THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN of GREGG COUNTY

AUGUST 2026 | VOLUME 5, NO. 8 | REGION 5 | DISTRICT 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LINDA BOBO – PRESIDENT

FAITH. FAMILY. UNITY.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." **Ronald Reagan**

President Ronald Reagan often stated that America's greatest strength is found in her people - not in government, but in citizens who stand for faith, freedom, personal responsibility and the Constitution.

As RWGC moves into another important month, I want to thank each of you for your dedication to Republican values and commitment to RWGC. The strength of our club has always rested in members who are willing to serve, lead and work together for something greater than themselves.

With the 2026 election season underway, our mission is simple and urgent: **GET OUT THE VOTE AND KEEP TEXAS RED**. Every phone call, every text message, every door knocked, every conversation with a neighbor and every voter we encourage to cast a ballot helps preserve the Texas we love. History has shown us that elections are often decided by those who choose to engage while others stay at home. We cannot afford complacency!

Governor Greg Abbott has equipped Republicans with an outstanding resource through the **Abbott Impact App.** This powerful tool enables each of us to identify voters, make personal contact, encourage voter participation and expand our conservative outreach throughout Texas. Our District Director Rhonda Anderson spoke about this at our last meeting and has an article in this month's newsletter to further explain. I encourage each of you to download the app to become an active part of this statewide effort.

Just as important as turning out voters is standing together as Republicans. Gregg County is blessed with dedicated Republican clubs, elected officials, grassroots organizations, candidates and volunteers who all desire to preserve the freedoms that make Texas exceptional. While we may not always agree on every issue or every strategy, we must never lose sight of our common purpose. **The challenges before us are too important for division.**

President Reagan reminded us that, **"There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."** That spirit of humility and teamwork should continue to guide us as we work alongside one another to strengthen our party, support our candidates and protect our conservative values.

Governor Greg Abbott will be the honored guest and keynote speaker at the Lincoln Reagan Dinner on September 21st at Pinecrest Country Club. This promises to be one of the premier Republican gatherings in East Texas as Governor Abbott joins us in celebrating **America 250** and honoring the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan, whose courage, vision and love of country continue to inspire generations. This dinner is an investment in the future of our Party, an opportunity to encourage the next generation of conservative leaders and a celebration of the principles that have made America the greatest nation in the world. I encourage each member to invite friends, purchase tickets and tables and help us make this a successful and inspiring event.

Liberty is not inherited automatically, it is protected by citizens who are willing to stand, serve and sacrifice. We have been entrusted with that responsibility, and I believe the Republican Women of Gregg County will continue to answer that call with courage, grace and determination. Together, let us move forward with confidence, unity and purpose as we work to elect Republicans, strengthen our communities and keep Texas strong, free and proudly **RED.**

May God continue to bless each of you, the Republican Women of Gregg County, the Great State of Texas, and the United States of America!

Linda Bobo, President

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." – Psalm 133:1

America Celebrates 250!

RWGC members, friends, and family celebrated our country's big birthday in a variety of ways!



RWGC First VP Sharron Fowler and Donna Blalock participating in a July 4th car show in Longview.

"I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations . . . It ought to be commemorated as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty . . . with pomp and parade, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more." - Letter from John Adams to Abigal Adams – July 3, 1776



Above – RWGC Communications Chair Karen Cundiff, By-Laws Chair Connie Gipson, President Linda Bobo, with Treasurer Gwen Wuori and Publicity Chair Linda Voyles, awaiting the opening of "*1776*" at Kilgore College. Right – RWGC friend Erich Bui with Turning Point USA producer Blake Neff at The Leadership Institute in D.C. on the Fourth.



RWGC member Michelle Gamboa Barrios celebrating Independence Day poolside with baby Isabella, husband Blake, and family. (Above)



AMERICANISM

GAIL APPLE – CHAIRMAN

"Finally ye freemen, all of every class, whose high prerogative it is to raise up or pull down, to invest with office and authority or to withhold them, and in whose power it is to save or destroy your country, consider well the important trust and distinguishing privileges which God and nature have put into your hands. To God and posterity you are accountable for them. Let not your children have reason to curse you for giving up those rights, and prostrating those institutions which your fathers delivered to you."

