January, 2023 Volume 55, Issue 1

Bay Area REPUBLICAN WOMEN

President's Voice

Happy New Year BARW!

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and that you are refreshed, revitalized and ready to hit the ground running in 2023.

There is a Friedrich Nietzsche quote that kind of sums up the year we are facing.

> ***"There will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or steppingstones; it all depends on how you use them."***

We had some rocks in the House of Representatives last week, but they were used as steppingstones to perhaps have a more transparent and responsible governing body. A House that is not afraid to tackle the hard issues, a House that will get back to regular order, a House that will have a Speaker who will take on the Washington establishment instead of acquiescing to it. We will keep a watchful eye and hold our representatives accountable.

We have the Texas Legislature in session this year. Let's hope they will find a way to smooth the path and do what is best for Texas. See the Legislative report for the rocks in the road there. Once again, we will be vigilant.

We also have more than a dozen contested election races in Harris County. At least 11 judicial candidates and Alexandra Mealer have filed. Let's hope we will have some of the races overturned and the truth will come out about the county's conduct on Election Day.

So, lace up those hiking boots and get ready to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones!

I hope to see you all at our meeting on January 24th.

Debbie Roan
President, BARW

Contents

Page	Topic
1	President's Voice Table of Contents
2-3	Highlights from Egg Nog Party
4	Thank you to Mary and Wynn McMullen Next Meeting – Jan 24
5	Issues for 88th Texas Legislature
6	Volunteer Hours
7	January Birthdays
8-9	Continue Learning
10	Caring for America
11	BARW Membership Purpose
12	Important Dates
13	BARW 2023 Officers
14	Membership Application
15	Other Area RW Groups Stay Connected

Highlights from Egg Nog Party – December 7, 2022

A very special thank you to

Mary and Wynn McMullen

for opening their home to BARW for the Egg Nog Party. Their beautiful home, enchantingly decorated for the holidays, was a festive, joyful setting to celebrate our 2022 year.

Next Meeting – January 24, 2023

Robert Lawson

Clinical Professor - Jerome M. Fullinwider Centennial Chair in Economic Freedom

Robert Lawson holds the Jerome M. Fullinwider Centennial Chair in Economic Freedom and is director of the Bridwell Institute for Economic Freedom in the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University. He earned his PhD and MS in Economics from Florida State University and his BS in Economics from the Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University. He previously taught at Auburn University, Capital University, and Shawnee State University.

Dr. Lawson is a founding co-author of the Fraser Institute's *Economic Freedom of the World* annual report, which presents an economic freedom index for over 160 countries. Lawson has authored or co-authored over 100 academic publications. With Benjamin Powell, he is co-author of the Amazon Bestseller, ***Socialism Sucks: Two Economists Drink Their Way Through the Unfree World*** (Regnery Publishing). Lawson's research has been cited over 12,000 times according to Google Scholar.

Lawson is past-president of the Association of Private Enterprise Education, a Senior Fellow at the Fraser Institute, and a member of the Mont Pelerin Society. He has won the Adam Smith Award from the Association of Private Enterprise Education.

Personal: Lawson is married to the talented choreographer and writer, Tracy Lawson, and has one daughter, Kerianne, who is an economics professor at North Dakota State University. In his spare time, he enjoys playing vintage base ball, hiking, running, cooking, working on his VW bugs, and watching sports of all kinds. He loves Cincinnati chili, the Bengals, and the Reds.

