The Attorney General
Candidate Forum

Dan Branch is running for Attorney General to defend the Constitution and protect the Texas Miracle from Washington’s overreach. Since 2003, Dan has served in the Texas House, where he led the way in balancing six straight budgets without raising taxes, passing the largest tax cut in Texas history, and championing landmark pro-life legislation. Dan promises to continue the efforts of Attorney General Abbott to protect Texas liberties by fighting the federal intrusions of President Obama and his allies in Washington. Dan is committed to standing up to Washington, stopping Obama’s assault on our freedoms. Dan earned his law degree at SMU School of Law, and two undergraduate degrees from Oklahoma Christian University.

Barry Smitherman pledges strong conservative values and to stand up to the federal government to defend Texans and the Texas Constitution, and to use his conservative values to enforce our laws and secure our border. Barry was appointed to the Railroad Commission by Governor Perry in 2011, and won election to the post in 2012 with 74% of the vote. In that post, he sued Obama’s Environmental Protection Agency seven times. Barry is a former Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission, and a former prosecutor. He also spent 17 years in private sector public finance. Barry is an unwavering supporter of the 2nd Amendment who understands the precious right to bear arms and continues to fight to protect that right. Barry earned his degrees from Texas A&M University and the University of Texas School of Law.

Ken Paxton a Republican Texas State Senator has consistently been recognized as a conservative, stalwart Texas leader with a deep passion and respect for our U.S. Constitution. Ken Paxton was first elected in 2002 as a State Representative in House District 70, and served in the Texas House of Representatives for 10 years prior to being elected to represent Texas Senate District 8 in 2012. Ken is running for Attorney General because there is too much at stake, and he is willing to fight to ensure that the Lone Star State remains a beacon of freedom and liberty to the nation. Ken graduated from Baylor University, earning a B.A. in Psychology in 1985 and an M.B.A. in 1986. He earned his J.D. degree from University Of Virginia School Of Law. 1991.

Lunch (optional) $25.00 (cash only)
RSVP for LUNCH ONLY
On or before Friday, February 21st at 5:00 PM
WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ADD LUNCHES AFTER THE FRIDAY DEADLINE

*No-Show will be billed*

Click Here to RSVP on the website or vrwpresident@gmail.com or 713-461-4552

Complimentary Valet Parking
Message from the President

We are just weeks away from the Primary election, and only days away from the start of early voting. By now your mailboxes are being flooded with political mailers, pieces that are designed to look like mail ballots and slate endorsements disguised as magazines or other non-political literature.


Let me add: Be discriminating.

Your vote is valuable; be discriminating if you consider using someone else’s guide when you go into the voting booth. It is well documented that many of the “sample mail ballots” and voter’s guide “magazines” are really thinly disguised attempts at getting you to vote for candidates that have paid for those endorsements – putting a lot of money in a few pockets– at the expense of the integrity of our election system. It is such a lucrative business that a new “pay to play slate”, the “Harris County GOP PAC”, has been reconstituted.

There are some – just a very few – slates in Harris County that are not “pay to play” slates. Research them – find out what their principles are and what criteria they utilize to determine their endorsements. If you agree with their principles and criteria, you can feel much more assured that their endorsements are more in line with your beliefs concerning the candidates for whom you don’t feel adequately informed.

If you are looking for extra guidance, I recommend that the only slates you pay any attention to are United Republicans of Harris County, Houston “C” Club or the Houston Realty Business Coalition. All three have websites that will give you lots of information. A good source of information on the “pay to play” slates can be found poking around on the web site www.bigjollypolitics.com.

The best way to learn about candidates is to use every opportunity that you have to see them, talk to them, and learn about them. Then work hard for the ones that you think will be the best public servants and represent you.


Theresa

Appreciation!!

President Theresa presented a bouquet of THANKS to past president Buffie in appreciation for her hard work and dedication.
JOIN THE GRASSROOTS CLUB TODAY!!