- Reverend Matthias Burnet, 1803

Rev. Matthias Burnet, D.D. (1749-1806) was a Presbyterian-trained minister who studied theology under the renowned Rev. John Witherspoon. Burnet was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton). He served as a pastor in Jamaica, Long Island, during the Revolutionary War and later became pastor of the First Congregational Church in Norwalk, Connecticut. Because he was highly respected, Burnet was selected by Connecticut to preach the state's annual Election Sermon in 1803. The sermon was given before election of state officers, but it is remembered because Burnet emphasized that *the people themselves bear responsibility for the character of their govenent.*

THIS MONTH IN UNITED STATES HISTORY

August 2, 1776 - In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence.

August 27, 1776 – Battle of Long Island (Brooklyn): George Washington suffered his first major defeat of the Revolutionary War. Despite the loss, his daring nighttime evacuation of the Continental Army across the East River saved the American cause.

August 7, 1782 – George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit, predecessor to The Purple Heart.

August 6-10, 1787 - The Great Debate occurred during the Constitutional Convention.Outcomes included the establishment of a four-year term of office for the President,granting Congress the right to regulate foreign trade and interstate commerce, and the appointment of a committee to prepare a final draft of the Constitution.

August 1, 1801 – Congress created the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a permanent organization.

August 24, 1814 – British troops burned the White House, the Capitol, and other public buildings during the War of 1812.

August 2, 1836 – The Texas Declaration of Independence was formally approved by the First Congress of the Republic of Texas.

August 11, 1841 - Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave, spoke before an audience in the North for the first time. During an anti-slavery convention on Nantucket Island, he gave a powerful, emotional account of his life as a slave. He was immediately asked to become a full-time lecturer for the Massachusetts Antislavery Society.

August 5, 1861 - President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the first Federal income tax, a 3 percent tax on incomes over $800, as an emergency wartime measure during the Civil War. However, the tax was never put into effect.

TFRW TIPS

RHONDA ANDERSON, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

One of the greatest strengths of the Texas Federation of Republican Women is our ability to turn service into action. At our recent TFRW Board Meeting, we received exciting updates that will strengthen our impact across Texas as we prepare for the 2026 election cycle.

TFRW has once again been selected to lead the statewide **Voter Engagement Project.** This important effort places Republican Women on the front lines of voter registration, voter identification, and grassroots engagement. Our clubs have always been the foundation of Republican victories in Texas, and this initiative recognizes the work our members do every day in their communities.

We also received exciting news from Governor Greg Abbott's campaign. **TFRW has been chosen to partner with the Abbott campaign in its statewide Get Out the Vote effort through the Abbott Impact app.** This partnership gives our members another powerful tool to connect with voters while supporting our local clubs.

The Abbott Impact App allows members to identify voters, communicate with Republicans, and record voter activity. *Even better, clubs will receive volunteer hour credit for participating. In addition, TFRW clubs will receive $3.00 for every identified voter entered through the app.* This creates a unique opportunity to expand our grassroots efforts while also generating financial support for club activities.

As District Director, I encourage our club to become familiar with this program and participate. The program officially kicks off on August 15. The more members who engage, the stronger our voter outreach will be across our district and throughout Texas.

I also want to remind our members about one of our favorite biennial traditions, the *Tribute to Women* luncheon in Round Rock on September 19. This event recognizes outstanding Republican women whose service has strengthened their clubs and communities. Every club is encouraged to nominate one deserving member for this special recognition. Nomination forms must be submitted by August 15.

Thank you for everything you do to advance Republican principles and strengthen the impact of the Texas Federation of Republican Women. Your dedication, leadership, and service continue to make a difference across our state. Together, we will continue leading the way.

Dates to Remember:

- August 15 - Tribute to Women nominations due.
- August 15 - Abbott Impact App Initiative Kickoff
- August 30 - Tribute to Women, Eary Bird ticket pricing ends
- September 19 - Tribute to Women Celebration

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES REPORT

MELISSA BEFORT - CHAIRMAN

RWGC members have an opportunity to learn how to use the Abbott Impact App to GET OUT THE VOTE! Training from Robert Bennett of the Abbott Campaign will be on Wednesday, August 5, at 2:00 p.m., GOP Headquarters, 2802 Gilmer Rd., Suite 5, Longview. East Texas Republican voters have the duty of counteracting the liberal voters in our big cities, and the Abbott Impact App is an effective tool to help us do just that!