Socialism Sucks: Two Economists Drink Their Way Through the Unfree World - available for purchase -

Issues for the 88th Texas Legislature

Fiscal

- Texas will have a large budget surplus, projected to be more than $27 billion. The exact amount will not be known until the Comptroller releases the Biennial Revenue Estimate on January 9th.
- From the projected budget surplus, many areas are hoping to see increased funding, but I believe the largest expenditure of the surplus will be some form of Property Tax Relief.
- Beyond Property Tax Relief, other big-ticket items include:
    - Infrastructure spending
    - Public Education and Health and Human Services will continue to be approx. 2/3 of the Budget
        - As part of this School Safety will receive a lot of funding
    - Increased funding for Operation Lonestar and other state programs geared toward protecting the southern border
    - Salary Increases for State employees who have been hurt by inflation and cost of living increases in Austin
    - ERS/TRS pension increases
    - IT modernization of state agencies

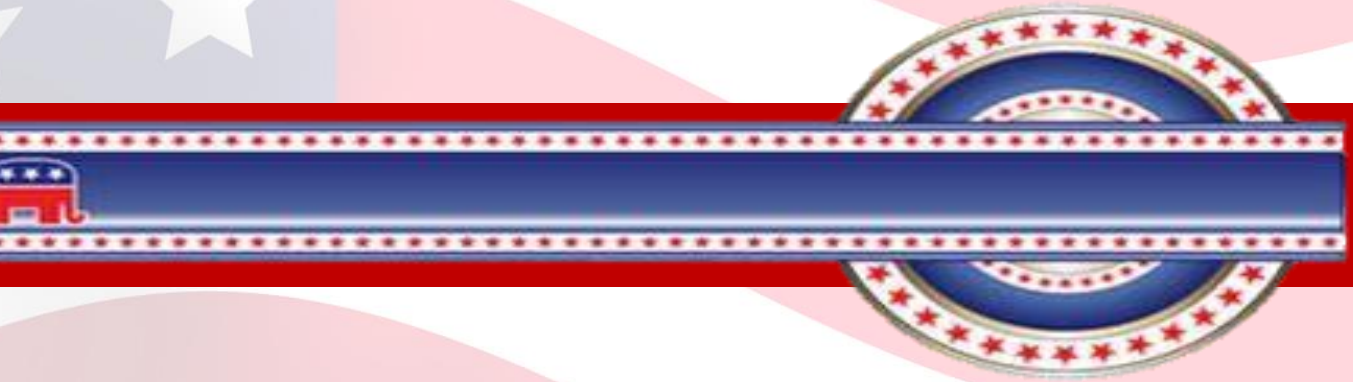
Non-Fiscal Issues

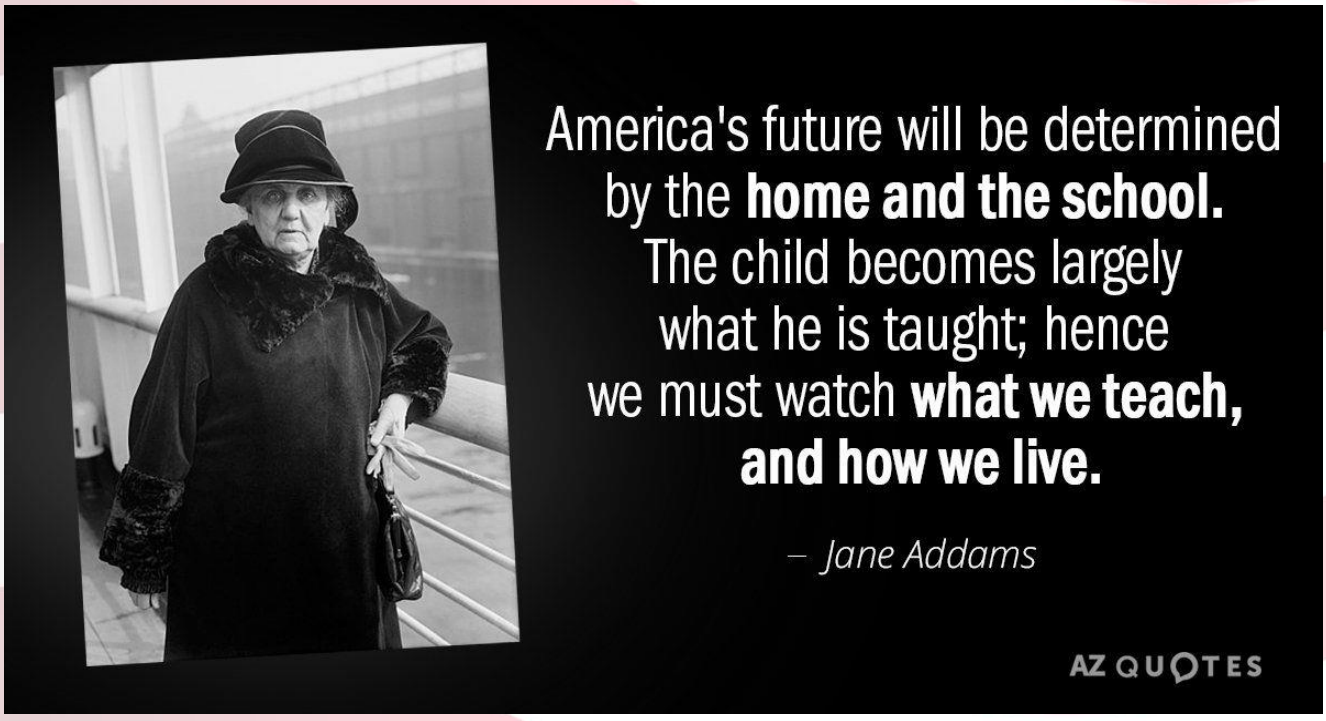
- Social Issues will continue to be a significant part of the session. These include bills on abortion, religion, and transgender people.
- Parents' Rights and school choice will be huge issues this session. The Senate will be pushing school vouchers, but it is yet to be seen if enough rural republicans in the House will support a voucher bill
- Election integrity will continue to be an issue though I believe much less so than the last session, as we see how the election law from Special Session is implemented.
- Electricity and strengthening of the grid will continue to be issues.
- ESG is going to be talked about at length as it becomes an even bigger issue nationally
- Gambling will be an issue that is brought up this session, but the Lt. Governor has been very clear that he doesn't support gambling, so I don't see it going anywhere.

Volunteer Hours and Calls

