does very well. The following message, written by Mary Kathryn, gives us insight into the many duties of the Precinct Chair.*

What does a Precinct Chair do? Good question. The answer—"a chair wears many hats"! The chair attends and actively participates in the Brazoria County Republican Party monthly meeting, making both financial and time contributions to the party as we support candidates, elected officials, and legislative efforts. It is expected that chairs also serve as election judge and or clerk and take training to be certified as a volunteer deputy registrar. Further, it is necessary to acquire contact information for voters in the precinct so we can dispense information to Republican voters on upcoming elections, candidate information, and political events. Securing an email/phone list is extremely important. We must also be available to take calls from voters who need questions answered. Getting to personally know candidates is also an important part of the position. Is it time consuming? YES! Is it worth it? YES! Get involved. Stay up to date on government and legislative issues and always have your phone ready to answer or seek answers to share with our constituents. We work as a team for the benefit of electing strong Republicans from the city level to the White House!



Mary Kathryn Pickle,
Temporary Chair, SD-17
Convention - March 28, 2026

S.A.V.E. America Act

By: *Darlene Shue, Legislative Activities Chair*

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (S.A.V.E.) H.R. 22, introduced by Texas Rep. Chip Roy, requires individuals to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote and a photo ID to vote in federal elections. H.R. 22 passed the House in April but is still pending in the Senate. The bill would require:

- A Valid ID before registering to vote in a Federal Election
- Proof of Citizenship
- No Mail-In Ballots (except for illness, disability, military or travel)

Further, states must take ongoing steps ensuring on US citizens are registered including establishing a program to identify individuals who are not US citizens. States must also remove noncitizens from their official lists of voters. The bill provides for a private right of action for certain violations and establishes criminal penalties for certain offenses.

S.A.V.E. is supported by an overwhelming majority (over 80%) of Americans and is very important for our nation. Please contact Senators Cruz and Cornyn and request their support FOR the bill. **The S.A.V.E. Act is a critical opportunity to secure our elections and our country.**



March 3, 2026 GOP Primary Election Results

Federal & State

Office	Candidate/s
U. S. Senator	Cornyn 42% runoff with Paxton 41%
U.S. Rep. Dist. 14	Weber 84%
U.S. Rep. Dist. 22	Nehls, Trevor 76%
U.S. Rep. Dist. 36	Babin 72%
Governor	Abbott 82%
Lt. Gov.	Patrick 85%
Attorney General	Middleton 39% runoff with Roy 32%
Comptroller	Huffines 57%
Commissioner Agriculture	Sheets 53%
Railroad Commissioner	Wright 32% runoff with French 32%
State Bd of Educ Distr 7	Pickren 100%
State Sen Distr 11	Paul 100%
State Rep Distr 25	Vasut 100%
State Rep Distr 29	Barry 100%
Chief Justice 14thCt Appls	Jewell 100%
Justice 1st Ct Appls Pl 3	Frankfort 43%
Justice 1st Ct Appls DistPl 4	Gunn 100%
Justice 1st Ct Appls DistPl 5	Caird 100%
Justice 14th Ct Appl Distr Place 17	Wise 100%

District & Brazoria County

Office	Candidate/s
District Judge 149th	Pulcher 100%
District Judge 239th	Bradshaw 100%
District Judge 412th	Gilbert 100%
Criminal Distr Atty BC	Selleck 100%
County Judge	Giesecke 60%
Judge Cty Ct at Law #1	Gilbert 100%
Judge Cty Ct at Law #2	Pfeiffer 100%
Judge Cty Ct at Law #3	Warren 100%
Judge Cty Ct at Law #4	Allen 53%
District Clerk	Tigner 100%
County Clerk	Hudman 100%
County Treasurer	Dees 100%
Cty Comm Precinct 2	Froberg 56%
Cty Comm Precinct 4	Linder 100%
JP Precinct 1 Place 2	Froberg 31% runoff with Roman 26%
JP Precinct 2 Place 2	Davis 100%
JP Precinct 3 Place 2	Albin 100%
JP Precinct 4 Place 2	Chesser 55%
Constable Precinct 3	Bort 100%
County Chair	Green 100%





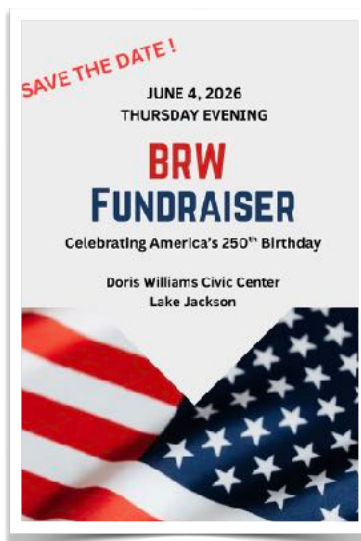
May 2 Joint Elections May 26 Primary Runoff

For Election Information go
to:

[https://
www.brazoriacountyclerktx.
gov/departments/elections/
current-election-information](https://www.brazoriacountyclerktx.gov/departments/elections/current-election-information)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: APR-JUN 2026

Date	Event, Time and Place
APR 7	BRW Monthly Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lake Jackson Public Library
APR 13	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
APR 20	First Day of Early Voting - Lake Jackson City Election
APR 28	Last Day of Early Voting - Lake Jackson City Election
MAY 2	Joint Local Elections
MAY 5	BRW Monthly Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lake Jackson Public Library
MAY 11	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
MAY 26	Joint Primary Election Runoff
JUN 2	BRW Monthly Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lake Jackson Public Library
JUN 4	BRW Fundraiser - Doris Williams Civic Ctr, Lake Jackson
JUN 8	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
JUN 11-13	Texas GOP Convention - George R Brown Convention Ctr., Houston



For more info: <https://convention.texasgop.org/>

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	nehls.house.gov	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
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2nd Vice President, Membership	Cecilia Gabba	GabbaFam@gmail.com
Secretary	Jodie Slade	slade.tx@gmail.com
PAC Treasurer	Cindy White	dwhite77485@comcast.net
Campaign Activities Chair	Clara Webb	webb145@yahoo.com
Legislative Activities Chair	Darlene Shue	darleneshue1@gmail.com
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
1st Qtr '26	5811	1049
2nd Qtr '26	3957	929

Special Thanks to: Dynise Finley, Linda Kellogg, Shelly Layman, Mary Kathryn Pickle, Diane Rinn, Jodie Slade & Clara Webb.

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.