



New Mexico Federated Republican Women Newsletter

Vol. 2018, Issue 1, January 2018



President's Corner NMFRW President **Rhonda Stockert**

October 28, 2017, was a life changing day for me as I was voted President of NMFRW. This to me was an honor and one I intend to carry out with diplomacy and inclusiveness.

Republican Women are the backbone of democracy for this country and it is up to us to inform the public by educating our members, working within our local communities, and sharing ideas within our clubs. It is critical that we promote ideas of the Republican Party to secure our nation with a border wall and honor the *Rule of Law* through the *U.S. Constitution*. Our politicians need to hear that our *Second Amendment* needs to be upheld, our immigration laws need to be reformed, and their spending needs to be controlled and the budget balanced. These are not easy tasks to accomplish, but neither are they impossible.

The objectives I would like to see going forward for NMFRW are to add members to our clubs and to develop or reactivate dormant ones. At one point there were 21 clubs here in New Mexico and currently there are 15. We need to find our voices and spread the word about the Republican Party and the conservative values this great nation was built upon by our Founding Fathers. We need to have more women in public office, who can advance the cause of good government for the benefit of all in this state, especially our children.

I want to encourage all of you to volunteer your time and talents to getting the Republican candidates elected in the 2018 election cycle. Please keep track of your volunteer time and turn in to your club, so that they can be counted toward the Achievement Awards program. I truly see a **Wave of Red** forming on the horizon and moving across this state, bringing in much needed change. One final thought I want to share, thank you for allowing me to serve each and every one of you!

NMFRW Executive & Committee Reports

First Vice President – Joan Boué

It was my pleasure to invite Senator Gay Kernan as guest speaker for our Winter Board Luncheon on January 27. Gay represents District 42, which includes Chaves, Lea & Eddy Counties. She is an educator, who first took this seat in 2003. She has served on Finance, Rules, Education, and Public Affairs Committees. Senator Kernan spoke about women in politics and certain legislation that affects women and families. She also spoke of her role in Santa Fe as a conservative Senator.

The next NMFRW Board meeting will be June 15 and 16 at the Albuquerque Marriott. As of now Lt. Gov. John Sanchez will be our guest speaker. Since we are months out, that could change.

Second Vice President – Julie Wright

In effort to increase Membership in our organization, I felt it imperative to engage in a fact-finding mission to get a greater understanding of the dynamics of our group. Previous records of my position were not available, so to come up with a plan of action, I focused November on fact gathering by speaking to several people who were members from NMGOP, NFRW, Community GOP Leaders, Candidates running for office, other FRW Presidents, and the leader of the RISE organization. After reviewing the information, I devised a three-part plan and presented it to the NMFRW Board of Directors on December 9, 2017. This three-part Plan of Action would focus on:

- Retention of members
- Communication
- Marketing

I gave this report to all board members along with my calling card and mailed a copy to Region A Director Sadie Boyer, as she was not present.

In November, I attended the Metro FRW luncheon at the Marriott on Louisiana and networked with MFRW Pres./Region B Director Winnie Schmidt.

In January 2018, I attended two FRW luncheon meetings along with Winnie Schmidt. The first was for Rio Grande FRW located in Belen and the other was Zia FRW located in Albuquerque. I was impressed by their leadership and organization. Of special note, was Clara Cates with the Rio Grande

FRW, who spent a huge amount of time on an informative legislative packet. She really understands the Election process!

On January 21, I attended the Bernalillo County Pre-Primary Convention and networked with individuals from NMGOP, BCGOP, and FRW.

On January 26, I hosted a *FaceBook* presentation for those interested in the basic 'Ins and Outs' at 3 p.m.

Current Membership Numbers: As of January 23, 2018, membership is 363.

Recommendations to the NMFRW Board: None at this time. Membership drives run hard in February, and I will offer help to those who ask for it.

