



Liberty Belle

Ellis County Republican Women
Region X11 SD 22

Affiliate of the Texas & National Republican Women



September 6, 2022

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President's Message

Cheree' Barrett, President

Can you believe that school is back in session? It seems like yesterday we were preparing for the State Convention in Houston. I want to thank everyone for continuing to attend our summer meetings. If you were wanting to join or renew your membership, now is the time.

October 31st is the last day for 2022 membership submissions and payments must be received by this date. All dues for an officer must be paid before you are sworn in. The club must have 10 paid members by December 31 to be federated.

Nominations and Elections

- The nominations committee will be chosen at the September meeting.
- The committee of not less than three, at least one of who shall not be a member of the Executive Committee.
- The Nominating Committee shall elect its chairman from one of its own number.
- A Plurality vote shall elect the members of the committee.
- The Nominating Committee shall report one nominee for each office at the October meeting.
- The Election will be held at the October meeting..
- Last year's nominating committee cannot serve this year.

Please let us know if you want to serve on the nominating committee or be nominated for a position.

Election Day is in 63 days, and we have 3 that have opponents. Louis Ponder, JP Dan Cox and Judge Bob Carroll. We have our own Jennifer Zarate in charge of the Victory campaign where the GOP party and the ECRW are helping these three to be elected. It is not about money, it's about walking, talking and calling your friends and neighbors and encouraging them to vote for these three. If you know of an event they could attend, be sure Jennifer or the candidates know about it.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on September 13th at 6:30pm at the Waxahachie Chamber.

ECRW program will be Texans Against High-Speed Rail, Inc.

The Ellis County Republican Women will meet on September 13, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce, 102 YMCA Dr. in Waxahachie.

The program detail is on page 2 & 4

September Program

By Melody Allen,
1st Vice President of Programs

Some of our more seasoned members may remember my Granny, Sue Turner. She was a charter member of the Ellis County Republican Women, a precinct chair, election judge, activist, and patriot. She fought hard for what she believed in, and she taught me to do the same. When looking back on Granny's life, there were a lot of different issues that came up over the years in which she stood up and fought back, especially if she felt that it violated her rights. It's hard to believe that a battle she began fighting 10 years ago is still a hot topic.

I'm referring to the high-speed rail project, or so called "bullet train" that plans to run from Dallas to Houston in just 90 minutes. When this project was announced back in 2012, we learned that the route of this high-speed rail would run right through Ellis County, and at that time, its path would cross our family land; land that our family had farmed for over 100 years. In fact, just 5 years earlier, this same tract of land earned our family the Texas Family Land Heritage award from the Texas Department of Agriculture. This is a program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. So back in 2012, my Granny's fight to defend private property rights against eminent domain began because of the high-speed rail project.

My Granny attended and spoke at just about every public hearing possible in our area. She submitted articles to local newspapers and talked to multiple people about the issue to create awareness. She contacted many elected officials (most all of which she campaigned for) from the local level, all the way up to the national level to get them to do something about this to protect the rights of property owners.

Fast forward to the year 2022. A lot of things have changed but some have stayed the same. The high-speed rail project has yet to break ground or lay any tracks. My Granny passed away in 2017, but the fight she started back in 2012 lives on through me. I plan to do my part to fight to protect private property rights, tax dollars, and resources, and that is the same mission of Texans Against High-Speed Rail, Inc.

Texans Against High-Speed Rail, Inc. is a 501c(4) organization that was formed in early 2015 as a coordinated state-wide effort to protect property,

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property rights and values, and our way of life from the negative impacts of high-speed rail, as well as prevent the wasteful use of taxpayer dollars or public subsidies for high-speed rail transportation.

Our speakers for our September program are both part of Texans Against High-Speed Rail, including Patrick McShan, the lead attorney and representative of many landowners along the proposed high speed rail corridor (many of which live in our county), and Blake Beckham, a board member, and Special Litigation Counsel in the organization.

Patrick McShan, J.D., is a native of Dallas. He joined the law firm of Beckham Portela, formerly The Beckham Group, in 2016. Patrick's practice at Beckham Portela is primarily devoted to his role as special litigation counsel for Texans Against High-Speed Rail, the consolidated opposition group fighting against the proposed Dallas to Houston high-speed rail project. Patrick also represents hundreds of landowners along the affected corridor. As part of his work fighting the high-speed rail project, Patrick has testified before multiple committees during the past three Texas legislative sessions. He has also made several trips to Washington D.C. and the White House to meet with federal agency representatives, members of Congress, and White House staff.

Patrick has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of commercial cases. Patrick earned his Juris Doctorate in 2004 from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. He has been selected as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers Magazine for Excellence in Practice multiple years. Patrick is a member of American MENSA, the Dallas Bar Association, and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.

