



# THE STAR REPUBLICAN NEWS

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January 2012

Member of



## KATHY'S KORNER



**With the Presidential election less than one year away** it is important for us all to understand how the election process works. As you know, the President is not elected by the total number of votes, called the popular vote, but by the electoral college. The electoral college is not a place but a process that began as a part of the original design of the US Constitution by our founding fathers as a compromise between election of the president by Congress and election by popular vote. The people of the United States vote for electors who then vote for the President.

Each State is allocated a number of electors equal to the number of members in the House of Representatives who represent the State plus two for the State's Senators. A State's congressional delegation is determined by the State's population. The number of people in each State is determined by the federal census which is taken every ten years and includes a count of every State's population.

The maximum number of delegates in the electoral college is 538 distributed among the states in varying numbers depending on the State's population. Texas has a delegation of 38 and Rhode Island has a delegation of 4, which results in Texas having a bigger impact on the outcome of the election. A majority of 270 votes is required from the electoral college to win the presidential election.

Unfortunately, the electoral college heavily favors Democrat candidates giving President Obama an advantage. As we saw with the Bush/Gore campaign in 2000, the presidential candidate does not need to win a popular majority to become the President. George W. Bush won the 2000 election against Gore with 271 electoral votes even though Gore won the popular vote.

It is not unusual for a US President to win an election without a true, popular majority of over 50% of voters. Truman, Kennedy, Nixon, Clinton and George W. Bush all became president with less than 50% of the popular vote.

**We must have 270 electoral votes to WIN.**

Democrats start with a major advantage having more reliably blue states that tend to have bigger populations and therefore more electoral votes. The 18 states that "went blue" in all of the past five elections total 242 electoral votes - 28 short of what is required to win. Republicans have 13 reliably red states which have a greater land mass but smaller populations. Together they yield 102 electoral votes - 168 votes short. To win, a Republican presidential candidate must effectively sweep the swing states, whereas a Democrat can pick and choose where to focus.

Obama probably will not lose any deep blue states, but to win he could focus on just five light-blue states - Iowa, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada and Ohio. They yield 39 votes, 11 more than he needs to win and these states "went blue" in three of the last five elections. If he wins these states he does not need to win the swing-state of Florida's with its 27 electoral votes.

Either way Obama has an easier road to election than the Republican candidate faces.

**With this in mind, each one of us can make a difference by being informed and actively influencing those that we can reach – no matter where they live – together we will make a difference!!**

Kathy Jones  
President  
Star RW

**Star Republican Women General Meeting**  
**Meet Your 2012 Senatorial Candidates**  
**Tuesday, January 17th, 12:00 pm at Quail Point**  
**A light lunch will be served.**



**Star Republican Women Present Check to USO**

Star Republican Women's Christmas project, "Pennies for Postage," was quite a success! A check for \$1,500.22 was presented to the USO at Fort Hood on Thursday, December 15. Shown (l-r) are Specialist Kendue Riley, PFC Michael McCain, Fort Hood USO Director Robin Crouse, Star Republican Women Caring for America Chair Ellen Hower, Sgt. Blake McCafferty. Also traveling to Fort Hood for the presentation were SRW members Ann Seckler and Pat McMurtrie.

Star Campaign Hours have been recorded for 2011. Thanks to everyone for your help this year. May you and your families have a wonderful, safe New Year. I look forward to seeing all of you in 2012, "The Year We Take America Back!" God Bless, Tomi

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*Members & supporters of Star Republican Women*

Our membership in this New Year stands as 105 regular members and 23 associate members.

We would like to welcome new members: Pat Baylor, Sandi Becraft, Sharon Daggett, Debbie Engler, Jan Greer, Judy Miller and Judy Patterson.

Welcome to new associate members: Suzanne Conaway, Angela Dowdle, Tom Engler, Kathy Hussey, and Rod Miller.

