



# New Mexico Federated Republican Women Newsletter

Vol. 2019, Issue 3, October 2019



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

It is hard to believe NMFRW is 80 years old. New Mexico qualified for membership in the Federation in 1939, missing charter membership by one year. Our organizational

convention was held in Albuquerque in October 1939 and a vote for Affiliation was recorded on October 7, 1939. Present were 75 delegates representing enrollment of 550 women and 21 counties. Among the Original clubs were Zia, Santa Fe, Dona Ana County, all of which were established in 1939.

The first NMFRW President Betty Wood of La Luz was elected at convention in October 1939. She attended the 1940 National Federation convention in Philadelphia representing NMFRW for the first time. I am the 30<sup>th</sup> president of NMFRW. We celebrated our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year in Albuquerque. Currently, we have 16 clubs with 834 members. Our organization concentrates its efforts in education, communication, legislative action, candidate recruitment, campaigning and fundraising. 2020 promises to be a year of promoting an informed public through political education and activity, as well as working to elect Republican nominees. I am looking forward to working with all the newly elected officers and know that we will accomplish great things for NMFRW and our state.

I **thank** the convention committee for the hard work and many hours involved to put on this convention.

**NMFRW's next Board Meeting** is January 30, 31 or February 1 in Santa Fe. More information to follow.

## **NMFRW Executive & Committee Reports**

### **First Vice President – Joan Boué**

As 1st VP for the NMFRW, it has always been my responsibility to secure speakers who will inform &

educate members at our Board luncheons about what is occurring in NM. Over the last two years the highlight of our speakers was former Lt. Gov. John Sanchez. John had many words of wisdom about the future of the state of New Mexico.

I have served as 1<sup>st</sup> VP for NMFRW for the last six years. I was initially appointed & then ran successfully for two terms. My sincere thanks to the NMFRW Board & to members for your confidence in me. Please know that serving you in this position has truly been my pleasure.

### **Second Vice President – Julie Wright – No Report**

#### **Achievement Awards Report – Gwen Poe**

There was a big kink in the NFRW System, and I will follow up with our National Regional Director. The method of reporting was changed, and I was not in attendance at National Convention. We will continue to make our clubs strong.

#### **Americanism Report – Patricia Rothengass**

I have been NMFRW's Americanism Chair for several years. I reported on the Flag; proper flag construction; when, how and where it should be flown; and how it should be folded. I now know more about Our American Flag than ever!

Earlier this year, I explained what *Americanism* meant and I do mean meant. Until a few weeks ago I never heard *Americanism* mentioned anywhere. Then I heard Mike Pompeo make this statement on TV and I quote, "*America and Americanism is something we should be proud of. Our glorious history should be revered; it should not be revised. America is a unique place.*"

Now I ask you to emphasize *Americanism*, let's bring back that feeling we had when we did not have to be POLITICALLY CORRECT. It starts when we are brave enough to stand up and say **I Am an American and I Stand for the Flag and for My Country**. American History should be taught the way it happened - not how it is being rewritten. Let's say the *Pledge of Allegiance* and really understand **and mean** what we are saying!

**Caring for America – Charlotte Sweeney**

Supporting *Pursonalities Plus* was approved at our October 2018 meeting. We officially started the group in April 2019. I thank the clubs, which helped women in our area through *Pursonalities Plus*.

- Toothbrush/toothpaste/mouthwash/deodorant/soap/shampoo/brush/comb/mirror/hair spray/lipstick/make-up/hand cream/Chapstick/slippers/socks/hats/small tissue package/hand sanitizer

This is my final report as Caring for America Chair.

**Fundraising – 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Ginger Paternostro ~ No report**

**Legislative Initiative – Sharon Mottola ~No Report**

**Members-at-Large – Anita Statman and Jeanine Bingham-Kelly**

As Chair of Campaigns and Elections, I am receiving more inquiries for support. Some want to know when they may circulate petitions, want opinions, and/or wish to address clubs. As of October 23, 2019

U.S. Senate Republican candidates

- Mick Rich
- Gavin Clarkson

U.S. House Republican candidates CD1

- Brett Kokinadis

U.S. House Republican candidates CD2

- Claire Chase
- Yvette Herrell
- Chris Mathys

U.S. House Republican candidates CD3

- Karen Bedonie
- Alexis Johnson

**RNC Report – Rosie Tripp**

The RNC has been busy the last two years. We had paid staff and volunteers in 13 battleground states during the last election cycle and made 2.5 billion voter contacts. Our data center is better than ever.

