



Liberty Belle

Ellis County Republican Women
Region X11 SD 22

Affiliate of the Texas & National Republican Women



April 4, 2022

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God Bless America

President's Message

President Cheree' Barrett

Have you ever heard the term "Operation Lone Star"? When I heard it, I wanted it to be something about our great State that will make you proud and have that emotional swell. That is not it.

What is Operation Lone Star? Operation Lone Star is a border security initiative launched by Texas Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) in March 2021 in response to rising border crossings, which he blames on [President Joe Biden's immigration policies](#).

In May 2021, Abbott issued a disaster declaration — which [now covers 53 counties](#), most of them on or near the border — to give him the authority to deploy the Texas National Guard to the border. The state agencies responsible for running Operation Lone Star are the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Military Department.

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April Speaker Spotlight - Lisa Conoly

Lisa Schafer Conoly, a lifelong resident of Kinney County, is the current Vice President of the Kinney County Republican Women's organization in Brackettville. Lisa's duties include all technology, social media, and special events for the chapter.

She, along with other members in this border chapter, are working on solutions and legislation related to illegal immigration.

Lisa retired after more than 24 years of teaching in the Brackett Independent School District. She taught Third Grade, Kindergarten, before establishing a High School Theatre Arts Department. Under her direction, the Brackett High School One Act Play group won the coveted State Champion First Place award in 2017. This was a historic first for Brackett ISD with their production of "Golden Boy" by Clifford Odets.

Mrs. Conoly is a lifelong Episcopalian and currently serves as Treasurer on the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Vestry in Brackettville. She and her husband Stan have been married for 36 years. Together, they manage the Stan Conoly Family Ranch located south of Brackettville near the southern border.

Stan and Lisa have three grown children: one daughter, two sons and one grandson.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUR APRIL MEETING!

Melody Allen

1st Vice President – Programs

We all know that we have a border problem, but I think many of us don't realize just how bad it is for our fellow Texans that live there. I didn't realize how bad the problem was until I met Lisa Conoly, a fellow TFRW member from Kinney County Republican Women.

Lisa and I met at TFRW Leadership Day back in January. When she told me she lived in a border county, I must admit she peaked my interest just slightly, as I began to ask her questions about what it's like down there with us practically having open borders. She really got my attention, though, when she began to share her story with me of how she and her family must defend their homes and property daily because of so many people crossing illegally. She showed me photos of people caught on her land and she shared experiences in which her life could have been in danger.

At that point, I was enthralled. She had my attention and it's like a light bulb went off for me. I knew we had a border problem but living near the metroplex makes us so far removed from what people like Lisa are facing each day, that I think we really don't understand. I made up my mind to try to tell everyone I know about what Lisa shared with me, as I wanted to create awareness. I wanted others to hear how Texas families are impacted by this problem. I figured what better way to start than to have Lisa come speak at our meeting to help our members gain some awareness as well. After all, it starts with us! If we tell someone, then they tell someone, then maybe we can start to make something happen with this issue!

Not only will Lisa be joining us to share her story, but her TFRW District Director and SREC Representative, Kelly Perry will be sharing her experiences as well. Check out additional articles in this newsletter to learn more about Lisa and Kelly.

In addition to hosting Lisa Conoly and Kelly Perry, we will also have present Senator Bob Hall, and State Representative Brian Harrison. Senator Hall serves on the Senate Committee for Border Security, so he will be providing an update on their recent committee meeting. Representative Harrison recently visited the Texas border with other legislators, and he will be sharing his observations and experiences from his border trip. I invited these elected officials to attend because now that I'm fired up about this issue, I want them to hear Lisa and Kelly's stories and I want them to do something about this problem.

It should be a great presentation! You don't want to miss it! Get there early to make sure you get a seat!



Pictured are:

*Stan and Lisa Conoly
Jacqueline & Loden
Burton and Atticus
Stanford Conoly
Zuelh Conoly.*

April Speaker Spotlight - Kelly Perry

Kelly Perry lives in Brackettville Texas, which is in Kinney County. Kinney County is one of the highest smuggling counties in the USA.

Since, February of 2021, Ms. Perry, along with others, began doing everything possible to bring the truth to the public on what was really going on at the border. Kinney County, along with Goliad County, were the first two counties to file Disaster Declarations in 2021 against infectious disease and invasion brought about by the illegals entering our country. Ms. Perry (with help) contacted every single county in Texas to spread the word. Numerous other counties signed on and joined the fight.