Achievement Awards Report – Gwen Poe

The national forms for 2018-2019 are not ready. However, the basic skeleton has been the same for years. There are five divisions: Club Function, Membership Development, Programs, Campaign Activities, and Community Relations.

Please use current information and remember to record and date, as you go along. This is especially important, since we often change officers in the two-year cycle. Please use the booster sheet in planning your year. The awards program is a good guideline for a successful club. Based on points, awards are Diamond, Gold, Silver, Bronze. In 2016/17 all 15 clubs participated and received awards based on total scores. I encourage you to go for the diamond!

Americanism Report – Patricia Rothengass

Last fall, the Doña Ana County FRW sponsored an essay contest for 6th, 7th and 8th graders in Las Cruces Private Schools. The topic was "What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?" Thirty-five young people from two schools participated and three students were awarded prizes. The essay contest was so well-received, we now have an Americanism Chair. If your club would like to know more about how to start this Americanism Project, please contact me.

Caring for America – Charlotte Sweeney

Joan Boué purchased, signed and mailed cards to our troops. I am grateful to her for completing this task for NMFRW.

Community Engagement – Marianne Chiffelle

Being involved with several organizations in our communities; visiting kids in school; reaching out into the general population and educating them in issues that are important to the State of NM. We need much more involvement. We talk to them as a friend and hope they have listened and will be more involved in the things that are important to this State.

Fundraising – 3rd VP Ginger Paternostro

I am grateful for all the help I have had in planning the Winter Board meeting fundraising event. Clubs have been most generous in donating baskets. I

happily share credit for this success with all our Republican Women.

It has been such a joy and I look forward to serving another two years as Fundraising Chair. I want to encourage everyone to share ideas on things that would be fun to do. No idea is too big or small. My goal is for everyone to have fun at our meetings.

I am in the process of planning the next event for the Summer Board meeting on June 15 and 16 at the Albuquerque Marriott and also the Fall Board Meeting in November.

Member-at-Large – Anita Statman

During this reporting period I have:

- Accepted the position of NMFRW Chairman for Campaigns and Elections Committee.
- Attended the December NMFRW Board Meeting.
- Participated in a December 16, 2017, GOP call.
- Agreed to fill NFRW's Chairman for the Homeland Security Committee board position.

RNC Report – Rosie Tripp – News Flash! Our country is doing better under President Trump!

But you wouldn't know it, if you listen to the mainstream media. Ninety percent of their coverage is negative on this president. They do not or will not report that ISIS is on the run; consumer confidence is at an all-time high; the stock market is soaring; our unemployment rate is at a 17-year low; and our military is going to get their first raise in over a decade. Manufacturing jobs are returning and the Senate passed a tax reform bill that will help middle-income families across this nation.

We are doing better under President Trump and don't let anyone tell you differently. Democrats are choosing to obstruct and resist until the 2018 elections. They are not willing to work with this Administration. And now they have voted lock step to block the funding to keep our government open. THEY shut down the government playing their political games. Remind voters this year how Martin Heinrich, Tom Udall, Ben Ray Lujan, and Michelle Lujan Grisham voted. They do not have the best interest of New Mexicans in mind, when they vote.

On a happier note, the RNC was honored to be invited by President and Mrs. Trump for their first White House Christmas Party. We were also invited to Vice President and Mrs. Pence's Christmas Party. Don and I were so thrilled to be able to attend and take in the festivities and the beautiful Christmas decorations. We could actually say "Merry Christmas!" They were such gracious hosts and we enjoyed it immensely.

Scholarship – Ginger Paternostro

The **deadline** for Ginger to receive 2018 scholarship applications is **March 15, 2018!**

Senior Americans – Marianne Chiffelle

We have entered a New Year and there is still a lot to be done for our Seniors. The Grandparents and Grandkids meetings are continuing, because the connection is good for both sides. The kids get the love and education. I cannot do anything about their poor education in school, but what they learn from their grandparents will last them a lifetime.

I will do all this with the help of the Board of Senior Affairs of which I am an Associate Member. We do what we can for the homeless and hunger that exists everywhere.

