



~ CELEBRATE AMERICA ~ CELEBRATE FREEDOM ~ CELEBRATE 250 YEARS ~

BRW NEWS

Senate District 17

Quarterly Newsletter

TFRW Region XVIII

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Diane Rinn, President



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Left: Becky Green , SREC SD-17, speaks before the 2026 Texas GOP convention in June. Story on Pg 6.

God Bless our Beloved America

By: *Diane Rinn, Contributing Writer*

Hearing our national anthem often brings tears to our eyes. Written during the War of 1812, it signifies American resilience, the flag and our independence. But, did you know that in 1938 the one-verse "God Bless America" was so well received as a kind of collective prayer for the unease over impending war that it was hailed as the new national anthem?

Prolific composer Irving Berlin, who was five when his Jewish family fled Siberia after an anti-Jewish mob destroyed their home, said he did not write it as a patriotic song, "but an expression of gratitude for what this country has done for its citizens, of what home really means."



In 1938, famed singer Kate Smith asked the composer for a fresh piece to mark the 20th anniversary of the end of WWI. Berlin, recently returned from Nazi Germany where war seemed to be brewing, wanted something to celebrate America. He dusted off a 1918 tune he'd prepared but never used when his commanding officer had him write a musical revue for a fundraiser.

Changing a few words here and there to make it the "peace song" he wanted rather than one suggesting military conquest, it became the beautiful "God Bless America" so many American kids have learned by heart ever since.

After Berlin's death in 1989 at 101, daughter Mary Ellin Barrett said, "I came to understand that it wasn't 'God Bless America, land that we love.' It was 'God bless America, land that I love.' It was an incredibly personal statement that my father was making, that anybody singing that song makes as they sing it. And I understood that that song was his 'thank you' to the country that had taken him in. It was the song of the immigrant boy who made good."

Celebrate America this year and always! Take pictures! Frame them! Take videos! Pass them on to your children and grandchildren and they can pass them on to theirs. Show them that you were there for the 250th birthday of our country.

Some day future generations will celebrate the tricentennial birthday of our country and, God willing, America will be an even better place to be; but never forget how wonderful it was in 2026. Never forget, and make sure our children and theirs and so on always know. Whether the glories of our nation all get preserved in the history books or not, and there are many to cover, you are there now. WE ARE LIVING IT, FELLOW AMERICANS. WE ARE HERE.

God bless America forever!

BRW Member Highlight: Jodie Slade

Introduced by Cecilia Gabba, 2nd Vice President, Membership



In this issue, we highlight Jodie Slade. Jodie has been a BRW member since 2023 and is currently serving as our BRW Secretary and Social Media and Website Manager. Jodie is very skilled and is happy to lend her strengths to help any and all Republicans get elected. She also encourages others to get involved. Please get to know Jodie, in her own words:

- 1. Where were you born?** I was born and raised in Lake Jackson, Texas, and I'm thankful to still call it home. Growing up here gave me a deep appreciation for this community and the people who make it such a special place. It's a small town with a big heart—and yes, you can usually count on running into someone you know wherever you go!
- 2. Where have you lived most of your life?** Lake Jackson has been home for most of my life, and it's the place that's always had my heart. I've also had the opportunity to live in Houston and North Carolina for a few years each, and each place taught me something different. But no matter where life has taken me, Lake Jackson has always felt like home.
- 3. What was/is your favorite job?** My favorite job was working in marketing at Baker Hughes. I loved the fast-paced, down-to-earth culture of the oil and gas industry, where no two days were ever the same. It gave me the opportunity to learn from some incredible people, build lasting friendships, and travel to places I might never have experienced otherwise. It was a chapter of my life that challenged me, helped me grow, and left me with many memories.
- 4. What are your hobbies?** In my free time, I enjoy reading, writing, photography, and spending time outdoors. I've always loved storytelling—whether it's getting lost in a great novel, writing, or even diving into a fascinating true crime documentary or podcast. One of my favorite ways to relax is taking my camera outside to capture the beauty of nature. Most of all, I treasure spending time with my family, making memories, and appreciating the simple moments together.
- 5. How long have you been a member of BRW?** I've been a member of Brazosport Republican Women for about three years, and joining has been one of the best decisions I've made. Deanne Amerine and my mom, who is also a member, encouraged me to come to a meeting, and I'm so grateful they did. What started as an invitation quickly became an opportunity to learn more about the political process, become involved in my local community, and build friendships with an incredible group of women. It's been a rewarding journey, and I'm thankful to be part of an organization that encourages education, service, and civic involvement.