NM will be a targeted state in 2020. We already have the *Trump Victory Director* here in NM. Leslie Wright hit the ground running and will coordinate all field offices. I know a lot of us attended the Trump Rally in Rio Rancho. This was the most electrifying rally I have ever seen in NM. People were excited and pumped up. 40% of the audience was Hispanic!!

This year Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel announced the launch of **WinRed**, a fundraising arm to compete with the Democrats **ActBlue**, which will enable the RNC to raise online donations to benefit all our

candidates. The President is fully behind this effort as is the NRCC and the NRSC.

While Democrats continue to harp on Russian collusion - even when the *Mueller Report* said there was no collusion - and rush to bring impeachment proceedings, the President continues to keep his **America First** agenda. He has enacted meaningful tax reforms; eliminated over-reaching regulations and mandates that hurt American businesses; he is keeping us safe by eradicating terrorism; he fights to *Build a Wall* to keep illegal immigrants from entering this country. He has reinvigorated our economy and the unemployment rate is the lowest in 50 years.

UNITY will be a must for our party in 2020. Politics is a team sport and we can't win unless we rally around ALL our candidates at the national, state and local levels. We must put our differences aside and unite in order to achieve victory and help President Trump *Keep America and NM Great!*

**Scholarship – Ginger Paternostro – No Report**

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

The FRW Clubs in Region A and their Presidents are:

Four Corners FRW– (2018) Jeanine B. Kelly  
(2019) Heather Curtis

Los Alamos FRW – (2018) Dawn Voss  
(2019) Shona Neff

Santa Fe FRW – (2018) Sharon Mottola  
(2019) Anita Statman

Santa Fe Trail FRW – Inactive

Taos County FRW – Sadie Boyer, President

Valle Del Norte FRW – Inactive

It has been an honor to serve as NMFRW's Region A Director. I was elected at the 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in 2013 and re-elected at the 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention 2017. I have enjoyed working with many amazing and dedicated women.

At our June NMFRW Region meeting, I announced that it was time to elect another Region A Director. I will assist the newly elected director in any way I can and be available when needed.

As Republican Andrew Carnegie said, "*Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objective[s]. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.*" He also said, "*Teamwork appears most effective if each individual helps others to succeed, increasing the synergy of that team; ideally, every person will*

*contribute different skills to increase the efficiency of the team and develop its unity.*” I offer these quotes, hoping that when you are tired and know you have more goals to accomplish, you will reach deep inside and give just a bit more! We all win if we each do our part as a team.

I offered my support and enjoyed meeting members of each club. I applaud their commitment to the Republican Party, NFRW and NMFRW.

#### **Four Corners FRW – Heather Curtis**

FCFRW is proud to announce that membership increased, and regular meeting attendance is at an all-time high, averaging 75+ people at each luncheon.

This is a result of every board and chair member, starting with programs. In 2018 FCFRW brought in all Republican Candidates, who were able to attend, including Municipal, Magistrate, Sheriff, and all statewide Candidates. In 2019, we were enriched by a variety of informative and enjoyable speakers. Senator Neville shared *“What to expect from the New Mexico Legislature Session”*. Sheriff Ferrari spoke on San Juan County and the importance of being a *Second Amendment Sanctuary*. Our representatives updated us on, *“What really happened in Santa Fe”* during the legislative session. We had an impactful presentation on, *“The Role of Fossil Fuels in Our Energy Future”* and Gavin Clarkson spoke on the border, illegal immigration, and its impact on NM.

Another factor for membership and attendance growth has been fundraising. Through 2018 & 2019, our 3<sup>rd</sup> VPs worked tirelessly to offer members chances to help raise funds. In 2018 we held several successful drawings, including a handmade quilt, rifles, and half a side of beef. Our 2019 Fundraising chair organized a community golf tournament, which generated \$7,000+. We learned that not only did conservative golfers attend, but democrats came to pay and play and loved every minute of it. Most enjoyably - hordes of people lined up to sponsor a **Deplorable Team**.