VOLUNTEER HOURS MATTER! I will be sending out an email to all members with a form to record volunteer hours if they are not reported at the monthly meeting. The total hours *reported* for July is 485. Please take the time to calculate your volunteer hours and report them. These hours contribute to our club's recognition from TFRW, and more importantly, reflect the efforts of members engaged in the vital work of Republican Women!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SANDY GARRISON – 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

"Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence – true friendship is a plant of slow growth and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation." – George Washington, January 15, 1783

Greetings, Friends –

As we continue to strive together for unity and stand against tyranny, let us remember to always be respectful and loving toward each other and even those who rise against us. The Bible commands us to free our adversaries from captivity by standing strong while extending mercy and grace as we promote truth and The Good News.

Our July meeting included 28 members and 20 guests. This year's RWGC Scholarship recipients Olivia Odom and Anna Tryon and their guests attended the meeting, where Olivia and Anna were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements and ambitious college plans. Congratulations to these outstanding young women and their families! Olivia is the granddaughter of RWGC member Sandy Odom.

Our guest speaker Wylie Wilson and his wife, Jacque, were accompanied by several guests. Wylie "Coyote" Wilson's slide presentation of the National Veterans Awareness Organization's motorcycle ministry was truly inspiring and challenging, as he shared stories of veterans they encountered along their cross-country motorcycle ride. Each spring, the group begins their ride on the West Coast, culminating with their arrival in Washington, D.C. for Memorial Day observations.

We also heard from Erich Bui, who shared video of his trip to Washington, D.C. to attend class and witness America's 250th birthday celebration with The Leadership Institute. With the transfer of membership of Rhonda Anderson into our club, membership stands at 86 with 7 associates.



Brenda Yoder – 4th Linda Nelson – 13th Debra Bolnick – 19th

Joyce Hugman – 22nd Antay Waters – 28th

Blessings & Ballyhoo to our birthday girls!



Many of our veterans struggle with the after-effects of serving in combat, and every single day, this nation loses 20 veterans to suicide. **Your involvement in what may seem like a little gesture can make a big difference in the life of a courageous service man or woman who was willing to give his or her life for us in defense of the United States.**

If you would like to help show support to those who have served our nation, please consider becoming involved with the Veterans Committee. RWGC offers many opportunities to support local veterans without committing to meetings and long-term projects. Please contact chairman Sharron Fowler at samandheaven@aol.com to hear about RWGC's service initiatives and find the project where you might want to be of assistance.

National Hire a Veteran Day, July 25th, was observed on July 24th as many local organizations focused on promoting career opportunities and hiring initiatives for former service members. Every day should be "Hire a Veteran Day!"

RWGC Supports Veterans Through Operation True

Operation True North has extended heartfelt thanks to the Republican Women of Gregg County for providing and preparing an amazing meal on July 2nd that included King Ranch Chicken Casseroles from Karen Cundiff, tossed salad, chips and salsa from Connie Gipson, tea and patriotic keepsake cups from Sharron Fowler, and a dessert of Tennessee Sweet Pecan Bread from Dan Fowler.
The veterans and staff of Operation True North greatly appreciated the delicious meal and voiced many blessings over the generosity of RWGC.

Veterans are invited to attend the Veteran Peer Support Group every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. A complimentary meal is provided, offering an opportunity to enjoy fellowship, share experiences, and build lasting connections with fellow veterans. Operation True North offers support, resources, and a community that understands the challenges many veterans face, and all veterans are welcome.

Veteran Service Dog Available for Female Veteran!

Counting Stars Ranch in Ore City has a two-year-old male standard size poodle service dog to give to a female veteran. Training will be provided for the veteran to work with the dog. Please contact Sharron Fowler for all the details.



FREE Meta Smart Glasses for Eligible Veterans

Please help spread the word to veterans for this amazing opportunity! Lighthouse for the Blind in Tyler will host a special event for veterans who are visually or hearing impaired. During the event, eligible veterans will receive:

- Comprehensive evaluations and vision exams
- Personalized fitting for Meta Smart Glasses
- Hands-on training on how to use the glasses and their accessibility features

These services and the Meta Smart Glasses are provided at ***no cost for eligible veterans***. **Appointments are required**. Veterans are encouraged to call Lighthouse for the Blind to schedule an appointment, as availability may be limited.

Lighthouse for the Blind
411 W. Front Street
Tyler, Texas 75702
Telephone:903-593-3111
Thursday, August 20, 2026

RWGC Veterans Chair Sharron Fowler will be available at the event to answer questions and provide additional information. If you have questions before the event, please call Sharron at 903-521-2900.