Donna Stevens,  
 Membership Chair 2012

**STAR REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S BOARD 2012**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:**

President: Kathy Jones  
 1st Vice President Programs: Marion Gardner  
 2nd Vice President Membership: Donna Stevens  
 Secretary: Camille Bigham  
 PAC Treasurer: Louraine Robertson

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Please Join The  
**Texas Federation of Republican Women**  
 For a Special Evening with  
**Karen Hughes**



Former Counselor to President George W. Bush and Undersecretary of State



Friday, February 3, 2012  
 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
 The Sheraton at the Capitol  
 701 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas

Evening will include Remarks from Karen Hughes, Light Appetizers and Cash Bar

**PATRONS AND SPONSORS ONLY: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. private meet & greet with Joanne King Herring**  
**International socialite, global political activist and former Texas television anchor**  
**Author of *Diplomacy and Diamonds* that will be available for sale.**  
*Special TFRW Patron Offer: Admission to both Special events (Name Recognition, Drink Tickets, 2012 Patron Status)*

Individual Tickets: \$40 each for TFRW members and \$60 for non-members

**Sponsorships:**

- **Special TFRW Patron Offer:** \$250 (Name Recognition, 2 Drink Tickets, **2012 TFRW Patron Status**)
- **Silver:** \$250 (Name recognition, Sponsor, plus One Guest, 4 Drink Tickets)
- **Gold:** \$500 (Name Recognition, Sponsor, plus Two Guests, 6 Drink Tickets)
- **Platinum:** \$1000 (Name Recognition, Sponsor, plus Three Guests, 8 Drink Tickets)

Please RSVP by mailing your check (must be received by **Monday, January 30**) and this form to:  
 Texas Federation of Republican Women  
 515 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite 133  
 Austin, Texas 78746

Name (as you wish it to appear): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets @ \$40 each = \_\_\_\_\_      **\$250 SPECIAL TFRW PATRON'S OFFER**  
 Tickets @ \$60 each = \_\_\_\_\_      \$500 Sponsorship  
 \$250 Sponsorship      \$1000 Sponsorship  
 Sorry I cannot attend, but please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Political Action Committee of Texas Federation of Republican Women, Inc.  
 1301 S. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78746  
 A Member of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, Inc.  
 Contributions to TFRW, Political Action Committee of Texas Federation of Republican Women, Inc.  
 are subject to the Texas Campaign Finance Act.  
 No Authorization by Any Candidate or Committee

**STAR REPUBLICAN WOMEN**  
**General Meeting**  
**November 15, 2011**  
**Quail Point Lodge**

President Kathy Jones opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. Kathy welcomed everyone and thanked Ellen Miller and Nancy Overton for coordinating the refreshments, with the help of Ellen Hower and Pat Beauchamp.

Chaplain Donna Steward gave the opening prayer and led the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Kathy invited the elected officials who were present to come to the front and introduce themselves. Present were Ronnie Rudd, Llano County ISD President; Fermin Ortiz, Chairman of Llano County Republican Party; Cheryl Mabray, Llano County Attorney, who is running for re-election; Walter McKee, Precinct 109 Chairman; Justice of the Peace Richard Owen; and Johnnie Heck, Llano County Commissioner Precinct 1, who is not running for re-election. Also introducing themselves were a number of candidates for office: Allan Garrett, candidate for District Judge; Peter Jones and Tom Engler, candidates to replace Johnnie Heck as Llano County Commissioner Precinct 1; Angela Dowdle and Sonny McAfee, candidates for the District Attorney position in the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 424<sup>th</sup> Districts; and Scott Field, candidate for a place on the Third Court of Appeals.

Kathy gave a special welcome to all the visitors present and encouraged them to become members of SRW.

**Constitution Question for the Day:** Where do bills to raise revenue originate? Answer: The House of Representatives. **Another question:** Where would a bill to balance the budget originate? Answer: The House of Representatives.

**Caring for America Chairman Ellen Hower** described our Christmas project, "Pennies for Postage", which through the USO provides books for soldiers deploying overseas to record on DVD's for their families. She noted that last year's Christmas project raised \$5,100, and she hopes at least to meet that goal. In addition to providing a jar for our coins at our meetings, she asked for **checks payable to Ft. Hood USO** (with a notation in the check memo line that it is for "Pennies for Postage"). She wants to take our contributions to a December 15 meeting at the USO at Fort Hood. Checks may be sent to her at our Star RW address, P. O. Box 8675, HSB; or Ellen would be happy to arrange to have them picked up.

