

Political Advertising paid for by SARW Political Action Committee (PAC)
Editor: Barbara Swarthout (barbaraswarthout@outlook.com) 414-491-2341
Website: www.saladoarearw.com



February 2023



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2 – Pints & Politics – Deadfish Grill – 6:00 p.m.

February 10 – SARW Board Meeting – 10:00 a.m. Salado Library

February 13 – Bell County CEC Meeting – Bell County Historical Courthouse, Belton – 6:00 p.m.

February 23 – Joint General Meeting with Americans for Prosperity, CTRW and SARW

Featuring the movie, *Miss Virginia*

6:00 p.m. The Beltonian Theater, 219 E. Central Ave., Belton

(See additional information following the President's comments in the Newsletter) Reservations are REQUIRED

Register using this link:

<https://americansforprosperity.actcentr.com/Events/afp-tx-antonick-it-s-time-for-school-choice>

February 27 – Bell County Young Republicans, Johnny's BBQ, Salado – 6:00 p.m.

PLEASE SEE THE NEXT PAGE REGARDING THE SARW FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE UNDER VP OF PROGRAMS ARTICLE. WE ARE JOINING FORCES WITH AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY AND CENTRAL TEXAS REPUBLICAN WOMEN FOR A SPECIAL MEETING.

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IT'S TIME!

JOIN US!

EDUCATIONAL FORUM on
SCHOOL CHOICE

Texas Legislative Opportunities To Improve Education

FEATURING THE MOVIE: Miss Virginia

FEB. 23, 2023 6PM

 **THE BELTONIAN THEATRE**
219 E Central Ave, Belton, TX 76513

 **AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY**
TEXAS



Click or Scan QR to REGISTER

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

By the time you read this, I will be in Austin for Texas Federation of Republican Women Legislative Day. This is an exciting time. The event sold out in early registration!

There is an energy and an excitement in the air. Republican Women are speaking up and making their voices heard. Honing your legislative knowledge will help to make each of you more effective when working with legislators. Whether you drive to the Capital, email or call your legislators, be sure to make your voice heard too!

School Choice/Parental Empowerment is a priority. As such, we have joined forces with Americans for Prosperity to have our February meeting at the Beltonian Theatre with a viewing of the true story entitled, "Miss Virginia." This amazing story shows the courage, power and determination of a mother for her son. There will be discussion afterwards. Once you understand this issue, feel free to contact your legislators.

Just as a reminder, when you contact your legislator about an issue, you are doing so as an individual. You are not representing Salado Area Republican Women, Texas Federation of Republican Women or the National Federation of Republican Women. We are not a lobbyist organization. Our job is to simply educate Republican Women by providing information on our legislative priorities.

Once armed with knowledge, you can move forward with confidence and exercise your individual rights to voice your opinion to your legislators. I love going to Austin and seeing other Republican women standing strong on the issues and discussing them intelligently with their legislators.

We are excited about the future of Texas and hope that you are ready to get to work also. As always, thank you for everything you do to **Keep Texas Red!**

Brenda

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – Janice Morin

Lord, we are at times feeling overwhelmed by the weight of the world events. We pray for us to be strong against the evils that occur every day. The good news is that God never breaks His promises. Amen. “*And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify me. Psalm 50:15.*”

1ST VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS – Sherril Gardipee

Our SARW February meeting is being held in conjunction with an event presented by Americans for Prosperity. The event will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Beltonian Theater, 219 E. Central Ave, Belton, TX. Food will be provided.

It's Time for School Choice!

Are you tired of the lack of educational opportunities for Texas students? Do you wonder what "school choice" really means? Join us for a special movie (the incredible & moving true story of a mom who launches a movement to change the education system). After the movie, guest speaker, Sam Sheetz, Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity- TX, will share upcoming legislative opportunities to expand educational opportunities for all Texas children K-12 and tell you how you can become a part of this movement. Now is the TIME!

There is no charge to attend this event, but spacing is limited, so please register today.

Register using this link:

<https://americansforprosperity.actcentr.com/Events/afp-tx-antonick-it-s-time-for-school-choice>



February 2023

2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP – Brenda Keller

Our membership drive continues, and we are grateful for all the new members and everyone who has renewed. Reach out to our new residents and make sure they know that we are here. The growth in our community, will easily lead to growth in our club.

The time to join is **NOW!** We wrap up our membership drive on March 1st and we do not want you to miss our informational newsletter, the educational speakers, and the legislative content. This is an important time in our Country's history and belonging to Salado Area Republican Women is a wonderful way to make an impact and be part of that history.

An application form is attached to this newsletter. Do not hesitate to complete it and mail it in! This is definitely a group where the more the merrier is true. Be sure to invite your friends to join too!

3RD VICE PRESIDENT OF FUNDRAISING – Barclay McCort

Ladies!

I hope you have our next big event and fundraiser on your calendar. The date for the 16th Annual Fine China Luncheon & Fundraiser is June 6. Your committee has started working on the Luncheon but we really need individuals to host a table. Remember, a host just decorates the table; we can fill the seats. (Of course, you have the option of saving seats for your friends.) Contact me for more details. Help us make this the best Fine China event yet!