Gregg County Veteran Resource Hub is open and ready to serve veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. It is located at Operation True North,
1626 E. Whaley Street, Longview, Tx. 75601.

Operation True North provides a supportive environment where veterans can connect with resources, encouragement, and one another.



Legislative Committee Interest Survey

As we work together, we'd like to know which legislative issues are most important to you. Please select your **TOP FIVE** priorities. Your responses will help guide our committee during the legislative session.

You may print this page, complete and bring to the August 19th meeting, or you may e-mail a picture to melissabeckett7@gmail.com. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Name (optional)_____

Please select your TOP FIVE priorities:

☐ Agriculture, Water & Rural Issues (Agriculture, Ranching, Water Resources, Rural Issues)

☐ Border Security & Illegal Immigration

☐ Child Protection & Human Trafficking

☐ Constitutional Rights (1st Amendment, 2nd Amendment, Religious Liberty, Free Speech)

☐ Data Centers & Technology

☐ Education (Public Education, School Choice, Parental Rights)

☐ Election Integrity & Election Law

☐ Energy (Oil & Gas, Electric Grid, Energy Policy)

☐ Government Spending, Budget & Taxes (Property Tax Relief, State Budget, Fiscal Responsibility)

☐ Healthcare & Rural Healthcare

☐ Islam & National Security

☐ Public Safety & Law Enforcement

☐ Small Business & Economic Development

☐ Veteran's Issues

☐ Other_____

Are there any specific bills or legislative issues you would like the committee to monitor?

_____

_____

_____

Thank you! Your input will help us focus our legislative updates on the issues that matter most to our members.









UPCOMING EVENTS

August 5 – Invite a Guest to the August 19th Membership Meeting

August 5 – RWGC Board Meeting – Noon – GZ's on Judson Rd. – Limited Seating

August 5 – Abbott Impact App Training with Abbott Team Member – HQ – 1:30 p.m.

August 11 – Guns & Gals – Top Shot Indoor Range – Noon – Contact Tricia at 903-738-7700

August 19 – Membership Meeting at The Jalapeno Tree - 11:30 to order – Program starts at noon

August 20 – Gregg Co. Republican Club at The Jalapeno Tree – 6:30 p.m. – Movie "The Truth About Our Founding Fathers"

August 20 – Deadline for September newsletter submissions and photos

September 9 & 10 – Republican Party Mid-Term Convention - Dallas

September 21 – Lincoln Reagan Dinner, Pinecrest Country Club

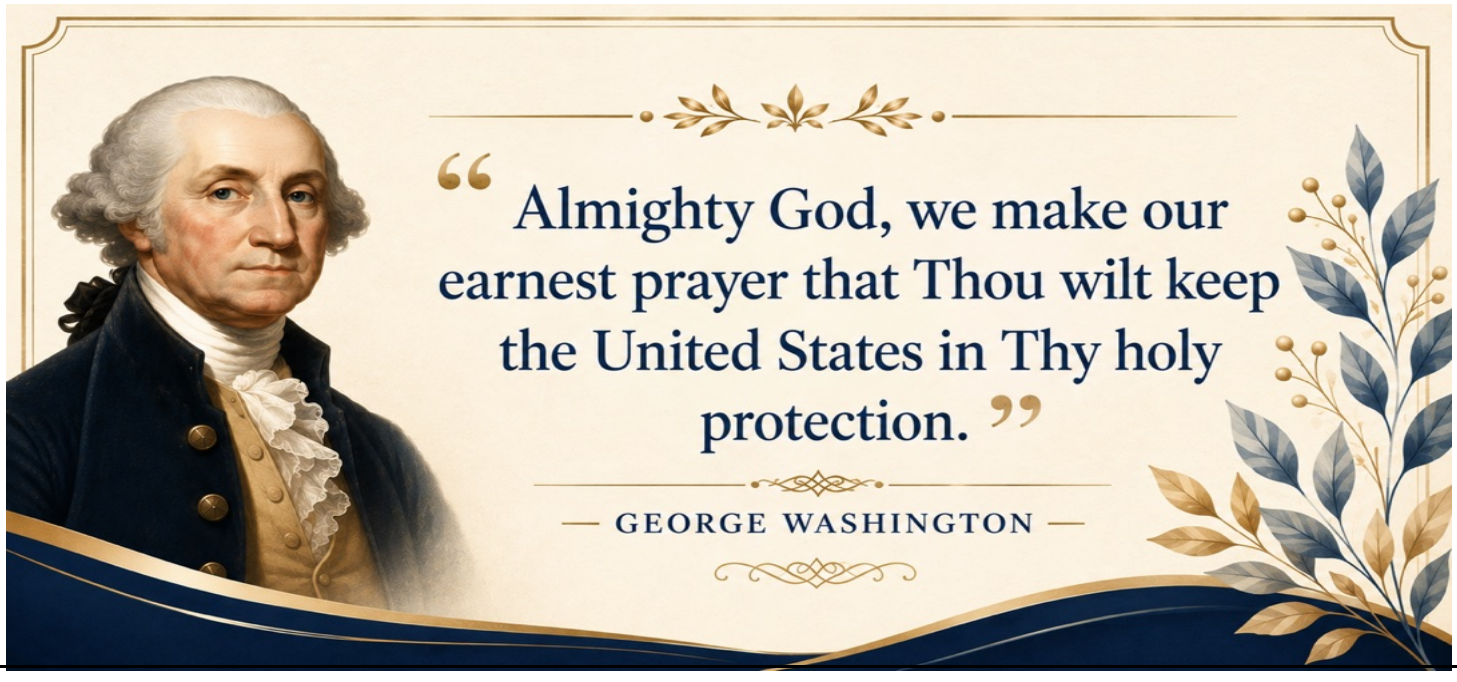
October 28 – First Responders Day – RWGC will conduct outreach