Blake Beckham, as a fourth generation Texan. He has long been a champion of private property rights, and this has been evidenced in the fierce legal fight he has mounted against the proposed Dallas Houston HSR. Texans Against HSR elected Blake to the Board of Directors in 2017 and he also serves as Special Litigation Counsel. Blake has traveled to Austin and Washington, DC, participated in media interviews and presentations across Texas to bring more awareness of why the School of Texas in Dallas and Baylor University and after passing the Certified Public Accountant exam, he returned to Baylor, earning a Juris Doctorate in 1986. Blake is an active member at Watermark Church, and in past church relationships, Beckham has served in several capacities including Sunday School teacher, committee member, and

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Monkey Business

By Emily Peaden

Throughout the modern era both political sides have declared the US a **banana republic**, or on the verge of becoming one after one event or another. On August 8 that debate struck hot again as we watched the FBI raid the home of a former president—an unprecedented event in our nation's history.

This term, in its original usage, referred to unstable countries dependent on a single export, in this case banana. Coined by O. Henry in his book *Cabbages and Kings*, the author told the story of Anchuria, a fictitious county which paralleled the happenings in Honduras.

At this time, a US-owned company, United Fruit, dominated the banana production with only one competitor, Cuyamel Fruit, also a US-owed entity. The two companies destroyed the economy and socioeconomic structure of the nation by taking over land in exchange for infrastructure and even supplied weapons for the 1911 coup that replaced the legitimate Honduran lender with a more foreign business-friendly president. Two decades later Cuyamel Fruit and United Fruit Company were a single company and completely controlled many aspects of Honduran life including agriculture, transportation, and communications. The people referred to the company as "El Pulp", or "The Octopus" since it seemed to reach in every direction.

Similarly, in Guatemala in the 1950s, United Fruit successfully convinced the US that the Guatemalan president was working with the Soviets. This led to *Operation Success*—a CIA mission which replaced him with a pro-business leader. This directly led to a civil war in the nation from 1960-1996 killing hundreds of thousands of people.

Today the term still has some links to this past referring to countries that have economies-controlled by foreign-owned entities. But it also has come to mean countries that are amassed in chaos, a declining democracy, corruption and bribery among officials, and self-serving dictators. Typically, these modern **banana republics** have a stratified socioeconomic class where a small, wealthy ruling class (oligarchs) loom over the larger working class as an unequal distribution of wealth divides the two at an ever-increasing pace.

The personal attacks against Steve Bannon and Peter Navarro for their so-called involvement in the January 6th protest and the confiscation of Pennsylvania Congressman Scott Perry's personal cell phone suggests this latest targeting of a political figure has us well on our way if we do not course correct. This coming closely after the one-two punch of the Inflation Reduction Act, which will do anything but what its title suggests, and the creation of an IRS Army.

The Red Wave this midterm may very well turn out to be a Red Tsunami as Establishment Republicans are getting washed out with the primary flood as even hardened Democrats are coming out against the action on the former president. But as this movement strengthens you can be sure that the Old Guard and the Democrats will do everything they can to stay in power.

The fight is local, and it will be YOU who will be the force behind the much-needed America First movement.

Do you have a term you have always wondered about? Let me know! 1046@elliscountygop.com

Caring For America

Caring for America is all about helping people on a local level. Local people seeing a need and then voluntarily stepping up to make a difference. I love this because ECRW are not waiting for the government to do something, we are collectively pooling our resources and help where we see a need.

Now that Roe vs. Wade has been overturned, the need to help women with an unexpected pregnancy is all the more crucial. With that in mind, our current Caring for America project cannot be more timely. Creating 24 gift baskets to give to women who visit [First Look](#), Ellis County's Crisis Pregnancy Center, for guidance. This will give these women a subtle message that they can move forward with their pregnancy and that people are supporting them in their decision.

If 24 of us spend an average of \$20 in September and \$20 in October, we will be able to put together 24 really nice diaper totes filled with fun items for a new mom. We have made it very simple for you to participate in this project by creating an [Amazon Custom Gift List](#) with all the items we need. Just click on the [Amazon Custom Gift List](#) link, select what you want to purchase and the items your order will be shipped to my address. It would be great if we can get all the items purchased that will go in the diaper totes in September and then in October the 24 totes are purchased.

Of course, you can purchase whatever you feel led to purchase at one time for this wonderful project. Also, you do not have to use Amazon if you can find equivalent elsewhere. Just please let Jen or me know what you purchased and bring to next meeting.

If anyone has questions, please reach out to either Jennifer or me.

Thanks,

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Please see Page 5 for all the items!

Tribute to Women



Vickie Blair

Vickie has been active in supporting the Republican party since 1988. Moving to Ellis County in 2002 she joined the Ellis County Republican Women as soon as she learned of their existence.

Before moving to Ellis County, she worked as staff and volunteered on multiple campaigns in Dallas County and was a precinct chair and Election Judge. Several years were spent working for Republican County Commissioner Kenneth Mayfield implementing a grant funded project. Vickie was a member of the Southwest Dallas County Republicans and served as Treasurer for one year. Working phone banks and GOTV efforts was always rewarding.

In both counties she attended Republican Party state, district and county conventions as a delegate, district party committee member and served as secretary for several district conventions. Vickie has served as Election Judge and clerk in Ellis County, and as a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar.