Membership implemented fresh ideas to draw more republicans to our club. On top of working hard to “meet and greet” all new members, they are diversifying ways in which we may all connect with those we meet daily, including, hand out cards with our information and a prize to the member, who recruits the largest number of new members. This reward went to our favorite lady, Betty Berry.

Our members worked tirelessly with SJRP to man booths at the County Fair, Cowboys for Trump, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Amendment Rallies and other local events. Several members volunteered in elections and countless more worked with other grassroots groups to get conservative messages out. With this work and gusto, we are certain that, not only will San Juan County remain red, but we will continue to grow!

#### **Los Alamos FRW – President Shona Neff**

2018 was a quiet transition year for LAFRW. The president and vice president both moved out of state due to their husband’s careers. Dawn Voss and Shona Neff stepped into the president and vice president roles, to finish out the terms. Despite being a quiet year in which we did no fundraising, LAFRW did support local candidates and helped staff the county Republican election headquarters.

We elected President Shona Neff, Vice-President Terra Fullbright, Secretary Mary Wilhoit and Treasurer Cathy Walters to 2-year terms in 2019. We are a small group, but we are growing a little and are enjoying increased *Facebook* activity.

In April we held our first fundraiser in over a year ... a PersonalTEA. It was one of the most successful fundraisers ever and we had a great time doing it. In July we held our annual garage sale. Enough donations and volunteers led to TWO successful garage sales.

LARP held their annual October **Constitution Day Dinner** with several LAFRW members volunteering. Our combined efforts made for a wonderfully attended event. LAFRW sponsors a *Constitution Day Essay Contest* for students in grades 4 to 12, encouraging youth to familiarize themselves with our *Constitution* and giving winners opportunities to read their essays at the dinner. In addition to our winning student and guests, Gavin Clarkson was the featured speaker and three CD-3 candidates: Karen Bedonie, Audra Brown, and Alexis Johnson attended.

Lastly, we welcomed Rosie Tripp to our hilltop club in October. She was inspirational, informative, and engaging. Several ladies from SFFRW and Alexis Johnson, candidate for CD3, joined us.

As we race toward the 2020 elections, we hope our small group of devoted ladies will grow, become more active, and **Turn New Mexico RED in 2020**.

#### **Santa Fe FRW – President Anita Statman**

During 2018, President Sharon Mottola was proud to cite the following accomplishments that the Santa Fe Board of Directors helped her implement:

- a. Held a monthly board meeting and nine

luncheons with speakers. The focus of speakers' programs in 2018 and 2019 were mental health, the opioids crisis, and human trafficking following NFRW President Jody Rushton's lead.

- b. Maintained strong membership 50 - 70 members
- c. Held a Gala - Honoring American Heroes. Mark Geist, Benghazi survivor, was our headliner. We celebrated Marianne Chiffelle's life, posthumously awarding her our *Lady of Liberty Award*. Guests numbered 150 and we raised \$10,000+ which went to Republican candidates.

In 2019, I too have been proud to work with a smart, competent group of Directors. They have helped me:

- a. Hold board of directors' meetings monthly and nine luncheons with speakers.
- b. Maintain and continue to grow our membership.
- c. Achieved NFRW Gold status.
- d. Began meeting with SFRP leadership to help both organizations **Turn Santa Fe County RED**.
- e. Held a *Great American Picnic* at Las Campanas that attracted 100 guests and raised over \$6,000!

Attendance at our luncheons is 50-65. We continued to have speakers on mental health and cyber security. New members are getting involved with a scholarship program, a chief poll watcher, and a social media presence. We also issued our 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter with a piece on why and how we there is a crisis of street people with mental health problems. We used a *Heritage Institute* piece describing how we got here.

We addressed the NFRW dues increase in a proactive manner. SFFRW raised its dues from \$35 to \$50. We don't expect a major impact, but time will tell.

In our get-out-the-vote effort with SFRP, we've sent precinct data to all members and are making note cards for women to use to reach out to 1,000 households in the county. We believe an engaged public is more likely to vote.

#### **Taos County FRW – President Sadie F. Boyer**

TCFRW's general meetings are held six times a year on the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November. In 2018 we held meetings at GOP & TCFRW Headquarters in Taos and in 2019 at IHOP Restaurant at 9:00 a.m. The officers are President Sadie F. Boyer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Geraldine Sanchez, Secretary Linda Rael and Treasurer Virginia Laughlin.