New Mexico Club Presidents' News**Region A Director – Sadie Boyer**

FRW Clubs in Region A, their Presidents and #s are:

- Four Corners FRW- Jeanine Bingham-Kelly (73)
- Los Alamos FRW – Dawn Voss (13)
- Santa Fe FRW – Sharon Mottola (41 + 4 assoc.)
- Taos County FRW – Sadie Boyer (12)

Four Corners FRW meets the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Piñon Hills Community Church in Farmington, NM. Their 2017 membership was 171 and I wish them the best, as they strive to top that number this year. Congratulations to President Jeanine Kelly, as she is the only candidate for an open city council seat. The election will be held March 6. Good luck on your election and to all Four Corners members!

Santa Fe FRW has luncheon meetings on the first Thursday of each month from 12 to 1 p.m. at the Inn of Loretto. You will see President Sharon Mottola at the Legislative Session, as she works for two legislators. Keep up the good work in Santa Fe!

I attended the August Los Alamos FRW meeting and would like to thank outgoing President Kelly Benner and outgoing Vice-President Andra Winegeart for their leadership and dedication to Los Alamos FRW. They are both moving out of New Mexico and we wish them many blessings, as they start new chapters in their lives. Congratulations and welcome to Dawn Voss, as she is now LAFRW President and to new Vice-President Shona Neff. I also thank Secretary Mary Wilhoit for her dedication and strength, as their club was going through these major changes. Their next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Oppenheimer Place Patio Room in Los Alamos.

Taos County FRW lost two dedicated members. My mother, Fay Wells, passed away December 1. She paid her 2018 dues in November and wanted to make sure she was on the list. She was a member as long as I can remember. We also lost Donna Schilling, who passed away December 9. Many of you may remember her, as she helped organize and man the vendor table at the NMFWR's Convention at Buffalo

Thunder in late October. She had also paid her dues in November. Two dedicated members that will be missed - may they rest in peace. Taos FRW meets on the third Saturday of alternate months beginning in January at the Headquarters in Taos beginning at 9:00 a.m. with breakfast provided by volunteers. Their last meeting was held Saturday, January 20.

I plan on becoming an associate member of each club in my region and will visit each club. As we work together to increase our membership and accomplish our goals, I want you to know that I appreciate the time and effort each President and their officers take to complete the duties their positions require. Please contact me whenever the need arises. Ladies, please update my contact information in your files as follows: (575)770-0993 and [sadieb130@gmail.com](mailto:sadieeb130@gmail.com).

Four Corners Report – Jeanine Bingham-Kelly

At November's meeting a speaker from the NM Veteran's office talked about being a Veteran and the services offered them. We also participated in a local Veteran's Stand Down, where homeless veterans are given free showers, haircuts and various agencies are available to offer services. Our club donated towels, wash cloths, flip flops, soap and shampoo for the event. We also began collecting 2018 membership dues. Any member, who paid their dues by the January meeting, was entered in a \$100 drawing.

The December meeting was rocked by tragedy, as that morning two Aztec High School students were shot. Our community was shocked and saddened but came together and supported the school and the students affected by the shooting. The Sheriff was scheduled to speak at our meeting and for obvious reasons was unable to attend, but our meeting did end on a positive note, as members contributed Christmas presents to three needy National Guard families.

The January meeting featured U.S. Senate Candidate Mick Rich, and NM Lt. Governor Candidate Michelle Garcia Holmes. Currently, Four Corners FRW has 73 members and 28 associate members.

Los Alamos FRW – President Dawn Voss

In December, LAFRW President Kelly Benner and Vice President Andra Winehart both resigned from their positions, due to their husbands' taking new positions in NV and WI. The first meeting with new officers was January 5, 2018.

Action Items:

- Contact LAHS to setting up Voter Registration.
- Update the Party Platforms brochure.
- Get LAHS Teacher's name willing to sponsor YR/TARS group from Kelly and to Dawn. Lori Thompson, a Los Alamos High School Teacher, is interested in being a sponsor.
- Contact UNM-LA regarding setting up Voter Registration.