BRW Member Highlight (cont.)

Jodie Slade

6. Who or what has inspired you throughout your life? I'm inspired by my faith, my family, and the people who make a positive difference in the lives of others. My family has always been my greatest motivation and reminds me every day of what truly matters. I admire people who serve with kindness, integrity, and humility, often without expecting anything in return. Those are the qualities I hope to live by, and they inspire me to keep growing, to serve my community, and to leave the world a little better than I found it.



Zach and Jodie Slade



Jodie at County GOP Headquarters in 2024



Slade children: Liberty, Faith and Noble



Jodie with her mom and BRW member, Olaya Perez



July Meet & Greet

By: *Cindy White, Contributing Writer*

Patriotism and the American Spirit were alive and well at our July Meet & Greet meeting held on July 7 at Swamp Shack in Lake Jackson. Several individuals in the crowd of 33 people were decked out in red, white, and blue, ready to continue the July 4th celebration of America. BRW President Diane Rinn greeted everyone, said a blessing for the meal and our nation, then introduced candidates and elected officials. Three Associate Members: Tom Stroschein, Brad Baker and Louis Ciaccio were recognized as U.S. Veterans. Marv Amerine presented a slideshow of photos from the State GOP Convention which was held in June at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Several members and associate members attended as delegates to the convention.



Diane Rinn, BRW President



Gloria Millsap, Sen. Joan Huffman Assistant



Louis Ciaccio shares a story.

Diane then asked members of the audience to share stories about what they loved most about America and how and why they celebrated America's 250th Anniversary. We heard wonderful stories about neighborhood parades, displaying the American flag with pride, the kindness and generosity expressed by Americans during the World Cup and of boundless opportunities for those who immigrated to America. We left the event in the same way we came—as proud Americans.



Rob Giesecke addresses the audience at Swamp Shack.



Members listen to patriotic stories.



Chip Lasiewicki and Tricia DeVille

2026 Texas GOP Convention-Houston

By: *Cindy White, Contributing Writer*

Thousands of delegates, alternates, elected officials, and grassroots activists assembled in Houston (June 11-13) for the 2026 Republican Party of Texas State Convention. We were there to “serve, participate, and invest [our] time and money in shaping the future of our Party and our state” as former Chairman Abraham George stated in his welcome to delegates. Brazoria county Senatorial District 17, sent 42 delegates. Over half of that number (22) were BRW members and associates! Delegates at the convention went from smaller Senatorial District Caucus meetings to larger General Session meetings, listened to speeches, and voted for RPT officials and important issues for our Party’s Platform. There were other ‘fun’ events, however. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick hosted a very popular Ice Cream Social on Thursday. On Friday evening, the American Patriots Gala was held in the Hilton of Americas Ballroom where U.S. Congressman Brandon Gill, The Honorable Scott Bessent and Benny Johnson were guest speakers. The next morning, some attended the Rooted in Faith & Family Prayer Breakfast. The convention was a great time to renew friendships, meet people from all over our great state, and show our patriotism to Texas and to America.



One of the convention’s most significant accomplishments was the adoption of a set of Legislative Priorities. The top eight priorities will guide Republican policy efforts through the upcoming 90th Texas Legislative Session.