2018: We lost two dedicated members. My mother, Fay Wells, passed away Dec. 1, 2017. She paid her 2018 dues in November 2017 to ensure she was on

the 2018 list. She was a member as long as I can remember. We lost Donna Schilling on Dec. 9, 2017. She organized and manned the vendor table at NMFRW's meeting at Buffalo Thunder in October. She had also paid her 2018 dues in November. We miss them - may they rest in peace.

- TCFRW reports 16 members in 2018, 13 in 2019.
- We increased monthly financial support for our TCRP and TCFRW Headquarters;
- We sold 65 ticket for NMFRW's 9MM Glock.

#### **2019:**

- We updated our bylaws;
- We assisted TCRP with a Fundraiser at Taos Trails Inn in beautiful Ojo Caliente;
- Several members participated in the *Hoppin' at the IHOP* on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. "Getting to Know the Candidate" events;
- We worked tirelessly for the General election calling, delivering & putting up yard signs and bumper stickers to friends, family and neighbors;
- We discussed ways to increase voter registration;
- I served as Treasurer for NM Supreme Court Justice Gary Clingman Campaign;
- I served as the Steve Pearce for Governor Taos County Team Captain;
- Three members are Taos County RP Officers;
- Due to surgery on October 1, I did not attend NMFRW's Fall Board meeting in October 2018.
- NMFRW President Rhonda Stockert, with Ginger Paternostro installed our officers in March.
- We submitted our Club Achievement Awards and Campaign Volunteer Hours (3,319 hrs.) Reports;
- We now have a *Facebook* page (working with the Taos GOP to restore their link on that website).
- Sold 70 tickets for the NMFRW Quilt;
- We helped organize the *Trump Watch Party* held in June at IHOP. It was a GREAT event!
- We co-hosted an Ice Cream Social with TCRP in August at the Taos Juan I Gonzales Agricultural Bldg. We hosted conservative speakers, candidates & served free ice cream from 11-4.
- We are working on a grassroots Precinct Project to increase membership and get more Republicans to the polls for the 2020 election.
- Due to NFRW's increased dues, we raised ours.

Next meeting is November 9 at IHOP at 9 a.m. with a no-host breakfast; meeting and program at 9:30 am.

**Region B Director – Hazel W. (Winnie) Schmidt**  
FRW Club in Valencia County was re-established and named Rio Grande FRW about two years ago,

doubling membership since. It meets the 3rd Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Belen, at Fats Sats Bar and Grill, on Belen's North exit. Members order off the menu – attendance is great. Carol Chupp is President. This Club worked hard with NM Legislators last year, especially on the abortion issue. RGFRW is a small group and the club does not participate in the Region.

San/Bern has also grown and meets at El Pinto Restaurant on No. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Albuquerque. It meets the 2nd Friday monthly, from 11:30-1 p.m. Julie Wright is President.

METRO FRW meets the odd months of the year, on the 2nd Wednesday at the Marriott Hotel, at I-40 and Louisiana. Gayle McCormick is President. They have recently added 5 members.

AFRW meets on the 4th Wednesday monthly at the Tanoan Country Club in the far NE Heights. One of their projects helps an elementary school. The children need many items.

Zia FRW meets the 3rd Thursday at Canyon Club (formerly 4 Hills Country Club). Paula Mc Allister is President. The Club has several projects: donating stuffed animals to APD at Christmas for use when police calls involve children, arranging for *Explora* demonstrations for 5 classes at a *Title 1* school, giving *Blue Star Mothers* postage for mailings to the troops, & donating bottled water to the NM Dream Center, which works with street and trafficking teens.

We began working on the NMFRW Convention in November 2018, acquiring the event hotel and met monthly to plan. Clubs donated funds, volunteers included RGFRW's Carol Chupp and Blenda Drummond, Paula McAllister as Treasurer, Zia's Dona Fox as Registrar, Charlotte Sweeney as Secretary, and I was Chairman. Co-chair Carol prepared badges, sent information to NMFRW members & arranged for music and entertainment with her club. Stephanie McAllister (Zia) designed our LOGO.