Just a reminder that January 15 will be our next reporting date for our volunteer hours and for calls made during the fourth quarter of 2022. Please send me your hours no later than January 14. Also, as a refresher, we can now count the time attending our general meetings and we can count the hours working at the polls even though they are paid hours so long as it is not the regular employment of the member. We can now also submit the number of calls made on behalf of a candidate or regarding a political issue, but here again, these calls cannot be counted if it is the regular employment of the member. Under the new rules, we are allowed to report any hours not reported from July 1, 2021 to the present, however, when reporting your hours just let me know the month and year or the quarter and year during which the volunteer hours were earned and the calls were made. Many of our members do not report their hours, consequently, too many hours go unreported, so please think back and give me your best estimate of the number of volunteer hours and the number of calls made. Give yourself and BARW credit for all the hours you devote.

Edie Holland
Volunteer Hours and Awards





January
1 Marilyn Lunney
3 Pat Adams
4 Vissett Sun
5 Debbie May
6 Darla McKitrick
9 Wayne Adams
18 Mary McCoy
19 Harry Brannan
22 Elizabeth Lauzon
25 Mimi Reilly
29 Marcella Erwin
30 Linda Guice
31 Pat Hendricks
31 Joyce Taylor
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

America

Continue Learning

1. What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is nearly always described with the following three words: Powerful. Synthetic. Opioid. Let's look at these terms in reverse order.

Opioid: Fentanyl belongs to the class of drugs called opioids, which are used to reduce pain. This category also includes morphine, oxycodone and heroin. Of these, fentanyl is one of the most potent, and is approved for medical use as a surgical anesthetic or for people with chronic pain (typically terminal cancer patients). Opioids reduce physical and emotional/psychological pain and can have a euphoric effect in high doses, which is why people sometimes misuse opioids.