She has served the Ellis County Republican Women as Third VP, Secretary, chaired the Scholarship Committee and worked many parades. Vickie has currently served as Campaign Activities Chair for three years. Her absolute favorite activity with the ECRW has been the many years she and other members distributed dictionaries to the third-grade school children of Ellis County.

Vickie resides in Waxahachie with her super supportive husband Charles and has two married children and 5 grandchildren and many friends that she loves very much.

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legal counsel. He currently serves as legal counsel to the non-profit charitable W.A. Criswell Foundation.

Come out and hear how this project can affect our county! We look forward to seeing you all there!

Native American Day

*By Linda Sibley,
Former ECRW President*

Each year the Native American is celebrated on the fourth Friday of September. This year Native American Day will take place on September 23, 2022. This day is set aside, as a tribute to the rich history and culture of the Native Americans and their contribution to North American.

Loretta Lynn has said, "I'm proud of being part Cherokee, and I think, it's time all of us Indians felt the same way." I agree and with much pride I say I am Powhatan and Cherokee descent.

Had it not been for the aid provided by the Native American to the early settler of Jamestown, Plymouth Rock and subsequently the Lewis & Clark explorers the United States as we know it today would not have occurred?

One of my favorite quotes is from a great Nez Perce Chief. Chief Joseph said. *"If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indians, he can live in peace. There need to be no trouble. Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it."*

*Let us remember Native American Day.
Do' da da go' hvi*

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God Bless America!

Liberty Belle is the newsletter of the Ellis County Republican Women-PAC, 202 S FM 55, Italy, TX 76651. Paid for by the Ellis County Republican Women PAC is a tax-exempt organization under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to ECRW PAC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income purposes.

Items Needed for 24 Gift Bags for New Mom Seeking Help at FirstLook			
 <p>Altoids Smalls Peppermint Breath Mints 0.37 Ounce Tin Pack of 9 0.37 Ounce (Pack of 9) ★★★★☆ - 5,960 \$8⁴⁹ (\$2.55/Count)</p>	 <p>EBMORE Women's Fuzzy Socks Slipper Soft Cabin Plush Warm Fluffy Winter Slee... ★★★★☆ - 1,596 \$13⁹⁹</p>	 <p>DOVE PROMISES Milk Chocolate Candy Individually Wrapped Bulk Pack (43.07 oz, 150 Piece) Bag 150 Count (Pack of 1) ★★★★☆ - 4,516 \$24⁵¹ (\$0.57/Count)</p>	 <p>99STYLE 100Pcs Elastic Hair Ties Ribbon No Crease Duchless Ponytail Holders For Girl and Women, Yoga... 100 Count (Pack of 1) ★★★★☆ - 3,061 \$9²¹ (\$0.09/Count)</p>
Quantity Needed: 3	Quantity Needed: 4	Quantity Needed: 2	Quantity Needed: 1
 <p>LuxLumin LED Night Light, Night Lights Plug into Wall with Dusk-to-... ★★★★☆ - 1,202 \$10⁹⁹ (\$1.83/Count)</p>	 <p>Thrive Round Hot & Cold Ice Packs (5 Pack) - Reusable Gel Bead Ice Pack w/ Cloth Fabric Backing - Hot and... 6 Count (Pack of 1) ★★★★☆ - 2,155 \$16⁹⁹ (\$2.83/Count)</p>	 <p>Joyin Toy 24 Pack Mini Animal Plush Toy Assortment (24 Units 3" Each), Stuffed Animal Bulk for Kids, Filler for Boys Girls Child Kid ... ★★★★☆ - 4,088 -15% \$16⁹⁹ \$19.99</p>	 <p>Eye Mask Sleep Masks Pack of 36 Pomfing Sleeping Mask Blindfold Eye Cover Team Building Games... 36 Count (Pack of 1) ★★★★☆ - 1,527 \$12⁹⁹ (\$0.36/Count)</p>
Quantity Needed: 4	Quantity Needed: 4	Quantity Needed: 1	Quantity Needed: 1
 <p>Traditional Medicinals Organic Mother's Milk Women's Tea, Promot... 16 Count (Pack of 6) ★★★★☆ - 15,553 \$26⁹⁹ (\$0.28/Count)</p>	 <p>Dessie 60 Inspirational Christian Greeting Cards, 6 Bible Verses, Encouragement Cards, Scripture Note Cards, Blank Inside for All Occasion... ★★★★☆ - 949 \$15⁹⁹ (\$0.27/Count)</p>	 <p>Diapers Newborn/Size 0 (< 10 lb), 120 Count - Pampers Swaddlers Disposable Baby Diapers, Giant Pac... ★★★★☆ - 17,448 -12% \$33⁴⁸ (\$0.28/Count) \$47.98</p>	 <p>Abenkle Baby Diaper Caddy Organ... ★★★★☆: 2088 prime \$19.99 Add to Cart</p>
Quantity Needed: 4	Quantity Needed: 1	Quantity Needed: 2	Quantity Needed: 24