**First VP – Programs Annette Burton** introduced our speaker, Justice Bob Pemberton, who is seeking re-election to Place 6 on the Third Court of Appeals. He advised that there are six seats on this court (Scott Field, who attended the meeting, is running for a different seat on the court). He described the procedures for the court, which handles business for a 24-county district and two million people (about the size of the state of Kentucky). Panels of three consider the cases that come before the court. The panels discuss the "rule of law" and how it helps our country. The challenge is to interpret the law faithfully and neutrally. This court merely interprets the law and does not hear evidence, as the trial court does. The 2012 election is critical; we must maintain the Republican advantage on the court.

Annette next advised that the Christmas luncheon is scheduled for December 13 at the Yacht Club at a cost of \$25.00 per person. Checks may be made payable to SRW – PAC and given to Louraine Robertson, Treasurer. Suzanne Conaway, the wife of our Congressman, will install the 2012 officers and make a short speech. The Wildflowers will perform; Mary Agnes Rudd will play the piano during the reception period; and we will be led in singing Christmas carols.

At this point, Kathy advised that the SRW Board had voted to honor Dorothy Crockett ("Mrs. Republican") for her long-time contributions to SRW and TFRW with a complimentary registration to the TFRW convention to be held in Fort Worth November 18-20.

Fermin Ortiz, Llano County Republican Chairman, spoke briefly, and he thanked Dorothy Crockett for her service. He said that 6:00 p.m. on December 15 is the deadline for ballot applications.

Kathy asked if there were any questions or comments about the October 18, 2011 minutes, which were posted in the last Newsletter. There being none, the minutes will stand as posted.

**PAC Treasurer Louraine Robertson** presented the financial statement for the period October 11, 2011 through November 8, 2011. The beginning balance was \$4,659.16 and the ending balance was \$9,573.96. Income from the October 16 fundraiser was \$8,400.00; expenses totaled \$2,544.93, leaving a net profit of \$5,855.07. The report will be filed.

**Second VP - Membership Donna Stevens** advised that we now have a 2012 membership of 55 regular members and 11 associates. She said that she wants to get to a membership of 200. Kathy added that we all need to work on our centers of influence to get new members.

**Campaign Activities Chairman Tomi MacDonald** said she will be receiving campaign hours for the last quarter of the year. We may send in our hours on a monthly basis if we wish.

**Old Business:**

**Election of Officers:**

**Nominating Committee Chairman** Annette Burton conducted the election of officers for 2012. She and committee members Winnie Woodruff and Marion Gardner had selected the following slate of officers for 2012:

President Kathy Jones

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Programs Billye Fietz

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Membership Donna Stevens

Secretary Camille Bigham

PAC Treasurer Louraine Robertson

November General Meeting Minutes continued from page 4

After announcing the slate, Annette asked for nominations from the floor for each of the offices. There were none, and Annette moved that we accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Announcements – SAVE THESE DATES:**

November 18-20 TFRW Convention in Fort Worth  
November 19 Helping Hands Bazaar from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Quail Point  
December 1 Llano Tea Party to host Senatorial candidate Ted Cruz at Inman's in Llano  
December 6 Llano County Republican Club to meet at Quail Point at 6:00 p.m.  
December 13 Christmas Luncheon and installation of officers at the Yacht Club  
January 10 A Night with Attorney General Abbott in Marble Falls  
February 2-4 TFRW Board meeting and Leadership Day in Austin  
The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.  
Camille Bigham  
Recording Secretary

**CARING FOR AMERICA 2011  
by Ellen Hower**

**Star Republican Women did an outstanding job in 2011 in Caring for Our Troops and other projects in 2011.**  
**In June, we mailed 24 care packages to the troops. Total donations for this project totaled \$3012.90**  
**In September, at our General Meeting, SRW donated \$1000.00 to Rudy Escobar, whose family lost everything in the Bastrop Labor Day fires. (postage totaled \$17.30)**  
**In October, we mailed another 16 care packages to the troops. Total donations for this mailing were \$960.00. (postage totaled \$180.50)**  
**In December, we mailed six more packages to the troops. Total donations for this project were \$180.08. (postage for this mailing totaled \$255.60)**  
**Donations for our Christmas project, "Pennies for Postage" totaled \$1500.22**  
**Pat McMutrie, Ann Seckler and I, visited the USO at Fort Hood, in December, and presented Robin Crouse a check for this project. (see photo page 2 in January *Star Republican News*)**  
**Also in December, Paige Schweizer and I, on behalf of Star Republican Women, took lunch to the Horseshoe Bay Fire and Police Department. (see photo page 6 on January *Star Republican News*.)**  
**We also donated food to The Helping Center.**  
**In all, total donations for Caring for America, 2011, exceeded \$7200.00!**  
**Thank you so much for your generosity.**  
Ellen

