

**SALADO AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN**  
**General Meeting November 16, 2023**

**WELCOME:** Brenda Howard, President, called the meeting to order at 11:31 am at the Salado Civic Center. The invocation was given by Shirley Stephenson, SARW Chaplain.

Pledges were led by Kate McKinley, Americanism/Caring for America Chair.

Brenda introduced our guests, elected officials and candidates.

**MINUTES** from the October 26, 2023 meeting were posted on the SARW website:

[www.SaladoAreaRW.com](http://www.SaladoAreaRW.com). Minutes, as posted, were accepted into the record.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Diane Balady, Treasurer, provided copies of the October 31, 2023 report which shows a checkbook balance of \$16,974.21 and a total bank balance of \$20,024.90 including savings. With no corrections, the report was accepted into the record. Salado Area Republican Women held an election on Thursday, November 16, 2023 and has elected Brenda G. Howard as President and Nancy C. Norris as Treasurer. Barclay McCort made a motion from the floor that both the President and Treasurer are authorized to conduct all banking business required by Salado Area Republican Women to include deposits, bank transfers, writing checks, updating accounts, Certificate of Deposits, operating the Clover Credit Card processing and other banking activities deemed necessary by Salado Area Republican Women. Either one can sign checks, have possession of a debit card and both are to be the signatories on all accounts. Seconded by Lynne Wilton, motion passed.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Katherine Krska, 2nd VP, reported that for 2024 we have 24 Primary, 18 Associate and 1 Honorary member for a total of 43.

**MEAL:** Members were invited to get their lunch.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** Barb Swarthout, Past President SARW, performed the installation of the following officers for 2024 then asked all members to renew their membership commitment.

President	Brenda Howard
1st VP Programs	Sherril (Gardipee) Perhach
2nd VP Membership	Katherine Krska
3rd VP Fundraising	Barclay McCort
Treasurer	Nancy Norris

Secretary, Evelyn Matthews, was not present so will be installed at the next meeting she is in attendance.

**AWARDS PRESENTATION:** NFRW Diamond and TFRW Achievement Awards earned by our club were presented by Gail Teegarden, District Director SD24.

**PROGRAM:** Sherril Gardipee, First VP Programs, had secured a Legislative update by Representative Brad Buckley, Chairman, Education Opportunity and Enrichment Select Committee; however,

Governor Abbott has called a 4th Special Session so he was not able to join us. We received information and updates from Brenda Howard, President. Brad has worked very hard and put in many hours on HB 1, which includes more money for public schools, teacher raises and education savings accounts. Unfortunately there are fellow Republicans working against passage of the Bill, which is up for a vote again tomorrow 11/17/23. A list of those opposing was distributed and members were urged to call and encourage their unity and support.

Jessica Diem, District Director Texas HD 54, shared that Brad had hoped for a vote on the education bill calling for school choice; however, there is an amendment being added to strip education savings accounts from the bill. She asked us to pray for Brad tomorrow as he has a long, hard day ahead. She did share a note of hope – God cares for children. Gov. Abbott chose Brad because of his heart for fairness and love of children. Abbott is in this for the long haul. He will call as many sessions as it takes to get school choice passed. The members present joined in for a video saying “Thank you Brad” that will be sent to encourage him.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Attached

At our next meeting we will be hosting a Candidate Forum for the DA, Sheriff and Constable positions on January 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm. There will be five different forums for Bell County due to the number of offices up for election. Addie Baird, Bell County Republican Chair, encouraged everyone to attend all the forums and shared that there will be a comprehensive review of all candidates on January 19, 2024 at Tenroc Ranch. Steve Munisteri, senior adviser and policy director for Governor Abbott, will be speaking that night.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 12:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McLeod, Secretary                      November 21, 2023

Brenda Howard, President                      November 22, 2023

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

December 2	Pints and Politics, No meeting in December
December 11	CTRW, The Gin, 11:00 am doors open, 11:30 lunch served, \$20 RSVP 12/8/23 <a href="mailto:mabeasley62@gmail.com">mabeasley62@gmail.com</a>
December 14	SARW, No meeting – Enjoy the Holidays with your family!
December 15	SARW Board Meeting, Salado Library, 10:00 am
December 18	Bell County Young Republicans, Johnny’s BBQ, Salado, 6:00 pm