"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Wisdom, discernment, strength, good health, and safety for President Trump and Cabinet
- Deborah Deas' surgery on August 5th
- Sharon Clark's brother battling pancreatic cancer
- Volunteers to help get out the vote to Keep Texas Red
- Great participation in the Abbott Impact Act training on August 5th
- Healing and restoration of health for members' husbands: Larry Holly, Lee Lafferty, Haskell Williamson, Jerry Gipson & Dave Holly
- Tricia and Tyler Oxton
- Michelle Gamboa and baby Isabella
- Those traveling on vacation
- Passage of the SAVE AMERICA ACT
- Safety and success for all our active military on duty around the world
- Party unity in November elections
- Planning for the Inaugural Lincoln Reagan Dinner
  Club unity and cohesiveness in working toward common goals





From Gail Apple, Class Organizer:

In this class, we will learn how our Constitution was based on Biblical principles, looking at the Biblical backgrounds of many Founding Fathers. We will discuss how to contact our representatives concerning issues we want them to address and do that right from our phones.

We will find out what the primary is and what privileges we have as we are able to attend the precinct, county, and possibly state conventions. You may wonder what you have to offer. This class shows we all have very much to offer, and it is vitally important that we do so!

We will look at the duties of our precinct chairs, poll watchers and poll workers. We will also learn how important it is to get people registered to vote. These grass roots activities are where elections are won, and East Texas is key to balancing out the liberal voters in the big cities of Texas.

Come discover together how each of us can truly make a difference in the direction of our community, our state, and our nation.

NEW CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

Classes are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Republican Party Headquarters - 2802 Gilmer Road – Unit 5

A covered dish lunch is provided.

Contact Gail Apple at 903-235-4149 or foundersdocuments@yahoo.com to register.

REMINDER

The final two classes of the current class will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in August, at the regular class times:

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Party Headquarters. Lunch is provided.

RWGC OFFICERS & CHAIRS

Linda Bobo, President

Sharron Fowler, First Vice President, Programs, Veterans

Sandy Garrison, Second Vice President, Membership, First Responders

Deborah Deas, Secretary

Gwen Wuori, Treasurer

Melissa Befort, Political Activities Chair

Melissa Beckett, Legislative Chair

Marty Rhymes, PAC Chair

Connie Wade Gipson, By-Laws Chair

Nancy Holly, Chaplain, Benevolence Chair

Gail Apple, Americanism Chair

Karen Cundiff, Communications Chair, Newsletter Editor

Linda Voyles, Publicity Chair

THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF GREGG COUNTY IS A MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN tfrw.org and THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN nfrw.org.

PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE SEPTEMBER 16TH GENERAL MEETING AT THE JALAPENO TREE.
PLEASE ARRIVE AT 11:30 TO ORDER LUNCH.
THE MEETING STARTS AT NOON.

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