



# THE REDWOOD

The Official Newsletter of The Woodlands Republican Women

December 2023

TFRW Region 17

Senate District 4

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Previous Editions of *The Redwood* available [here!](#)



## From the President

Jessica Hart Steinmann

[832-535-7332](tel:832-535-7332)

#KEEPLITRED

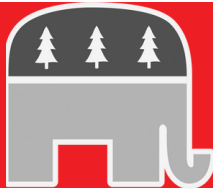


As we wrap up 2023, The Woodlands Republican Women wants to give a big THANK YOU to all our new members that joined this year. We had an increase of almost 40% in membership this year alone! Additionally, we ended the year with 50% growth in club funds. We also walked away from the conventions with the NFRW Diamond Achievement Award and the TFRW Club Achievement Award. Thank you to the amazing executive board we had this year that put in hours and hours of work to accomplish these goals along with so many of our dedicated members.

And now it's time to renew your membership for 2024 [HERE](#). Primary membership is \$50 and Associate membership is \$30. Besides donating to a great cause, your membership will also get you discounted luncheon tickets for TWRW luncheons for all of 2024. Also, we have discounted membership rates of \$65 for couples that sign up together.

If you want to get more involved in TWRW and would like to chair a committee or be on our executive board, please reach out to me (email me at [jessica.elizabeth.hart@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.elizabeth.hart@gmail.com) or text me at 832-535-7332). I am working on filling our board spots this month and we'd love to get new members involved who bring new ideas to the team.

Now that we've built such a great foundation as a club, it's time to put that into action for 2024. We need to have everyone on board, working together, to win in 2024. Please consider joining The Woodlands Republican Women to help us unite conservatives and secure the vote in 2024!



# Mark Your Calendar



## **TWRW 2023**

### **Remaining Luncheon:**

**December 12**

**TWRW Officer Installation  
Speaker Senator Brandon Creighton**

## **TWRW 2024**

### **Luncheon Dates:**

**January 16**

**February 20**

**March 19**

**April 16**

**May fundraiser**

**June no meeting**

**July no meeting**

**August 20**

**September 17**

**October 15**

**November 19**

**December 10**

**Monthly luncheons are at**

**The Woodlands Country Club Palmer Course**

**100 Grand Fairway**

**The Woodlands 77381**

**RSVPs must be paid online in  
advance, [here](#).**

**Thank you!**

## **Noteworthy Events**

**TWRW Executive Board Meetings  
are held every 2nd Tuesday from 11:45 - 1:15  
at South County Community Center**

**December 16: Wreaths Across America  
~ See Caring for America Article, page 11 ~**

**TWRW February 20th Luncheon  
Debate between  
State Rep. Steve Toth and Skeeter Hubert**



## December Luncheon - Tuesday, December 12

11:30 am - 1:00 pm at The Woodlands Country Club Palmer Course  
100 Grand Fairway, The Woodlands 77381

RSVPs MUST BE MADE BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, ON WEBSITE

**Cindy Heiser**

VP of Programs



**RSVP HERE**



### ***TWRW Officer Installation*** ***Senator Brandon Creighton***

On August 26, 2014, Senator Brandon Creighton was sworn into the Texas State Senate to represent the citizens of District 4, which encompasses parts of Montgomery, Harris, Chambers, Jefferson, and Galveston Counties.

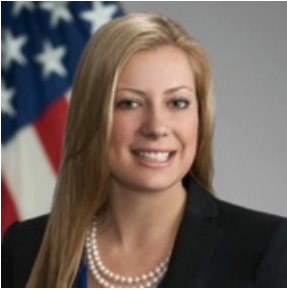
During his tenure as Senator, he has taken the lead on key issues that matter to Texas job creators including franchise and property tax relief, water and transportation infrastructure, and border security.

Before election to the Texas Senate, Creighton served as State Representative for District 16 where his peers elected him to Chairman of the Texas House Republican Caucus. He also served as Chairman of House Federalism Committees tasked with overseeing the state's relationship with the federal government and ensuring that Texas' constitutional rights are protected.

Throughout his legislative career, his priorities have distinguished him as a genuine defender of conservative values. He has relentlessly hammered excessive taxation, pursued "loser pays" tort reform, passed drug testing for unemployment benefits, stood up for Texas' 10th Amendment rights, and effectively blocked Obamacare's Medicaid expansion.

Brandon is an eighth-generation Montgomery County resident, where he resides with his family. He is a graduate of the University of Texas and holds his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Oklahoma City University School of Law. In his spare time, he enjoys Texas history, sports, hunting, and fishing.