Synthetic: Unlike morphine and heroin, fentanyl is not derived from the opium poppy. Rather, it is a synthetic product, meaning it is "formed through a chemical process by human agency"; i.e. it is not derived from plants. This means that it can be produced – it is not dependent on agricultural and harvest conditions. Since the supply is only limited by the availability of the precursor chemicals and the availability of people to make it, fentanyl is exceptionally cheap and easy to make compared to plant-based opioids.

Powerful: Fentanyl is good at its job. It is a highly effective and efficient pain reliever. It is 50-100 times stronger than morphine. All the properties are amplified, so it takes a lot less fentanyl to get the same effect as morphine or heroin. That has many of implications, for instance:

- Just a tiny amount can be lethal, especially if you don't have a tolerance to opioids.
- Fentanyl takes effect faster and wears off sooner, making it highly addictive and harder to kick.
- Standardized dosing in a pressed tablet requires precise measures of minute quantities, something that is not guaranteed by illegal suppliers. The difference between high and die is often a few milligrams, or roughly a few grains of salt.

2. What is the difference between pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl and illicit fentanyl?

There are two types of fentanyl you need to know about.

1. Pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl is a legitimate medication produced by pharmaceutical companies that have developed advanced technology to control the quality and maintain the proper dosages of the end products. Pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl is tightly regulated and is safe when administered by professionals as prescribed. Deaths from overdosing on pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl are relatively uncommon and often involve misuse or tampering of medications.
2. Illicit fentanyl is the black market version of the drug obtained or made by dealers and mixed into pills, other powders, blotter papers and liquids, etc. in "labs" with no quality controls. The risk of illicit fentanyl is two-fold. Illicit fentanyl, often made in Mexico, is not manufactured to the same quality standards as the pharmaceutical fentanyl commonly used for medicinal purposes. The potency of illicit fentanyl found in items sold in illegal markets can vary widely from maker to maker, or even from batch to batch, and the buyers don't know the contents of what they are getting*. Fake pills are then being made, sometimes with inconsistent amounts of illicit fentanyl.
3. Fake pills are illegally made in garages, basements, and other clandestine settings by unqualified drug makers who do not ensure the quality or consistency of the dose. When batches of fake pills are mixed, each pill may contain a different amount of illicit fentanyl making the dose of each pill impossible to predict. These products are not regulated and there is no way to ensure consumer safety. Because of this, use of illicit fentanyl is very dangerous. Illegally manufactured fentanyl is involved in the majority of U.S. drug deaths in recent years.

*One of the other negative aspects of poor quality control is that at times, the "illicit fentanyl" is not actual fentanyl. Within an illicit fentanyl supply, there may be unreacted precursor chemicals, byproducts that form due to poor heating or stirring, etc. Also, the amateur chemists can change the ingredients (precursors) of the recipe to form "fentanyl analogs." Pharmaceutical grade fentanyl is manufactured under strict, government regulated quality control standards so that precursor chemicals or byproducts that are left over from the synthesis process are removed as the final fentanyl product is purified.

3. What is a fentapill?

A fentapill is a counterfeit prescription pill purposely made to resemble legitimate medicines, but instead is made of illicit fentanyl or an illicit fentanyl analog.

Video: What is a "Fentapil"?

https://youtu.be/f8GZ264ND78

4. What makes illicit fentanyl so dangerous?
In addition to being extremely potent, fentanyl has a very small therapeutic index. This means that the amount of fentanyl it takes to have an effect is almost the same as the amount it takes to kill a person. That is why fentanyl is so carefully dosed and closely monitored in medical settings.

Illicit fentanyl also has a small therapeutic index, but it is manufactured without the necessary quality controls, so the potency of any given batch is an unknown variable. Combine this with improper blending when it is cut into powders and then pressed into pills, and you have a literal recipe for disaster: street drugs made with a potent, sensitive raw material that is unevenly distributed within the end product.

5. What is a lethal dose of fentanyl?
In toxicology, the lethal dose for a substance is referred to as the LD50, or median lethal dose, which is the amount that is needed to kill 50% of a sample group. Toxicologists point out that it is impossible to determine a precise LD50 for opioids because tolerance builds in lab subjects as the dose is increased. In other words, the lethal dose for any opioid is a moving target, technically speaking.