February 2023

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Michele Hercules

88th Legislative Session...here we GO!

PROPERTY TAXES

Both chambers have unveiled their draft budgets and lawmakers have set aside \$15 billion for possible property tax relief.

Because property taxes are levied locally, state efforts to reduce the property tax burden require a “compression” of local property tax rates. Therefore, the Legislature would need to provide around \$20 billion in compression.

Texans for Fiscal Responsibility has been promoting what they call the “Texas Prosperity Plan”. It would see lawmakers adopt a “no growth budget”. They would use excess tax revenues to then eliminate school property taxes altogether over a period of several years.

“BAN DEM CHAIRS”

In the Senate...we’re just about there! Lt. Governor Dan Patrick has wasted no time in selecting his appointments. Only one of the chamber’s sixteen committees will be chaired by a Democrat. The lone Democrat, State Sen. John Whitmire (Houston), will remain chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice. Whitmire has announced that he will be resigning his position following the session to mount a campaign for Houston mayor in November. Following his resignation, the chamber will have zero Democrat chairs.

Republican Party of Texas Chairman Matt Rinaldi says the party is encouraged by the appointments!

*Committee appointments in the House are expected to be announced by Speaker Dade Phelan early to mid-February.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Rep. Mayes Middleton, R-Wallisville, believes this upcoming legislative session is the one where Texas will finally pass a school choice program. Middleton has already filed SB 176, which could become the most expansive piece of school choice legislation in the state if it were to pass. It would create an education savings account program that would allow parents to use state funds to pay for their children’s private school, online schooling, or private tutors.

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Legislative Update (continued)

Under Middleton's legislation, families that opt out of the state's public education system would receive the average amount of money it costs Texas public schools to educate a child, which is currently about \$10,000 a year. The money would roll over on a year-to-year basis and could be used to help families pay for higher education, according to the bill. The funds for the program could come from both taxpayer money and donations.

Federal!

U.S. Rep. Chip Roy introduced legislation that would defund the World Health Organization due to its close ties with the Chinese Communist Party.

Roy also filed legislation to ban the Chinese Communist Party from buying American land.

Remain familiar and mindful of our TX GOP Priorities! <https://texasgop.org/priorities/>

Treasurer – Diane Balady

Just a friendly reminder that lunches are \$20 and if you just attend the meeting, the cost is \$5.00. We did not have to raise our prices for 2023.

**Proud to be a
REPUBLICAN**



February 2023

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES – Christie Justice

The New Year is off to a great start. I was able to report 3489 hours for the last quarter of 2022. Congratulations to all of YOU for a job well done.

Remember that phone calls and emails to elected officials should be counted in your totals. These contacts seem to be having more impact on decisions and votes than in the past. If calling, make a few notes before you dial. Email forms and phone numbers of local offices are available with an easy online search; however, Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C. often do not accept email unless your address falls within their governing area. You are able to contact one of their staff members by calling the Capitol. The following are the numbers:

U.S. Senators: 202-224-3121

U.S. House: 202-225-3121

They will ask for the name of the Senator or Representative you want to contact, and you will be connected to that office. It may be a recording to leave a message with your name, address, and phone number. *Do not be intimidated.* Their votes are for all Americans. If you get a staff member, they may be indifferent if you are not a voter in their state/district. They may ask you simple questions. For example: Once when stating my issue, I used “we” to describe reason for my call. The staff member interrupted and asked “Who is We? Are you a member of a group?” I simply stated, “Yes, I am a member of WE THE PEOPLE”. *Do not be intimidated.*

You can also contact the White House at the following numbers:

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

Comments: 202-456-1111

Take a minute to put these numbers in your contact list for quick reference.

Always be polite, professional, knowledgeable, and concise. Also, our Texas Legislature is in session now. Important decisions are being made. Stay engaged.

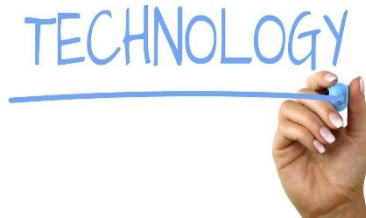
Local Salado Village elections for Aldermen, Library Board, and School Board are coming in a few months. These are non-partisan races, but there is nothing wrong with personal contacts and questions about a candidate’s views and beliefs. Be informed, get involved, and vote.

Attached to this newsletter is the Volunteer Hours form to assist you in keeping ongoing record of your time. The next report will include January, February, and March.

Thank you all for your valuable service.



February 2023



TECHNOLOGY – Michele Melsha

Why is using social media important for Politics? Facebook is persuasive, and often works to change or influence opinions when it comes to political views because of the abundance of ideas, thoughts, and opinions circulating throughout the platform. In addition, Facebook tends to have a wider audience than most social media sites.

We would very much like you to join us on Facebook and like, follow and share our posts! This helps us reach so many others through our Facebook postings.