## The Woodlands Republican Women 2024 Elected Officers



### **President - Jessica Hart Steinmann**

Jessica is the President of The Woodlands Republican Women for 2023 and was previously the Campaign Activities Chair for the Club. During 2023, the club has grown almost 40% in membership and has had more than 50% growth in funds.

Jessica also serves on the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW) Board as the Youth Outreach Chair and is the Texas Youth Outreach Chair for the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW). She has also served on the Election Committee for TFRW and was a speaker at the last TFRW Convention. In 2017 she was named a National Future 40 under 40 by MavPac, and in 2023 named 40 Under 40 by TFRW.

Jessica serves as General Counsel and Director of Litigation for the America First Policy Institute, a think tank created by senior officials from the Trump Administration. In this role, she oversees the legal operations for the organization and also brings litigation that furthers the American way of life and protects our Constitution.

Previously, she served as a senior official for the Trump Administration at the Department of Justice (DOJ). She was appointed by President Trump as the Director for the Office of Victims of Crime at the DOJ where she oversaw nearly \$9 billion (funding financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted felons, not from taxpayer dollars). Her office provided the largest federal funding to combat domestic human trafficking.

She previously worked for U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, the Texas House, the Harris County Republican Party, and started her career as a commercial litigation attorney at Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP in Houston.

She currently serves as a Director of the Texas Lyceum, is a member of the Conroe Noon Lions Club and The Woodlands Rotary and previously served as the President of the Houston Young Lawyers Association and the Chair of the Houston Holocaust Museum's Next Generation Leadership Board. She graduated in the top of her class from Baylor Law School, where she also served as managing executive editor of the Baylor Law Review and was elected class president of her law school class all three years of law school. She attended undergrad at the University of Texas at Austin where she double majored in Finance and Business Honors Program with a minor in government.

Jessica is married to Montgomery County Clerk Brandon Steinmann. Jessica and Brandon welcomed a baby boy, Luke, a year ago.

## The Woodlands Republican Women 2024 Elected Officers

### **1st Vice President, Programs - Rebecca Smith-Nash**

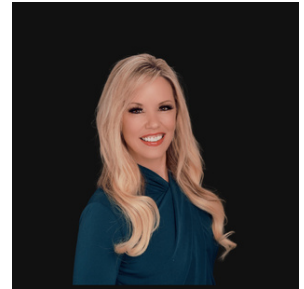
Rebecca has previously served as the 2nd Vice President of Membership and Chair of Outreach for the Club.

Rebecca is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Supervisor. Rebecca facilitates workshops and training programs on various topics related to high conflict divorce and custody modification, adduction, and foster care.

Rebecca graduated with Honors from Southwest Texas State University with a Bachelor's Degree, graduated with Honors from Sam Houston State University with a Masters of Arts in Counseling, and attended a PhD program for Counseling, all but dissertation.

Rebecca is the Founder and CEO of Counseling Center of Montgomery County, Love Heals Youth, and Allied Coparenting and Family Academy. Rebecca has also developed a comprehensive internship program for aspiring counselors to complete their hours for their Master's degree program and to fulfill their 3,000 hour post-graduate clinical requirements for full licensure. Rebecca has served over 7,000 families through her practices and trained over 200 counselors.

Rebecca is the past president of the board of directors for the Texas Chapter / Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. She is the past president of the board of directors for Access Builds Children and the Vice President for the Child Protective Services nonprofit board of directors. She was also appointed to the Montgomery County Child Welfare Board of Directors by our Commissioner's Court. Rebecca has served on the board of directors for Texas Mental Health Counselors Association. Rebecca is the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the nonprofit Conroe Founder's Day. She has served as a member of several committees for other nonprofit organizations. Rebecca is a 2021 graduate of Leadership Texas Women and 2022 graduate of Leadership Montgomery County. Outside of mental health, Rebecca is part of the Conroe Noon Lions Club, serving individuals with disabilities.



## The Woodlands Republican Women 2024 Elected Officers



### **2nd Vice President, Membership - Molly Smith**

Molly attended Sam Houston State University but completed her bachelor's degree, Magna cum laude, and master's degree at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA. She taught high school business classes in Virginia Beach and Woodbridge, VA. After teaching for 11 years, she pursued a civil service career and served as the Chief, Testing Branch, US Military Entrance Processing Command, San Francisco, CA, and as a program analyst with the US Marine Corps Operational Test & Evaluation

Activity, Quantico, VA. In addition, she served as an inspector and auditor with the Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, Washington, DC, and the Inspector General's Dallas Regional Audit Office, Dallas, TX. Molly transitioned from the Department of Justice to the Department of the Navy and served as analyst, Commander, Navy Installations Command, Washington, DC, and as the Inspector General for Commander, Navy Region Marianas, Guam. She also served as the Inspector General for Commander, US Naval Forces Central Command/Commander US FIFTH Fleet, Bahrain. While working she was a Certified Government Financial Manager and Certified Inspector General and held a Commonwealth of Virginia Postgraduate Professional License.