The top 8 Legislative Priorities are:

1. Secure Texas Elections
2. Stop Islamification of Texas
3. Eliminate Property Tax
4. Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying
5. Protect Texas Kids
6. Secure Texas Grid, Water, Energy, Agriculture and Property Sovereignty
7. End Government Overreach
8. Education Reform

The bi-annual convention was a great gathering of like-minded individuals who represent true conservative principles and strive to keep Texas **RED**.



Delegates Glenna Bailey,
Elizabeth Day & Linda
Kellogg



Marv Amerine & BCRP
Chair Shayne Green
count votes.



SREC SD-17 Becky
Green addresses the
delegates.



Marianne Stavino, Diane Rinn,
Gloria Moore & Linda Kellogg

TFRW Tidbits: Happy Birthday America!

Amid all the celebrations and hot dogs, please take the time to remember the reason we celebrate, and to read the Declaration of Independence [link to full text below] with fresh eyes. Pay special attention to the last line: **“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.”**



As a descendant of many American patriots, I have always found that last line to be one of the most important. I interpret it as the equivalent of **“we are all in.”** We, as signers of this Declaration, are prepared to die, lose everything we own, and potentially lose our credibility. And we do this, praying hard that God is with us, too. Even after 250 years, this document is incredible. How many people do you know today who are willing to give up everything in the cause of liberty?

As Americans have done for 250 years, let us celebrate not only our nation’s birthday but also the enduring principles of **liberty, self-government, and personal responsibility** that continue to make the United States a beacon of freedom throughout the world.

Source: “Fun Facts for Independence Day” by Lisa Gilmore

Americanism Chair, TFRW Today, July 2026



Declaration of Independence

Self-Evident Truths?

By Linda Kellogg, BRW Chaplain



“We hold 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.”

There is no question that our founding fathers fervently believed every word of this powerful introduction of the Declaration of Independence. But today, truth isn't always “self-evident” and belief in God as Creator has drifted drastically into unbelief.

Gallup polls indicate that 24% of U.S. adults accept the scientific theory of evolution over millions of years without God's involvement; 37% are creationist purists, saying God created humans in their present form within the past 10,000 years; and the rest straddle both theories.^[1] Frankly, it is self-evident to me! For the beauty of the earth, the intricacies of every atom, the amazing conception and complexities of growth in every one of us humans, it takes more faith to not believe in a Creator!

Charles Darwin's 1849 book, *The Origin of Species*, popularized evolution and significantly influenced Joseph Stalin. As *Landmarks in the Life of Stalin* recounts, “At a very early age, while still a pupil in the ecclesiastical school, Comrade Stalin developed a critical mind and revolutionary sentiments. He began to read Darwin and became an atheist.”^[2] The rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness would not exist in those doctrines of Darwin, Stalin, or Karl Marx, who in 1948 wrote *The Communist Manifesto*. Their theories are smashing the rocks of America's faith in God. Our Founding Fathers warned many times the importance of being a moral and righteous people and that the Holy Bible is critical to the health of America and should be read and understood.

In our day, self-evident truth is hard to find. By questioning the most basic truth of God first as Creator as summarized in Genesis 1:1 that God created the Heavens and the Earth, and then reaffirmed with the miraculous truth of our Savior Jesus Christ, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” John 1:1-4 NIV. These are the self-evident truths the founders believed in so strongly that they willingly pledged their lives to establish a new nation with a new form of government that would secure and protect these beautiful rights. If the founding fathers held these truths to be self-evident, so should we hold them like they did, and fight for them like they did.



[1] *News.Gallup.com*, Politics July 22, 2024, “Majority Still Credits God for Humankind, but Not Creationism” by Megan Brenen

[2] *Socialism* by William J. Federer, p. 108.

Get Involved

Brazoria County Republican Party website: brazoriagop.org/

It is more important than ever that YOU become an activist. The Conservative message is being ignored or silenced in the mainstream media. National elections are no longer decided by those committed to left or right ideologies, but rather by the people most likely to neither know nor care much about the issues – the so-called middle. Now is the time that we each must do all we can to educate those who are not already committed to Conservative principles. This task is not difficult, but it does require some patience. After all, most of the people who need to learn political history and current events really do live much of their lives as conservatives; they just don't recognize it. Here are ten steps that you can take to further the cause...