Kinney County hosted a Law Enforcement meeting, with law enforcement officers from all over the state with the Constitution being the focus, and sheriffs being the highest authority in the counties. Kinney County then hosted a large Border Awareness Rally called "We asked for help, and no one came". Two weeks later Governor Abbott came to Del Río for a sit down with area law enforcement officers.

Starting in early May of 2021 it became obvious that the news channels were not carrying the real stories. Ms. Perry began organizing and speaking at border awareness rallies. She, along with others, were able to reach national news outlets. In September, Attorney General Paxton travelled to Brackettville along with Maria Bartiromo. Numerous politicians and candidates have made it a destination to come to their small town of 3000. Kinney County drew a line in the sand against illegals. Ms. Perry is the Community Liaison for Kinney County, and she has made it her job to let Texas know the real stories!

Kelly Perry is a past president of her local TFRW club and is currently serving as VP of special events 2022. KCRW (Kinney County Republican Women) is one of the fastest growing clubs in Texas. Kelly is also serving as TFRW District Director for SD19, she is an SREC SD19 committee woman, and VEP Co - Regional Director Border Warrior.

April Notable Facts

I am partial to the month of April because it is the month Jeff & I married. We got married on April 5th, 1986, at the Central Presbyterian Church in Waxahachie. Then, our daughter Stefani married Jake on April 29th, 2017, at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano.

April is known for beautiful spring weather, the start of warmer weather, and usually, is around the time when the Easter bunny will make an appearance!

George Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789.

The first battle of the Revolutionary War, Lexington, and Concord broke out on April 19, 1775.

The explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine occurred on April 26, 1986, which forced everyone within a 300-mile radius to be evacuated.

On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 was launched and ran into difficulties about two days later. It was then that the famous line "Houston, we've had a problem here" was said, and is today usually misquoted.

On April 15, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sunk on her first and only voyage.

For all the car enthusiasts out there, Ford unveiled their first Mustang on April 17, 1964, costing \$2,368.

And of course, as we all know that "April showers bring May flowers", so if the rain of April (which I hope we have!) ever gets you down, never forget the silver lining!

Submitted by: Melanie Reed



Happy Easter Everyone

Membership Report

I would like to thank everyone that have been spreading the word about ECRW. It is our duty as ECRW members to continue to educate, lead, and assist our fellow citizens during these hard times with the values and principles of the Republican Party of Texas at the forefront.

This has been a busy year and will continue to be so. We are all feeling fatigued however, we should lean on one another for assistance and guidance as we continue to grow our party and lead our fellow citizens. Most citizens feel as if their voice will go unheard and we need to share how they can get involved and become politically active.

We are excited to say that we will be having a Membership Drive soon and I look forward to your help and involvement with that event. We will share that information when we have it.

We welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have that help with increasing our membership.

We now have 35 members and 9 associates.

*Beverly Gatlin,
Membership Chair*

Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting on Saturday, April 9 to select 10 students for personal interviews. A total of 25 qualified applications have been received. The schools that participated are Ennis, Italy, Maypearl, Midlothian ISD, Midlothian Heritage, Milford, Palmer, Red Oak and Waxahachie.

The interviews will be conducting during school hours to accommodate the students who will most likely be in school on weekdays. If any member who would like to come and meet and welcome the students as they arrive are welcome to do so. This meeting will be at Comerica Bank on Ferris Ave. in Waxahachie, the date to be determined, starting at 9:00 am.

The Ellis County Republican Women have been awarding scholarships since 2002. We started awarding one and, in the past, have awarded up to 5 in one year.

Scholarship Committee:

*Melody Allen Cheree' Barrett Donna Blanton
Julie Dowd Beverly Gatlin*

Tommie Worthy

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How much does this all cost and who's paying for it? [Operation Lone Star is costing taxpayers](#) \$2.5 million every week, according to an analysis by The Texas Tribune, ProPublica and The Marshall Project published in March 2022.

So that means in the last year we have paid \$130,000,000 for the National Guard, Department of Public Safety and the Texas Military Department. That's \$130,000,000 that the Federal Government owes us for doing their job. We have two more years of the current President. Can we afford this? We know there is the rainy-day fund, but I am afraid that our State is going to be in the financial shape that our Country is.

What does it mean? We need to do everything we can to keep this state red and help everyone else realize they are in bad shape and need to put a stop to this.

Thank You!

This Special Thank You goes out to The Chaska House for hosting the Ellis County Republican Women's speakers for March and April. Linda and Louis we appreciate having your kind of service for our guests and for being an outstanding business in Waxahachie.