The DEA says that 2 milligrams (mg) of dry powder fentanyl is a "potentially lethal dose." This general statement makes the point that a small amount can be deadly. In fact, the actual amount of fentanyl that will cause death varies depending on the person's weight, whether they have used opioids before, their metabolism, their general health, and more. The amount of fentanyl that will kill a 110-lb person who has never ingested opioids will be different than the amount that will kill a 220-pound opioid dependent user. Therefore, a "lethal dose" may not cause death to everyone who consumes it. Conversely, a person could die from an amount of fentanyl that is less than the "lethal dose" of 2mg.

For more information about Fentanyl, visit Home | Song for Charlie | Non-Profit Charity

Song for Charlie strives to share accurate, unbiased information about illicit fentanyl and the fake prescription pills that are easily accessible on social media and elsewhere today. The content below has been researched and comes from credible, documented resources. This document has also been reviewed by 10 experts with varied backgrounds, including law enforcement, prevention, harm reduction, recovery, and more. If you have information that disproves our facts or if you have questions, you would like us to research, please email us at realtalk@songforcharlie.org.

Caring for America

All of us at BARW should be very proud of ourselves. We donated $695 to Fisher House which allows relatives of injured service people who are hospitalized to stay free of charge.

We also donated $2,216 in 2022 to Bay Area Meals on Wheels. This is the largest donation ever donated in a year. Thank you so much for your generosity. BARW also gave an additional $150 for donations given in speakers' names ($25 per speaker).

Bay Area Meals on Wheels has also expanded their delivery service by offering frozen meals on Fridays to be used over the weekend when they do not deliver. About 60% of their clients request these extra meals.

They also partner with Freeman Library to deliver books and materials to their homebound clients.

As you know, Bay Area Meals on Wheels is a wonderful organization. We should all be so proud of the support we give them. Should you decide to become a volunteer, call 281-406-4961 or if you know someone who may need delivery of meals, call 832-240-6515.

Jean Raffetto, Parliamentarian
Caring for America Chair

Join BARW for Year 2023

Happy New Year! The 2023 Membership Drive is still underway! Join or Renew your membership to Bay Area Republican Women.

On January 1, 2023 dues increased to $35 for Full Memberships and $20 for Associate Memberships.

Below are the current Membership numbers as of December 28, 2022 as the renewal process for 2023 continues.

50 = Full Members
3 = Associate Women Members
9 = Associate Men Members
62 = Total Members

*Please note that Memberships that were mailed in during the holidays have not yet been processed and are not included in the tally above. If you are unsure about your membership status for 2023, contact me at gop306pct@gmail.com.

Benefits of BARW Membership:

- ★ Be one of the most politically informed women in the Houston Bay Area!
- ★ Membership in the Texas Federation of Republican Women, the Most Powerful Political Organization in Texas!
- ★ Membership in the National Federation of Republican Women!
- ★ Help elect Republicans in the Local and State levels
- ★ Become the first to know about BARW meetings and events and other Republican activities!
- ★ Receive a printed copy of the BARW Membership Directory!

Join today! Complete the attached BARW Membership Form and mail it with payment to:

BARW Membership
P.O. Box 58103
Webster, Texas 77598-8103

Elizabeth Lauzon
1st VP Membership-2022, Bay Area Republican Women

BARW Purpose

The purpose of Bay Area Republican Women is to promote an informed electorate through political education. BARW works to increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government through active political participation. We strive to facilitate cooperation among Republican women of Texas, foster loyalty to the Republican Party and to promote its ideals, and work for the election of the Republican Party's nominees.

To join BARW, print and complete the Membership Application form in this newsletter (page 14) and mail it to BARW Membership Chair, P.O. Box 58103, Webster, TX 77598-8103 with your payment, or bring it to Elizabeth Lauzon at the next meeting.