- Secure someone from County Clerk's office to do voter registration for March meeting.
- Check with Farmington contact to see if *Now You Are 18* brochure has been updated.
- Secure locations for meetings.
- Schedule a member drive.
- Continue with Patriotic jewelry sales.

Raising Funds: Things we have done in the past – dues, garage sales, Mingle & Jingle. Suggestions for future – holding a dance, perhaps at the Posse Lodge. Shona Neff is working on a Paint Night at the Pig and Fig Restaurant. We will paint an elephant!

Young Republicans/TARS: We want to ensure this group gets off the ground. Need to find coordinator / leader reps for both groups, and someone to do Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter.

- Coordinate all this with the local party.
- Research funding a Los Alamos High School scholarship for a Young Republican.

Future meeting plans:

- March 8, Noon – Voter Registration training
- April 12, 6 p.m. – 2018 Republican Candidate Meet & Greet
- May 10, 6 p.m. – Political Personalities, Shona Neff
- June 14 – Elks Lodge Flag Day ceremony & Fun with Flags gathering afterward

Ideas for future meetings: High Tea/High Noon trip to the gun range (dressing up, or at least a fancy hat for the outing) and a Mom Prom (dressing up and going bowling).

Santa Fe FRW – President Sharon Mottola

The SFFRW had a strong finish to 2017. We generally had at least 40 attendees to our monthly luncheon meetings and sometimes up to 60.

In November our program included speaker Ken Martinez of the Regional Emergency Communications Center, who updated us on an enhanced 911 program. Judges Emil Kiehne and Hank Bonhoff and Kathy Tourek, wife of Judge Steve French, all attended and introduced themselves. They requested petition signatures and \$5 for public campaign funding.

Our December meeting was our annual Christmas party with gifts given out to members, who placed tickets in bags connected with their gift choice. Tickets were given out on the basis of SFFRW and Republican activities over the course of the year. The winner of each gift was drawn from each associated gift bag. Members all brought unwrapped toys, which were donated to the Santa Fe Boys & Girls Club. The SFFRW also donated \$435 to the New Mexican newspaper's Empty Stocking Fund.

The January program was very well received. The Santa Fe Police Department Honor Guard performed a very touching flag-folding ceremony. They presented SFFRW with the flag. Our guest candidates included Michelle Garcia Holmes, Steve McFall, and Wayne Johnson, all of whom introduced themselves and asked for ballot petition signatures. Our program was courtesy of Patsy Quick of the Rio Grande Patriots chapter of The Folds of Honor. She informed us about this worthwhile association, which grants college scholarships to family members of service members, who are severely wounded or who were killed in the line of duty.

Taos County FRW – President Sadie F. Boyer

TCFRW's general meetings are held at GOP and TCFRW Headquarters in Taos on the third Saturday of odd numbered months with June, July and August off. Volunteers provide breakfast - program and business meeting after.

Since my last report:

- We set 2018 fundraising event and meeting dates;
- We discussed our budget and fundraising;
- We reported on the success and experience of having a vendor table at NMFRW Convention;
- We increased our monthly financial support for our Taos County GOP and TCFRW Headquarters;
- We collected dues for 2018; discussed ways to increase our membership numbers;
- We celebrated our Silver Club Achievement Award for 2016-2017;
- More discussion on Campaign Volunteer hours;
- We passed out the Public Funding \$5 Contribution Forms for Judge S. French;
- We organized dates and times to work at HQ;
- We participated and helped organize a meeting with Congressman Steve Pearce;
- We discussed ways to increase voter registration opportunities;
- We held our fundraising drawing at both meetings.
- Several members attended a Grassroots Leadership Academy – A night with Saul;

Our Next Meeting is scheduled for March 17 at GOP and TCFRW Headquarters – 9:00 am (Breakfast provided by members); Meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

Region B Director – Hazel W. (Winnie) Schmidt

Region B has six active Clubs, including our latest reinstated Club, named **Rio Grande FRW**, located in Belen. They meet at *Fat Sat's Bar and Grill*.