Her awards included Department of Justice, Special Achievement Award; Navy Meritorious Service Award; Superior Civilian Service Award; and Secretary of Defense Medal for Global War on Terrorism.

Molly married her high school sweetheart Wayne, of Tenaha, and was happily married for 38 years until his passing. Wayne was career Navy for 31 years, which is the reason for her many career changes. She is also blessed to be the grandmother of three: Avery, senior at Kansas University; Austin, junior at South Dakota State University, and Aubrie, senior at College Park High School.

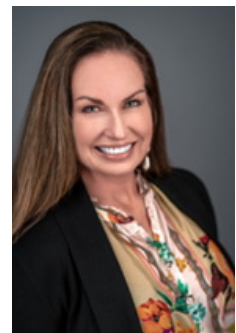
### **3rd Vice President, Ways & Means - Cindy Heiser**

Cindy Heiser is a small business owner who has devoted her time and talent in service to The Woodlands community since 1999.

She has been involved with Interfaith, Junior League of The Woodlands, The American Heart Association, The Woodlands Quarterback Club, Co-Chaired Giving Goes Glam and was President of The Woodlands High School Volleyball Booster Club in 2019.

She now serves on the Board of The Woodlands Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow and on The Woodlands Art Council Board. Additionally, she is the Vice President of Programs for The Woodlands Republican Women, a graduate of the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW) Candidate Development Program, on the CISD Bond Committee, and a graduate of Leadership Montgomery County.

Cindy was recently elected to The Woodlands Township Board of Directors.



Elected Officers Continued on Page 7

## The Woodlands Republican Women 2024 Elected Officers



### **Recording Secretary - Eva Ray**

Eva Ray is a dedicated resident of Magnolia, Texas, who has proudly called the community home for 22 years. As a seasoned local realtor, she has been actively serving the vibrant area of The Woodlands, bringing her expertise and passion to the real estate landscape.

She has served on the board most recently as the Social Media and Marketing Chair, creating engaging content that helps our members and followers see the “personality” of TWRW. She has helped with marketing, communications and anything else that the club needs.

Eva and her husband have successfully raised three grown children, two of whom are currently pursuing their education at A&M, the third is engaged in graduate studies. With her nest now empty, Eva has discovered a newfound opportunity to channel her energy into civic endeavors, particularly through her involvement in the TWRW club.

Eva's commitment to community service extends beyond her role in the TWRW club. Over the past 12 years, she has dedicated her time and efforts to the National Charity League - Texas Topaz, Boy Scouts of America, Magnolia Parkway Elementary PTO, and her local church. This extensive involvement reflects Eva's deep-rooted belief in the importance of giving back to the community that has been her home for more than two decades.

Her professional background in corporate Human Resources, combined with her experience as a realtor, has equipped Eva with a unique perspective. She understands that diverse viewpoints are essential for achieving unity in any capacity of service. Eva firmly believes in the values of conservatism, viewing them as a legacy to be passed down to future generations. She recognizes the significance of setting positive examples for our children, demonstrating what it truly means to embrace Republican ideals.

Eva is excited about the prospect of serving on the board as Secretary and is eager to connect with both new and existing members of The Woodlands Republican Women. Her dedication to fostering unity, passing down conservative values, and leaving a positive legacy underscores her sincere commitment to the community and the principles she holds dear.

She has a degree from University of Houston in Hotel and Restaurant Management and a minor in Spanish. Go Coogs!

## The Woodlands Republican Women 2024 Elected Officers

### **Treasurer - Vacant**

### **President Intends to Nominate Carolyn Donovan**

Bringing groups together for a common, philanthropic goal is a passion for Carolyn Donovan, who has invested more than 25 years supporting a variety of organizations within the non-profit sector.

After positions locally with The Will Herndon Research Fund, American Heart Association and Interfaith of The Woodlands, she currently serves as Director of Advancement for 40 Days for Life.

Carrying on the legacy of caring for women experiencing a crisis pregnancy, her primary focus is raising awareness of and support for this mission.

Her conservative Christian values that guide her family and personal life, led her to join The Woodlands Republican Women in 2022. She looks forward to serving the Board's executive committee and welcoming new faces to this dedicated group.

A native of Philadelphia, Carolyn and her family have called The Woodlands home since 2008.





# TWRW November 2023 Meeting

Thank you to Rand Henderson, Wesley Doolittle, and Kenton Ford for participating in the first Montgomery County Sheriff's Debate at our November meeting!



## Americanism Report: The Forgotten War of 1812

Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs  
Americanism Chair



George Washington wrote, "A free people ought not only to be armed and disciplined but ... have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain ... independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government."