- Get Informed. Stay Informed.
- Participate in the discussion.
- Hold politicians accountable.
- Volunteer to help the GOP. brazoriagop.org/volunteer/
- Get involved in local government.
- Build your circle of friends via email, social media or coffee klatch.
- Register 10 new voters if you are a volunteer deputy voter registrar.
- Convert five. Share our Republican values with others.
- Educate young people.
- Make noise to make ourselves heard.

VoteTexas.gov is a one-stop resource for voter information on election dates and registration deadlines.





**General Election
November 3, 2026**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: JUL-SEP 2026

Date	Event, Time, and Place
JUL 7	BRW Monthly Meeting/Meetup, 6:00 pm, Swamp Shack-LJ
JUL 13	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
AUG 5*	BRW Monthly Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lake Jackson Public Library
AUG 10	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
AUG 15	Proudly Red-West Pearland RW 6-9 pm Hilton Garden Inn, Pearland
SEP 1	BRW Monthly Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lake Jackson Public Library
SEP 3	BCRP Classic Clay Shoot - 8 am - 12 pm, Providence Plantation, Rosharon
SEP 9-10	GOP Mid-Term National Convention - American Airlines Ctr-Dallas
SEP 14	BCRP Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, Brazoria Cty Courthouse Admin Bldg
SEP 19	TFRW Tribute to Women - Embassy Suites, Round Rock, TX
* NOTE - Meeting on Wed. Library unavailable on Tues, Aug 4	

Pearland Area Republican Club (PARC)
invites you to our monthly

COFFEE KLATCH

What's on your mind?
Let's have a friendly conversation/discussion over breakfast about local politics/needs.

When: Thursday August 6, 2026
(First Thursday of every month)
Time: 10:00 am - 11:00+ am
Where: Kelly's Restaurant
2933 E. Broadway (RM 518)
Pearland, Texas 77581

RSVP to Jonelle by Wednesday (don't to reserve a seat)

Please join us for a

BIG America BIRTHDAY BASH

REMEMBERING ★ CELEBRATING ★ UNITING

Date & Time TBA

DORIS WILLIAMS CIVIC CENTER
LAKE JACKSON
100 ABNER JACKSON PARKWAY
LAKE JACKSON, TX 77566

Dinner, Guest Speakers, Live Auction
(Tickets available soon)

Brazosport Republican Women

Email us at: brazosportrepublicanwomen.tx@gmail.com

★★★★★

THE GREAT AMERICAN COMEBACK

★ CONVENTION RALLY ★

SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2026
★ AMERICAN AIRLINES CENTER

TEXAS
GOD BLESS TEXAS!

We are going to celebrate the GREAT AMERICAN COMEBACK, and the incredible successes of the American People who transformed our Country through the America First Agenda. It will be a RALLY like none other!

— PRESIDENT DONALD D. TRUMP
— VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN GREATNESS.

Monthly Meeting:
Thursday August 13, 2026

Join PARC'S DISCUSSION / Q&As with our LOCAL STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Featured Panelists

Rep. Jeff Barry
Texas House District 28

Rep. Cody Vasut
Texas House District 25

Rep. Dennis Paul
Texas House District 129
Candidate for Texas SD11

SCHEDULE: 6:30 - 7:00 Registration/Networking
7:00 - 8:00 Discussion/Program
LOCATION: Pearland Memorial VFW Post #7109
4202 W. Walnut Street, Pearland, Texas 77581

Light Refreshments will be served / Come Hungry! Set at BR11ACKS \$17.55

PARC: Patriotism, Accountability, Responsibility & Conservatism!
Hope to see you there! Bring your friends!

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



Photos: RPT State Convention



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
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.kellogg50@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
3rd Qtr '26	3213	1044

Special Thanks to: Linda Kellogg, Diane Rinn, Jodie Slade and all those who provided photos.

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.