Julie Wright (NMFRW 2nd VP/Membership Chair) and I drove to Belen to attend the first meeting of the newly re-established Club. It was exciting to see such a vibrant Club. These ladies have worked very hard to have such a powerful start.

As a new Director, I will visit Clubs in Region B and become an Associate Member of each. I believe it is my responsibility to be active and connect with all Clubs in the Region. I attended the *San-Bern* and *ZIA FRW Clubs* in January 2018. I am looking forward becoming acquainted with all the members.

Albuquerque FRW – Charlotte Sweeney

Our monthly general meetings provide members and guests with information and education on a variety of topics. Our speakers are candidates for positions at all levels in the community, from school board, city, county and state. Our Executive Board has tentatively scheduled speakers for the next three months.

In the last few months our club has worked with judicial candidates in obtaining signatures and \$5 contributions, so they can obtain public financing.

We collected warm clothing and hats and gloves for Mitchell Elementary School for our December *Caring for America Project*.

We raised approximately \$2,000 at our annual fundraiser.

We published 10 newsletters. We have maintained membership and always look for new members. We finished the year with 59 paid members.

Metro FRW – Hazel ‘Winnie’ Schmidt

METRO FRW ended the year with 40 members and 7 associates. We hope to retain our numbers and add to them in 2018. We are signing a contract with the Marriott Hotel located at I-40 and Louisiana. Our guarantee was lowered to 20 per meeting and the price per plate will remain the same. We have also received a new menu. It is apparent that the hotel wants our business.

Our fundraiser for the year was started last year. Our November meeting was the main event for fund raising. JoAnn Milan, a member and our treasurer, volunteered to make beautiful wreaths for Christmas. All members were encouraged to bring a friend or two. We also had silent auction items. We had over 50 in attendance and it was a joyful meeting. We also asked member to make a pledge for \$40 dollars (or larger amount), rather than plan another type of event. Members were gracious with their donations.

We have had candidate speakers, including judges appointed by our Governor and now need to be elected to their positions. They do not have any Republican opposition. Rosie Tripp, NMFRW National Committeewoman, also spoke.

We have been gathering signatures for our Republican candidates’ petitions.

METRO FRW meets on odd-numbered months and the Board meets on the even-numbered months. We continue to have various informational handouts available for the taking. These handouts have

information about the voting cycle, explain required Party conventions, METRO By-Laws, meeting dates, and County Central information.

As Metro FRW President, my 2018 goal is to have more participation with proposed NMFRW activities.

Rio Grande FRW – Carol S. Chupp

After an approximate six-year hiatus, Republican Women are back in Valencia County. It started with the election of Senator Greg Baca over a long-time Democratic Power Broker in 2016. I think you know who that was. After turning most of our county red, several women held a “let’s see if there is interest in the Republican Women’s Club” and there was. Patricia Houston from the Metro Club helped us organize and I was elected Acting President.

Our organizing meeting was held in September 2017, in Belen and acceptance of a mission statement, bylaws and election of officers. Fourteen members joined and seven associates. Our October Meeting involved revising our bylaws slightly and hearing a presentation by then Lt. Gov. candidate Kelly Zunie.

Four club members attended the Biennial Convention in Santa Fe to network and gather information and found it very interesting and informative. It also made us realize how much work we needed to do to have an active and productive club.

In December, several ladies participated in the Los Lunas Christmas Parade with RP Valencia County and our mascot, Donald the Elephant, distributing information about our club’s official January start up. We and the Elephant, nicely decked out in lights and a flag in his trunk received an enthusiastic response.