As your new VRW coordinator for the Grassroots Club, I would like to invite you to become a member of this important effort within our Party. Started by Republican Party of Texas Chairman, Steve Munisteri, the goal of this “club” is to create and sustain a reliable funding source to fight the Democrats all year long. It further allows the State Party to reduce its cost of fundraising from 70% down to 5%, all the while encouraging more grassroots participation from individuals versus relying on large, one-time donations.

The benefits to you are this – for either a monthly credit card charge of $8.25 or a single check of $99.00 per year, the RPT will not send you any solicitations or make any phone calls to you. Our club will also get credit toward award points based on the level of participation from within VRW.

So, please consider joining this effort to keep Texas Red and to participate in the biggest force within our Party, the grassroots movement. I will have sign-up materials at our February meeting and would encourage you to begin your support of our State Party this month. However, if you prefer, you may also sign up online at: www.grassrootsclub.com. With the 2014 mid-term elections just around the corner, it is imperative that we all make a commitment to keep the Republican Party of Texas financially competitive! Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Prince
Grassroots Club

Americanism

Operation Military Embrace (OME)

www.operationmilitaryembrace.com

The Board voted to donate our speaker honoraria this year to Operation Military Embrace, a 501C3 organization that is based in Hockley. OME assists and supports the recovering military and their families at San Antonio Military Medical Center and other military and private facilities. OME welcomes monetary and in-kind donations and does not advertise.

Important Dates

February 18, 2014   Greater Houston Council “Nuts N Bolts” seminar
February 18, 2014   Early Voting begins for Primary Election
February 26, 2014   VRW General Meeting (Vallone's)
February 28, 2014   Last day of Early Voting for Primary Election
March 4, 2014       Primary Election Day/Precinct Conventions
Top 10 Reasons to Join (or Rejoin) VILLAGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN:

1. Opportunity to be part of a wonderful, committed group of Republican women with comparable values and beliefs.

2. A great way to get informed and get involved by hearing what Republican candidates are saying and doing before you vote.

3. Interesting speakers on relevant topics that impact our daily lives and the state of our country, city and Texas.

4. Easy way to see old friends and make new ones.

5. Meetings are and lunch a last only an hour and a half.

6. Membership is a real value - $50 for the entire year.

7. Membership includes being a member in VRW, Texas Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.

8. General meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month at Vallone’s – one of the hottest restaurants in Houston- with no general meetings in the summer or December, so you get a little vacation.

9. Some of the best CHATS, fundraisers and Holiday parties in all of Southeast Texas.

10. You are part of one of the oldest, strongest and best known Republican women’s clubs in Texas, with a lasting legacy of getting qualified candidates elected.

So, I hope you'll get your membership in by March 26th so that your name will be included in our 2014 directory. Contact Marilyn Davis for more information.

Welcome new members!

Liz Mason
Kathy McLeod

This month has two days designated as Flag Display Days. They are February 12th, Lincoln's Birthday, and the 3rd Monday in February, Presidents' Day, in honor of Washington's Birthday on the 22nd.
KNOWLEDGE IN ADVANCE IS POWER:
Ensuring that Texas students know what Higher Ed Options are MOST valued

State Representative Jim Murphy (HD-133)

Higher education is doing very well in the United States. Our universities are attracting a record number of students, receiving unprecedented levels of philanthropic support, and setting new highs for R&D funding. I am huge admirer of the Texas university system which has recently developed some truly remarkable programs. The GeoForce program that prepares high school students for careers in our state’s increasingly important geosciences workforce and the collaboration between the University of Houston and Houston Community College to help keep the costs of a 4 year degree as low as possible are just two examples of great programs in our state’s higher education system.

An issue that I have been very concerned about is making sure that our high school students (and their parents) know in advance which college degrees are in most demand in the Texas workforce. In fact, during the last legislative session I successfully amended HB 1296 bill to require the Texas Education Administration to collaborate with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Coordinating Board to prepare data such as employment rates, wages, and tuition cost, and post them on TEA’s website so that this information is available to counselors, students and parents. I am confident that this measure will help students make informed decisions about their education.