Important Dates

January

16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Texas Gulf Coast RW, La Escondida, 400 W. Parkwood Ave., Friendswood, 6:30pm

17 Greater Houston Council, Trini Mendenhall Center, 1414 Wirt, Houston, 9:30am

18 **Galveston RW,** San Luis Resort and Hotel, 5222 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, 11:30am

24 **Bay Area RW**, Bay Oaks Country Club, 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Houston, **7:30am Social, 8am Speaker, 9am Business Meeting. RSVP to barw.rsvp@gmail.com** for breakfast. Continental Breakfast $13

February

2 Ground Hog Day
Baytown RW, 888 Chinese Restaurant, 4567 Garth Rd., Ste. 400, Baytown. 5:30pm
West Pearland RW, Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland, 6:30pm
TFRW State Capitol Outing, House Chamber Recognition and Picture on the Capitol Steps

3 TFRW Legislative Day

4 TFRW Board Meeting

10 **Clear Creek RW**, La Brisa Restaurant, 501 Wesley Dr., League City, 11am

14 **Happy Valentine's Day**

15 **Galveston RW,** San Luis Resort and Hotel, 5222 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, 11:30am

20 **Texas Gulf Coast RW**, La Escondida, 400 W. Parkwood Ave., Friendswood, 6:30pm

28 **Bay Area RW**, Bay Oaks Country Club, 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Houston, **7:30am Social, 8am Speaker, 9am Business Meeting. RSVP to barw.rsvp@gmail.com** for breakfast. Continental Breakfast $13

BARW 2023 Officers

	President	Debbie Guitian Roan
	1st Vice President	Elizabeth Lauzon
	2nd Vice President	Adrienne Sun
	Recording Secretary	Carolyn Sue Hopkins
	Corresponding Secretary	Debbie May
	PAC Treasurer	Marcella Erwin
	Immediate Past President	Beverly Ferguson-Cooper
	Advisor to President	Margaret Sucre-Vail

BAY AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Dues for Current Year **November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023**

Name: _____
(Please Print)
First Middle Last

Occupation: _____ **(Information Required by Texas Ethics Commission)**

Birthday_____ Spouse's Name: _____
Month / Day (If Applicable)

Address: _____ _____ _____ _____-_____
Street or P. O. Box City State Zip plus 4 digit extension

Telephone: **Cell**: (_____)_____

Home: (_____)_____

Office: (_____)_____

E-Mail: _____ **(Information Requested by BARW & TFRW)**

County & Voting Precinct #: (BARW By-Laws Article IV,Sect.1) Precinct#_____ Brazoria County Precinct # _____ Galveston County Precinct #_____ Harris County

Type of Membership:

☐

_____**$ 35.00** **Full Membership for Women** _____**Renewal** _____**New Member**

_____**$ 20.00** **Associate Membership RWC Members** _____**Renewal** _____**New Member**

Name of RWC Full Membership:_____

_____**$ 20.00** **Associate Membership for Men** _____**Renewal** _____**New Member**

Areas of Interest: _____Literacy _____Legislative _____Campaign Activities _____Fundraising

_____Events _____Membership _____Telephone _____Publicity _____Community Service

Other: _____

Please Make Checks Payable to: **BARW-PAC**
(CORPORATE CHECKS ARE PROHIBITED)
For Information Call:
Elizabeth Lauzon at **713-397-8270**

Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Check # _____

Send to:
BARW Membership Chair
P.O. Box 58103
Webster, Texas 77598-8103

Other Area Republican Women Groups

Baytown RW

Clear Creek RW

Galveston RW

Texas Gulf Coast RW

West Pearland RW

For meeting dates, times, and locations, please check the calendar on page 12.

Stay Connected

Bay Area Republican Women

- https://barw.org/

BARW Facebook

- https://www.facebook.com/Bayarearepublicanwoman/

#BAYAREAREPUBLICANWOMEN

Instagram
#bayarearepublicanwomen

Debra Risinger
Social Media

Local, State, Federal, & Other Informational Web Page Links

- https://barw.org/links/