Our first and foremost goal is to elect and support Republican candidates in our county and state. We are currently up to 17 members and 10 associates and will be working on continually increasing membership. I would like to thank Past President Barbara McClain, President Rhoda Stockert and others for all their help and support in getting our club active again. I am also blessed with some incredible women on our Executive Board and looking forward to working together to make a difference in our community and state. Our 1st VP, Clara Cates, and I will attend the Winter Board meeting and look forward to be voted in as a charter, learning more, developing relationships and of course wearing our “RED.”

Rio Rancho FRW – Barbara McClain

No report.

San Bern FRW – Sandra Atwood

November is always a great month for San-Bern. We began with our annual *Fall Fling*, a social event and a time to mingle with our Legislators and Candidates. This was a free evening event, with lots of great food

and wine. About 85 attended and we heard from 8 of our Candidates. Everyone had a great time and can't wait until our next *Fall Fling!* Our November luncheon was our Americanism project celebrating Veteran's Day. We collected over 400 Christmas cards to be given to Veterans at the VA Hospital.

We have been busy collecting signatures and donations for Judges Hank Bonhoff, Stephen French and Emil Kiehne, Michelle Garcia Holmes, Michael Hendricks, Janice Arnold Jones and others.

San-Bern finished 2017 with our Annual Christmas Party. We sent boxes of food to Storehouse West.

Sixteen members and 7 associates have renewed their membership for 2018 and we gained 4 new associate members in January.

Janice Arnold Jones was our January speaker. February is our Annual Membership Luncheon with conservative radio talk show personality Eddie Aragon. Please join us!

From March to May, we will host our 2018 candidates and work to get them elected. San-Bern has committed to a major mass-mailing project for Judge Hank Bonhoff.

June 8, we are hosting a Candidates' Reception and Fundraiser for all candidates at the Kaktus Brewery in Bernalillo. Wine and beer tasting, silent auction, food and fun! A 9 MM conceal carry firearm has been donated and tickets are on sale now. \$15 each or 7 for \$90. All proceeds will go to our candidates.

ZIA FRW – Marianne Chiffelle

This is my last report as President from ZIAFRW. I have served 2 terms + a couple of months and it was my pleasure. In those years I made a lot of friends, members of our club.

My vision and ideas are to make the Club grow membership. Our meetings are fun and our social-time is lively. We try to keep the price of our luncheons low, so we all can attend. We try to make our candidates attend as many meetings as they want.

We are very lucky being able to have our meetings at the Canyon Club every month. We had a wonderful Christmas party with music and Santa.

I will still be on the Board as 3rd V.P. as fundraising is the livelihood of the Club. I still will be on several committees, so we will fulfill our obligations, written down in the Achievement Awards.

We have received the Diamond award twice. I have always attended the NMFRW Board meetings and the NFRW conventions, since 1986. The Club is doing well! I hope God's Blessing is with all of you!

Region C Director – Teresa Barncastle

Region C Clubs spent many, many hours gathering signatures on petitions for our candidates and helping

our Judges collect their necessary paperwork. There are four candidates for Congressional District 2 and all have been attending club meetings. Club members have also been attending Meet and Greets held for the candidates.

Most clubs have scheduled guest speakers in advance to get them all in before the Primary, if necessary, or before the General Election, if they do not have opposition in the Primary. This will be a busy year.

Clubs that are participating in the *Mamie Eisenhower Literacy Program* (MELP) may want to steal an idea from Chaves County FRW, which is donating a book chosen from the approved list by the local Librarian in the name of one of their members. Additionally, they give the honoree a small token (elephant pin) in remembrance. And now they are going to get another member to donate the purchase of the same book to be given to the honoree. They are doing this twice a year. What a great way to participate in MELP and honor your members.

Chaves County FRW – Teresa Barncastle

The Chaves County Federated Republican Women hosted 30 area Veterans at our November meeting. Brigadier General Douglas J. Murray, USAF Ret. Ph.D., gave a dynamic and patriotic speech and personally handed each Veteran a scroll with '*The Veteran's Poem*' printed on it, as they were introduced. At the end of the meeting area talent Tom Blakely's rendition of *God Bless the USA* brought everyone to their feet.