Texas leads the nation in job creation. Yet far fewer of today’s new jobs require merely a high school degree. Far more require a 2 or 4 year degree, technical training or professional certification. This trend alone is a huge issue, but the aging of our workforce compounds this problem. I know from my work in economic development and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Manufacturing that our shrinking workforce is THE primary issue for employers. Texas businesses can accomplish many things, but they cannot build a workforce---that’s the job of our education system.

Taxpayers have a vested interest in success of our students, not only their academic success, but more importantly knowing that our university system is developing the types of trained workers needed in our aging workforce. Employers and business leaders also understand this, and their support was key to passing our most significant education reform bill (H.B. 5) during the last session.

By helping students and their parents learn in advance as much as possible about the value of various college degrees, we can ensure our higher education system produces the desired results--a strong workforce that Texas employers can count on and new workers who will have good paying jobs. Such knowledge will give more families confidence that their investment in higher education will be well worth the cost.
January Meeting
Railroad Commission
Candidates Forum
The meeting was called to order by Theresa Kosmoski at 11:29 a.m.

The invocation and pledge were given by Mary Grace Landrum

Kathaleen Walls introduced new members, guests, elected officials and candidates.

November minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Review Committee Report: Rajada Fleming
The committee of Rajada Fleming and Ellie Essilah met this fall and submitted the completed and thorough financial review report as defined by the VRW Bylaws to the general membership. On behalf of the committee, it was moved to accept this report as submitted. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Salvo
Presented the budget as approved by the VRW Board. This year's budget includes some additions such as a Village Liaison Line Item to cover various community outreach efforts. These efforts include working with the Northbrook PTSA and joining the West Chamber of Commerce. Lauren Taylor will chair this position and will find ways to be involved in the community and share the efforts of Village Republican Women. Rebecca Salvo made the motion to approve the budget as submitted. It was seconded and approved.

Legislative Report: Deanna Harrington
Deanna Harrington, our legislative chair, shared that she will have guest authors to discuss legislative affairs in our monthly VRW Newsletter. Our first guest author will be U.S. Senator Ted Cruz.

Social Media Report: Ginger Moore
VRW Social Media Chair is a new position being chaired by Ginger Moore. Please view the new VRW photo albums on the VRW Facebook Page. Please take the time to "like" the albums and text photos to Ginger Moore. Our goal is to be very visible. Please take time to find the VRW Facebook Page. Look for the club's logo to ensure you have the correct page. Then, please "like" this page.

Special Presentation: Theresa Kosmoski
In the past, the VRW have appointed a Village Queen of the Month. We will continue to recognize individuals and a new title will be presented at a future meeting. This month, it was unanimously decided to recognize Buffie Ingersoll who has made significant contributions to the VRW group. Buffie was presented a large bouquet of flowers in honor of all her amazing and hard work.

Theresa Kosmoski concluded with remarks regarding the upcoming elections and the many changes this election cycle will bring. Primaries are March 4. Reminded individuals to track and report all their hours. Currently, our club underreports its hours. Theresa Kosmoski stated that TFRW has set a goal of increasing membership by 10 percent. Theresa challenged VRW to increase membership by 20 percent and by October 1, 2014, to recruit one new member. Also, members were encouraged to become TFRW patrons.

Program: Joanie Bain
Joanie Bain began the program by introducing Bob Price as the moderator. Rajada Fleming served as the time keeper. All four Texas Railroad Commissioner Candidates (Becky Berger, Malachi Boyuls, Wayne Christian and Ryan Sitton) served on the forum panel. The candidates were introduced and asked a series of questions concluding with closing remarks.

Final announcements were made. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Katherine Dawson
# Village Republican Women

www.VillageRepublicanWomen.org

## 2014-2015 Executive Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theresa Kosmoski</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Buffie Ingersoll</td>
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<td>Rajada Fleming</td>
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<td>Deanna Harrington</td>
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<tr>
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