**Congratulations!!**

**Star RW won the following 3 very important awards**

**in the 2010-2011 cycle from TFRW and NFRW.**

**Most Improved Newsletter**

**The John Goodwin Tower Award**

**Caring for America Award**

**Thanks to each of you for all of your efforts!**



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

6th Jill McAfee  
11th Etta Sue Frantz  
13th Carol Hawkinson  
15th Mary Agnes Rudd  
16th Lynne Owen  
21st Brenda Gray  
21st Pat Baylor  
24th Sonny McAfee



**Candidate for Precinct 1, Peter Jones, with Pat Sorenson and Ellen Miller at SRW Christmas Luncheon.**



**SRW Marion Gardner & Ann Seckler looking very festive at SRW Christmas Luncheon.**

**Carol Hawkinson looking festive at SRW Christmas Luncheon.**



**At the SRW Annual Christmas Luncheon we were WOWED by *The Wildflower Dance Troop*, as they entertained us. Pictured above, are SRW members Annette Burton, LaFon Frydenberg, and Nancy Overton.**



**The 2012 Star Republican Women was sworn in at the annual Christmas Luncheon by Suzanne Conaway. Louraine Robertson, Treasurer, Camille Bigham, Secretary, Donna Stevens, 2nd VP of Membership, Marion Gardner, 1st VP of Programs, and serving her 3rd term, Kathy Jones, President.**



**SRW Chair for Caring for America, Ellen Hower, delivered a Christmas lunch to HSB fireman and police department.**



**SRW Virginia McCoy, candidate for District Judge, Allan Garrett & Sheryl Miller at SRW Christmas Luncheon.**



**SRW Carol Hawkinson with Caring for America Chair, Ellen Hower at SRW Christmas Luncheon.**



**SRW PAC chair, Louraine Robertson & Mike Conaway's Llano County office staffer Nancy Watson at SRW Christmas Luncheon.**



**SRW member Dorothy Crockett with Lois Anderson and Theresa McKinney.**



**Mary Agnes Rudd entertaining at SRW Annual Luncheon with beautiful Christmas music.**



**SRW were so honored to have Suzanne Conaway, wife of Congressman Mike Conaway, to speak to us on "How to Make A Difference" at our Christmas Luncheon and to swear in our 2012 officers. Here Suzanne is pictured with Kathy Jones, President of SRW.**



STAR REPUBLICAN NEWS  
 P O BOX 8675  
 HORSESHOE BAY, TX 78657

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



**STAR REPUBLICAN WOMEN CALENDAR AND EVENTS**

- Tuesday, January 10th, 2012 SRW Board Meeting at Quail Point 9:30 am.
- Tuesday, January 10th “ *An Evening with the General.*” Texas Attorney General, Greg Abbott at Lakeside Pavilion, Marble Falls.
- Tuesday, January 17th SRW General Meeting at Quail Point 12:00 pm. Our speakers will be candidates for the US Senate; Glenn Addison, Judge Charles Holcomb, Tom Leppert and Lela Pittenger .
- Friday, February 3rd TFRW Board Meeting, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol.
- Friday, February 3rd Meet & Greet, 5:00 pm-6:00 pm with socialite, Joanne King Herring, Global Political Activist and former Texas TV Anchor. Sheraton Austin at the Capital. Patrons and Sponsors only.
- Friday, February 3rd TFRW Special Evening with Karen Hughes. 6:00 pm—7:30 pm at the Sheraton at the Capital. RSVP by January 30th. Mail form and check for \$40 to TFRW.
- Saturday, February 4th Leadership Day, Austin. Sheraton Austin at the Capital.

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