AMERICANISM/CARING FOR AMERICA – Kate McKinley

Thank you to those who participated in the Wreaths for Vets activity in Killeen at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery. Wreaths for Vets were retrieved from the headstones and will be stored until November 2023. This activity is in 3 stages: the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving is the time the wreaths are “fluffed” and new red Christmas bows are placed—this event is very much a “fun” event—music playing, groups dancing, crafting is much enjoyed; the Saturday after Thanksgiving is a quiet, respectful program with a live band playing music in a worshipful manner and a speaker addresses those attending. Then the wreaths are placed on each headstone by family and volunteers; in January, the wreaths are retrieved and stored for the next 10 months. Mark your calendars now to be ready later in 2023.

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CENTRAL TEXAS REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Central Texas Republican Women, along with Salado Area Republican Women, and Americans for Prosperity will be joining forces to present the movie, *Miss Virginia*, at the Beltonian Theatre, 219 E. Central Avenue, Belton, on February 23 at 6:00 p.m. Information on the event has been shared earlier in the SARW newsletter.

If you would like to attend, please use the following link to register. Registrations are needed to attend the event.

<https://americansforprosperity.actcentr.com/Events/afp-tx-antonick-it-s-time-for-school-choice>

We hope to see you there.

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REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BELL COUNTY

204 N. East Street, Ste. A-1, Belton, TX 76513 Phone: 254-831-5200

www.belltxgop.org belltxgop@gmail.com

Mack Latimer, Chairman

February CEC Meeting

February 13, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Bell County Historical Courthouse, 101 E Central Ave, Belton, TX 76513, USA

Registration starts at 5:30 p.m. Be a part of the business of the Bell County Republican Party!

Agenda

Representative Brad Buckley is going to conduct a townhall with our precinct chairs at the next CEC meeting on February 13! If you want to ask a question, give them to your precinct chairs for them to ask. If you don't have a precinct chair, you can contact Mack Latimer at belltxgop@gmail.com if you would be interested in serving. If you don't know who your precinct chair is, you can look them up on our website at

www.belltxgop.org

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SALADO AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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208-741-0725

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Technology

Michele Melsha – mmelsha@msn.com

Greeter

Michele Melsha



February 2023

Membership Form for 2023

Personal Information:

2023 Dues - \$35

Title: (Check one): Mrs. ___ Miss ___ Ms. ___ Dr. ___ Judge ___ Mr. ___ Other ___

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Name of spouse _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Occupation: _____

Required by law for PAC reporting

Check Membership Type: Primary ___ Renewal ___ New Member ___

Associate ___ Renewal ___ New Member ___

A SARW Member is a Republican woman who wants SARW to be her primary Federated Republican Women's club. An Associate Member is a Republican Woman who already belongs to a primary Federated Republican Women's Club and also wants to support SARW or is a Republican man who wants to support SARW.

**Please return this form along with a check payable to:
SARW, PAC; PO Box 373; Salado, TX 76571**

SARW Information:

- The **objectives** of Salado Area Republican Women are to:
- Inform our members and the electorate through political education
- Increase effectiveness of women in the cause of good government through political participation.
- Foster loyalty to the Republican Party and to promote its principles, and candidates in all elections including non-partisan elections.
- Work for the election of the Republican Party's nominees

We are **Republican** because we believe in:

- Lower taxes & limited government
- Unlimited opportunity for all
- Security for the Homeland
- Parental authority &
- We respect individual achievement with self-reliance

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For Internal Purposes Only: Date received _____ Date Processed: _____ Ck. # _____ Processor Initials _____



February 2023

SARW VOLUNTEER HOURS

Political Activities-All activity that promotes the election of Republican candidates, and actions that advance those philosophies, values, and ideals. Hours include training, preparation, set up/take down, travel and actual activity time. This includes paid and unpaid time.

Hours

- ____ SARW Monthly Meetings/Fundraisers/Special Events
- ____ Bell County Executive Committee Meetings
- ____ Voter Registration/Election Worker/Poll Watcher
- ____ Pints & Politics
- ____ Bell County Headquarters Volunteer/Fundraising
- ____ SARW Committee Work/Board Meetings
- ____ Campaign Work
- ____ Republican Party TX and TFRW Conventions/Meetings
- ____ National, State, Local GOP Seminars/Workshops/Trainings/Meetings
- ____ Contacts to Candidates/Elected Officials

Community Activities

Hours

- ____ SISD Volunteer (PTO, Room Mom, Book Fair, etc.)
- ____ Chamber of Commerce
- ____ SLCL-Salado Ladies Community League
- ____ Non-Partisan State, County, Village Boards/Including Elections (School, Library, etc.)
- ____ FSPL-Friends of Salado Public Library
- ____ PALS-Public Arts League of Salado

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____ USO Ft. Hood

____ Historical Society Bell County/Salado

____ Tablerock

____ KSB-Keep Salado Beautiful

____ Community Garden

____ Salado Education Foundation

____ Salado Family Relief

____ Church Committee Work (not worship services)

____ Lions/Rotary Clubs

____ Salado Community Chorus

____ Special Events (The Stroll, Jingle Walk, Sirena Fest, Empty Bowl, etc.)

____ Other (briefly describe _____)

Political Phone Calls # _____

____ Total Hours

Report Hours to Christie Justice: christie@christiejustice.net