India's founder, Mahatma Gandhi, a man known to eschew violence, declared, "Among the many misdeeds of ... British misrule in India, history will look upon the act of depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest."

In America today, the Second Amendment is under attack. Left-leaning retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens argued that Democrats should "get rid of the Second Amendment."

Thoughtful reflection will confirm the 2nd Amendment right to "keep and bear arms" gives the citizenry the power to protect all other rights against enemies both domestic and foreign.

In the Federalist Paper No. 29, one of the 85 essays collectively published by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay advocating ratification of the Constitution, Hamilton recognized the importance of forming a "select corps" of professionalized militia. This "select corps" would be the "best possible security against a large standing army." It would be "a large body of citizens, little inferior in discipline and the use of arms, who stand ready to defend their own rights and those of their fellow-citizens."

Hamilton recognized the importance of ensuring that "people at large" are "properly armed and equipped," in tandem with the professionalized or select corps of citizen-soldiers.

Richard Henry Lee, a contemporary of Hamilton, stated, "To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them." The October 7, 2023 invasion of Israel by Hamas terrorists underscores the importance of an armed citizenry for self defense. It may surprise you to learn that the most heavily armed citizenry in the world are the Swiss. Having a trained and armed citizenry has helped Switzerland maintain neutrality for more than 200 years.

I leave you with remarks from President Ronald Reagan at the annual convention of Kiwanis International, July 6, 1987: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It has to be fought for and defended by each generation."

God bless Texas and the USA!



**REMEMBER THE FALLEN**

**HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE**

**TEACH OUR CHILDREN  
THE VALUE OF FREEDOM**

The Woodlands Republican Women is sponsoring 30-plus wreaths in honor of our fallen veterans at Forest Park Cemetery The Woodlands on December 16th at 10:30 am. Please register to volunteer at this link: [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org). Please contact Alison Henderson for more information at 281-636-0000. *Thank you!*



**Thank  
you!**

We appreciate the generosity of all who contributed to TWRW's Thanksgiving Food Drive! We were able to give joy to families in need of food to celebrate Thanksgiving Day!





A BIG SHOUT OUT and THANK YOU to the Republican lawmakers in Austin for the property tax relief we, the residents of Texas and Montgomery County, received for 2023. We know it wasn't easy and there were many sleepless nights with deep discussions which lasted for hours.

We particularly want to thank State Senator Brandon Creighton and State Representative Steve Toth.

**TWRW General Meeting Minutes**



Please click image for the November 14, 2023 General Meeting Minutes.





## 2023 TWRW EXECUTIVE BOARD

If interested in serving with TWRW, please reach out to the committee chair. Thank you.

Position	Name	Email
President	Jessica Hart Steinmann	PresidentTWRW@gmail.com
First VP of Programs	Cindy Heiser	Cpheiser15@gmail.com
Second VP of Membership	Beverly Briggs	B.briggs57@icloud.com
Third VP of Ways & Means	Lisa Dunton	Sjdunton@prodigy.net
Treasurer	Patty Carter	Pattycarter@kw.com
Secretary (recording)	Dianne Holmes	DGHolmes817@yahoo.com
Secretary (corresponding)	Brenda Johnson	Brenda.johnson56@icloud.com
Americanism	Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs	Sekulagibbs103@gmail.com
Awards	Amy Van Horn	Amy2rd@gmail.com
Bylaws	Beverly Briggs	B.briggs57@icloud.com
Campaign Activities	Susanna Cronin	Ssovrn@gmail.com
Caring for America	Alison Henderson	Henderson.alison@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain	Dr. Ashley Prince	Info@princehealth.org
Courtesy and Gifts	Brenda Key	Panthercreek2@sbcglobal.net
Courtesy and Gifts	Glenda Key	Mistybreeze2@sbcglobal.net
Greater Houston Council	Amy Van Horn	Amy2rd@gmail.com
Historian	Carolyn Donovan	Carolyn.donovan@40daysforlife.com
Hospitality	Ann Herbek	Aherbek814@att.net
Legislative	Ann Herbek	Aherbek814@att.net
Literacy	Janell Volke	Janellvolke@me.com
Newsletter	Dawn Allen	Dawn@wordenthusiast.org
Outreach	Rebecca Smith-Nash	Rebecca@counselingcentermoco.com
PAC Treasurer	Jessica Hart Steinmann	PresidentTWRW@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Sheri Hummer	Ssdhummer@aol.com
Past President	Lisa Gilmore	Lisahgilmore@gmail.com
Publicity	Eva Ray	123ecray@gmail.com
Scholarship	Molly Smith	Bluefin27@hotmail.com

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