



EDITOR: Barbara Swarthout – [barbaraswarthout@outlook.com](mailto:barbaraswarthout@outlook.com) 414-491-2341  
WEBSITE: [www.saladoarearw.com](http://www.saladoarearw.com)

DECEMBER 2023



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 2 – Pints and Politics – No meeting in December  
December 11 – CTRW – The Gin – 11:00 Doors Open, 11:30 lunch served.  
RSVP: 12/8/23 [mabeasley62@gmail.com](mailto:mabeasley62@gmail.com) – Cost - \$20/per person  
December 14 – SARW – **NO GENERAL MEETING – Enjoy the Holidays with your family!**  
December 15 – SARW Board Meeting, Salado Library, 10:00 a.m.  
December 18 – Bell County Young Republicans, Johnny’s BBQ, Salado, 6:00 p.m.

**SARW WILL NOT HAVE A GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE IN THE NEW YEAR**



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### **PRESIDENT'S PEN - Brenda Howard**

I hope you make treasured memories at Christmas with family and friends. Welcome to 2024! It's a time of new beginnings and a new Primary Election Cycle. It is an exciting time, and we are prepared. Our job is to educate the public regarding Republican candidates and Republican legislative priorities.

In 2023, we learned that we have a Republican majority but cannot always get across the finish line with Republican legislation. This was never more evident than Governor Abbott's desire to get Education Savings Accounts across the finish line. Our very own, Representative Brad Buckley, did a phenomenal job of bringing both sides together, working on Public School funding and Education Savings Accounts, by authoring HB1. Unfortunately, it did not get across the finish line. That's okay. More citizens are more educated and aware of their Representatives than ever before. I expect this Primary to have a record turnout in voting.

Save the Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

We will host the Candidate Forum for the District Attorney, County Sheriff, and Constable races at the Civic Center in Salado. This is the time to hear each of the candidates for yourself and to speak with them individually. The only way to truly know who to vote for is to hear each of the candidates for yourself. Bell County Republican Party, along with other Republican clubs, will host all the races in our Senate District, so be on the lookout for attending quite a few Candidate Forums during January.

We have many exciting things planned for 2024 and I hope that each of you are ready to roll up your sleeves and help us **Keep Texas Red!** May 2024 be the year that our Country and our State, embraces our Republican values and elects true conservative leaders.

***Brenda***



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### **SALADO AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN 2024 OFFICERS**



From left to right:

- **Nancy Norris, Treasurer**
- **Barclay Mccort, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Fundraising**
- **Katherine Krska, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership**
- **Sherril Gardipee, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs**
- **Brenda Howard, SARW President**

Our new secretary, Evelyn Matthews, was unable to attend our general meeting. She will be sworn in at an upcoming general meeting.



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Our Club won two great achievement awards. Gail Teegarden, TFRW District Director, presented to Club President, Brenda Howard, the following:

- The Texas Federation of Republican Women Club Achievement Award Winner for 2022-2023
- The Diamond Achievement Award from the National Federation of Republican Women.

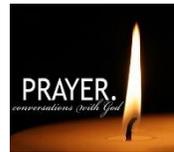
Thank you to all our Club members who helped us receive these prestigious awards.





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### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – Shirley Stephenson**

Father God, make 2024 a blessed year! We ask for your guidance and protection over our family and friends. We ask that you bless our leaders with wisdom and courage to stand on truth. Provide them with direction to lead us in Your ways, Lord. We pray for soft hearts and open minds that welcome your guidance. We pray that each of us remembers the greatest Commandment to love one another. And lastly, we pray for God's love, peace, hope and joy for each of us for the year ahead. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen

*Fundraising*

### **3rd VICE PRESIDENT OF FUNDRAISING – Barclay McCort**

Thanks to all of you, we were able to sell 348 poinsettias this year for our scholarship fund. We are planning on the plants arriving sometime Thursday, November 30, for you to pick up Friday, December 1st between 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please come to the back door of the Civic Center for pickup. We have been given the room next to the back stairs. As always, we will be delivering to local businesses. We will have seven extra plants, so if you thought of someone else on your Christmas list, just bring your \$13. Thank you, again, and have a Blessed Holiday Season.