In December, CCFRW hosted a Christmas Party for their Executive Board and Telephone Committee. At their monthly meeting, Roswell City Clerk Sharon Coll explained the process of how to become a candidate in the upcoming city elections. We also continued to get signatures on petitions and collected food for families in need.

Over 100 attended the January meeting. Through the NFRW MELP, we honored our beloved member, Pat Hittle. The book '*The People Have Spoken*' was donated to the Roswell Public Library in Pat's name and a red, white, and blue rhinestone elephant pin was given to Pat in remembrance. We had the Republican candidates for Mayor as guest speakers. All three were well spoken and outlined their positions in 7 minutes. They were then asked a couple of questions. After the meeting, one member offered to purchase Mrs. Hittle a copy of the donated book. This is now going to be a part of our program.

Dona Ana County FRW – Patricia Rothengass

At the 39th Biennial Convention, DACFRW received Honorable Mention for our Newsletter and the Silver Achievement Award for 2016-2017. Jill Johnson received the NFRW Campaign Volunteer Award 2017 and the NMFRW Most Campaign Volunteer

Hours Award. I was honored to accept these awards for Tonya and Jill. Meanwhile Caroline Palmer, DACFRW VP was calling the October meeting to order. Mark Van Dyke, Lt. Gov. chief of staff was the Keynote Speaker.

December brought our Annual Christmas Party and Cookie Exchange. The three winners of the Essay Contest, "What Does Patriotism Mean to Me" were guests along with their teachers. A good time was had by all, ending 2017 on a positive note.

During November and December members signed and collected signatures for primary candidates. We will invite County and State Republican candidates to speak at our meetings. DACFRW is gearing up for a busy 2018 starting with our January 26 meeting.

Grant County FRW – Candy Luhrsen

We earned the Gold Achievement Award for 2016/17! Gearing up for 2018 elections:

- Gathered signatures on 18 candidates' ballot petitions and \$5 voluntary donations at events and neighborhoods;
- Facilitated three January Meet and Greet events for candidates (Holmes, Salas, and Newman);
- Appellate Court Judges Emile Kiehne and Hank Bonhoff and District Court Candidate William Perkins (member Maria's husband) spoke at January meeting. All are well-qualified and were well-received and informative.
- Provided breakfast for the Grant County Pre-Primary Convention.
- Treasurer Arthur Castillo and Attorney General Michael Hendricks will speak at Feb. 21 meeting.

Our members assisted with other programs and events including:

- Placed Christmas wreaths on graves at Ft. Bayard with Wreaths Around America;
- Made donations to all the NMFRW Endowment Funds and sent \$100 to the Salvation Army for hurricane and California fire victims.
- Donate clothing, personal hygiene items, and food to Silver City Gospel Mission for the homeless;
- Donate items for care packages, boxing and mailing them to our deployed military;
- Helping build a Christmas Float with RPGC - won 1st and 2nd place prizes in Silver City and Santa Clara Christmas Parades of Lights;

We are putting up a GCFRW sign on a highway median used for civic organizations' signs in March.

Our 2018 fundraiser is a raffle with three prizes – a vintage, sterling silver, story teller jewelry set; a \$200 Ace Hardware gift card; and an American flag made of barn wood with shotgun shells for stars.

Lincoln County FRW – President Ann Eby

Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County sent two board members to NMFRW convention in

October at Buffalo Thunder in Santa Fe, joining members across the state for great speakers, vision, and encouragement to continue **Red the Vote 2018**.

We held an open Board meeting with our membership in November with emailed and live questionnaires for goals and areas for improvement. This was beneficial to hear members express new ideas. Already applying some in the new year.