### **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING – Sherril Gardipee**

Welcome to December and January winter months! No meeting in December. The January monthly meeting will take place on January 18, 2024, starting at 6 PM in the Salado Civic Center. This meeting will be a forum where we have invited candidates running for District Attorney, Sheriff, and Constables. It is open to the public with no admission fee and no RSVP. Cookies and water will be provided.



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### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Michele Hercules**

On October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, our third Special Session began. Governor Greg Abbott called on lawmakers to deliver school choice for every family, protect Texans and Americans against Biden’s border crisis, and ban all COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> the session ended, however, lawmakers failed to pass priority bills on education savings accounts and immigration.

A fourth session was immediately called for the first time in twenty years and the tenth time in Texas’ history.

*The cost of each full thirty-day special session to taxpayers is 1.2 million dollars in per diem payments.*

Other November 7<sup>th</sup> news... Fourteen constitutional amendments were on the ballot this November 7<sup>th</sup>. All but one, Proposition 13, which would have allowed judges to retire at a later age, was rejected.

**Good news...!** On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott signed SB7 into law effective February 6, 2024.

**SB7** – Prohibits a private employer from adopting or enforcing certain COVID-19 vaccine mandates, authorizing an administrative penalty.

**Almost there...!**

**SB4** - Creates new state crime for entering Texas illegally and authorizes Texas law enforcement to arrest and prosecute all people who cross the border illegally anywhere in Texas.

After attempts by Democrat amendments to weaken the bill failed, SB4 passed the House and will now move to the governor’s desk.



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### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (Continued)**

**SB3** – Provides additional funding for the maintenance, operation, and construction of border barrier infrastructure as well as for the Texas Dept. of Public Safety to use for policing the Colony Ridge development outside of Houston.

The House approved SB3 and the bill is expected to reach Governor Abbott's desk to be signed.

*Unfamiliar with the Colony Ridge development? Prepared to be upset...*

<https://texasgop.org/colony-ridge/>

### **What's next...?**

Lawmakers now have until December 6<sup>th</sup> to take up the Governor's final legislative priority and pass legislation on school choice and education funding.

The Texas Constitution does not limit the number of special sessions a governor may call in between two regular legislative sessions. Will there be a fifth? We shall see...

“My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth.” – Abraham Lincoln, 1862



### **POLITICAL ACTIVITIES – Christie Justice**

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter brings multiple opportunities for service. Be mindful during October, November, and December of all the hours you are committing to volunteering. Elections, Thanksgiving, Christmas...it makes me tired just thinking about it!

Stay safe, healthy, and joyful in the New Year!



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### LITERACY – Nancy Norris

Many of you are already familiar with *The Tuttle Twins* books written by Connor Boyack. There are several available for different ages from toddlers to adults. They specifically teach the value of freedom and personal responsibility. The first books included such topics as Limited Government, Free Markets, Property Rights and Entrepreneurship. Newer ones are on American History and the Bill of Rights. There are six books recently available entitled *Courageous Heroes*, *Modern Villains*, *Logical Fallacies*, *Inspiring Entrepreneurs*, *Beware Your Bias* and *True Conspiracies*. These books really seem to write about their subjects in a concise and fact-filled way.

The information on *The Tuttle Twins* website about the stories listed in the book *True Conspiracies*, the last book written in this series, describe them as “stark reminders of the ability of powerful people to shape world events and our own lives through deception and lawless corruption.” Just a few of the *True Conspiracy* chapters included in the book are Gulf of Tonkin, The Tuskegee Experiment, Sugar/Fat Studies, Social Media Manipulation and Hunter Biden’s Laptop. Each individual story is divided into sections entitled “Things Aren’t Always What They Seem, Cui Bono (Who benefits), Why Does This Matter and What We Learned. Also included at the end of each story is a short report of either someone’s testimony, a congressional report, a declassified top-secret memorandum, or a review of the evidence, or, on the chapter about Hunter Biden’s laptop, an email from former CIA Acting Director Mike Morell and a CIA colleague, Marc Polymeropoulos to fellow intelligence community officials. This email was eventually signed by fifty-one former intelligence officials and four other former CIA directors. This story alone demonstrates how our intelligence agencies can influence public opinion and control information (or disinformation) to the general public. For further information or for a list of books available featuring the *Tuttle Twins*, go to [www.tuttletwins.com](http://www.tuttletwins.com).



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### **TECHNOLOGY – Michele Melsha**

Facebook encourages sharing, commenting, and collaborating. We know that many of you are on Facebook and communicate with family and friends. We invite you to visit Salado Area Republican Women's Facebook page. It provides a vehicle for our Club to provide important information on Republican events and issues. Plus, we are always adding pictures to highlight events that the Club has held or updates on future opportunities for you to attend. It is our Club's tool, along with our website, to better provide information to our SARW members. Click here to go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sarwpac> Also check out our website at [www.saladoarearw.com](http://www.saladoarearw.com)



### **CARING FOR AMERICA – Kate McKinley**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the wreath preparations and wreath laying for the Veterans Cemetery. Wreath Retrieval and storage will occur at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Parking will be at Texas A&M Central Texas and shuttle buses will be running from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We need volunteers to help us with this effort so hope you can participate.

For more information go to [www.WreathsForVets.org/FBWreaths](http://www.WreathsForVets.org/FBWreaths)



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**CENTRAL TEXAS REPUBLICAN WOMEN**



**DECEMBER 11 – Christmas Luncheon and Installation of 2024 Officers**

**11:00 a.m. Registration/Networking 11:30 a.m. Call to Order**  
The Gin, 219 S. East Street, Belton

Speaker: Toni Anne Dashiell, RNC Committeewoman for Texas  
Ms. Dashiell will also install 2024 Officers

RSVP BY 12/7/23 – [marleandruce@gmail.com](mailto:marleandruce@gmail.com)

RSVP prepay at <https://www.ctrw-pac.com/event-details-registration/central-texas-rw-christmas-luncheon-installation-of-2024-officers>

\$20 cash/check – or \$22 credit card

\*\*\*\*\*

**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BELL COUNTY**

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

[www.belltxgop.org](http://www.belltxgop.org) [belltxgop@gmail.com](mailto:belltxgop@gmail.com)

Addie Baird, Chairman

We are always seeking volunteers to help with a variety of duties and responsibilities. Please contact us at the above if you are interested in volunteering.

**CEC MEETING**

**December 11 – Registration 5:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave, Belton**



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## SALADO AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN

President

Brenda Howard

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Evelyn Matthews – [bigev18@hotmail.com](mailto:bigev18@hotmail.com)

Treasurer

Nancy Norris – [ncnorris8@yahoo.com](mailto:ncnorris8@yahoo.com)

CHAIRS

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Newsletter

Barbara Swarthout - [barbaraswarthout@outlook.com](mailto:barbaraswarthout@outlook.com)

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Parliamentarian/Bylaws

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PAC Treasurer/Chairman

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Americanism/Caring for America

Kate McKinley

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# Salado Area Republican Women



## Membership Form

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

\$35.00

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Required by law for PAC reporting.

Check Membership Type: Primary \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Associate \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

A Primary 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 for \$35.00 payable to: SARW, PAC; PO Box 373; Salado, TX 76571**

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.

**Republicans** Believe in - The U.S. Constitution written from Judeo-Christian Principles. God - Country - Family

- Respect individual achievement with self-reliance
- Pro-Life - Family Values - Parental Authority
- Right to Bear Arms
- Strong National Defense - Security for the Homeland
- Smaller Government
- Balanced Budget - Cut Spending - Lower Taxes - Decreasing Regulations
- True Balance of Powers

Disclaimer: Paid for Salado Area Republican Women, PAC, PO Box 373, Salado, TX 76571 A Nonprofit Organization under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to SARW-PAC are not Tax Deductible as Charitable Contribution for Federal Income Purposes. Corporate Contributions are Not Permitted. Not authorized by any candidate.