We joined our Republican Party for annual Christmas party with this year being particularly festive, well attended. A special guest, was Lt. Gov. Candidate Michelle Garcia Holmes and her husband Earl. She was able to meet and get petition ballots signed. The following day she was the guest on radio stations, Village of Ruidoso Council meeting even asked to give the invocation, and introduced to many individuals, businesses in the Village. Very productive for her campaign.

January, our Board held 2018 planning meeting, preparing meetings, fundraisers, new proposals. "It's Time to High Tea Party" & "Ruidoso Fashion Style Extravaganza" planned for early June as a fundraiser, community economic energizer, membership builder, and a whole lot of fun. We will send each FRW an invitation to join us in beautiful Ruidoso for our June event, which I am certain you won't want to miss.

We are planning to open our Campaign Headquarters soon, as we feel this mid-term election is critical. This will require more volunteer hours and commitment from our members.

Our prayer is New Mexico votes with conviction and has a large Republican turnout. We must see a change on the horizon!

Socorro County FRW – Rosie Tripp

In October we donated \$250 to Samaritan's Purse to help with Hurricane Relief. We also achieved a Silver Achievement Award for 2016-17.

We passed out another 300 dictionaries last Fall. This was our 13th year doing this project. We have given over 1,800 dictionaries to Socorro County third graders. We also gave books to two elementary school libraries for our *Mamie Eisenhower Project*.

In December, we enjoyed wonderful food and friendship at our Christmas party with spouses and significant others at Don and Rosie Tripp's home.

This year we will be presenting a Socorro High School Senior girl with our very first SFRW Scholarship. It is a scholarship valued at \$1,000 and will be given in May. Most of our fundraising this year will go towards this effort.

We are helping with petitions for all our Republicans candidates and many of us will be attending our Pre-Primary County Convention. We will be giving female candidates monetary help after the Primary.

Editor's Note – Candy Luhrsen:

NMFRW club presidents and committee chairwomen are submitting wonderful article/reports for the newsletters published after each NMFRW meeting. Thank you for all your hard work, ladies!

My newsletter committee really enjoyed judging the many excellent newsletters submitted for the contest at the biennial meeting in October. GCFRW started a club newsletter by taking an idea from DAFRW's contest entry. We now publish a one-page newsletter monthly, on the back of our meeting agendas. This benefits members and meeting brevity, by providing information in a handy format, so the president does not have to spend extra time explaining details of news during the meeting.

For those clubs, which are low on volunteers, time and money, I recommend this method to save time and paper. I also suggest limited use of bold print and color to save on printer ink costs. Attention can be brought to items of interest by using italics, borders, a minimum amount of color, or small inserted pictures.

For those clubs which have the money, time, and people to produce longer newsletters, keep up the good work. I enjoy reading all the superior ideas in your reports and working with you. Go Team!

Sad News

Jill Johnson, President of DAFRW in 2017, passed away on February 2. She ran for Dona Ana County Treasurer in 2016. Jill was awarded the state award for most volunteer hours at NMFRW Fall Board Meeting last year. Jill loved to travel with her husband of three years and also with her girlfriends. Caren Lulich and Patricia Rothengass remember Jill as fun-loving and having a great sense of humor. "We would go to her house for our board meetings and be greeted by her and Bill's 3 cute yipping little dogs," added Caren.

Marianne Chiffelle suffered a mild stroke on February 8 and is receiving therapy at Lovelace Rehab Center, 505 Elm St, Albq, NM 87102. If you send a card, please put "For Marianne Chiffelle Room 202" on the outside of the envelope in the lower left-hand corner. She is undergoing 2 hours of therapy twice a day, is lucid, but tired. Her schedule varies from day to day and cannot be given out in advance. Consequently, it is not possible to know when to call, without talking to the Charge Nurse, who clearly is very busy. An attending nurse cannot give out the info that the Charge Nurse can. Marina Whisonant has been at Marianne's side as much as doctors allow.

Reminder: NMFRW's next Board meeting will be June 15 & 16, 2018 at the Albuquerque Marriott.

Chaplain's Notes – Nancy Cangioli and Jean Brown: No Report.