We all donated items needed. Blenda, Donna, Paula and Teresa Barncastle furnished items for center pieces. Carol furnished items she needed. I handled written correspondence and contacted speakers. Carol and I worked well together and had fun. We are pleased that the Convention was such a success.

#### ***Albuquerque FRW – Charlotte Sweeney***

In 2018 we sent eleven newsletters to members. In 2019 we sent ten newsletters to members to date.

We meet monthly, except in November. Each month we invite someone from our Republican community to share information with members and guests.

We have maintained membership, but this year lost members, as noted in the program's memorial: Peggy Trevor, Marty Lambert, Rosemary Lyle, & Diane Eichelman. Several members moved away.

We have collected items at monthly meetings for ***Personalties Plus***. We will also still collect warm clothing for students at Mitchell Elementary School.

***Metro FRW – President Gayle McCormick ~ No Report***

#### ***Rio Grande FRW – Carol S. Chupp***

Well, what a roller coaster ride it's been for me and my board members over the past two years. At the last Biennial Convention, a group of us from Valencia County came as guests to see what we had to do to resurrect our club after a 6-year hiatus. With President's and several in this club's help, we got it going again with goals to help elect good Republican candidates.

We were approved in January 2018. That first year was very exciting, as we had tremendous speakers, good fundraisers and registered 23 members and 20 associates. Our motto is **Expand, Educate, Excite, Encourage and Empower**. We celebrated as our county overall went **RED**. We doubled membership to 46 members in year two and our State Senator Greg Baca choose our club meeting to announce his re-election bid. Many club members worked tirelessly to defeat radical abortion bill *HB51*. Our bank balance is \$4,000+ and we will form a PAC to help candidates. In addition, two club members and others in the community, who we encouraged to run, are now local candidates in the Nov. 5 election.

Our club was assisted Region B in planning the Biennial Convention. We started meeting last year and worked diligently to make this a united, fun and informative convention. Going into the next Election Cycle, we will need everyone on board to elect Republican Candidates. Let's make that our focus, as we face what might be the most important election our nation has ever faced.

#### ***Rio Rancho FRW – Barbara McClain***

January 2019: Mayor Gregg Hull, "State of the City" report

February: Dave Heil, Chairman, Sandoval County Commission

March: Catherine Cullen, Vice President, Rio Rancho School Board. Reported on actions taken by the school board to safeguard our children and teachers, also spoke on mental health services available for RR children and teens.

April: Senator Craig Brandt, report on NM Senate at the Round House in Santa Fe.

May: Kelly Zunie Noble, Cabinet Secretary for Indian Affairs under Governor Susanna Martinez.

May 31 - RRFRW manned registration table and sold advertising signs for the SCRP Golf Tournament.

June: Representative Tim Lewis, reported on NM House of Representatives.

July and August - No meetings.

4<sup>th</sup> of July parade: Barb McClain, Pat Breese, Ann Toliver rode in Rio Rancho parade. Elaine Manicke and friend rode in pickup truck with Emma Mitchell, who played "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" on harp and Ida Mitchell sang "God Bless America" for the Corrales parade. Very positive feedback in both locations and in the Albuquerque Journal.

September: Larry Behrens: Western States Director for "Power the Future", NM #3 top oil & gas producer in the nation.

Community Service: Active Shooter Safety Training Class, 8 members & 8 family members attended.

October: National Committee Woman, Rosie Tripp, spoke on "Inside the RNC". Dan Stoddard, Chairman of SCRP, spoke on "Ranked Choice Voting", not a good or honest way to vote.

November: Retired Colonel Jay Block and Master Sergeant Harvetta Mitchell, will speak on their Military experiences. Chaplain Ida Mitchell will sing the National Anthem to honor Veterans. Memorial table w/pictures of deceased Veterans, (RRFRW family members). RRFRW volunteered w/ booth, helped in kitchen & donated door prizes for the SCRP's Pancake Breakfast. RRFRW members will participate and attend Rio Rancho's Veterans' Day Service (Ida Mitchell will sing the National Anthem).  
New members: 4, New Associate members: 4

December: Christmas Party w/ gift exchange and giving tree for local food bank. Christmas songs by Ida Mitchell.

**San Bern FRW – Julie Wright ~ No Report**

**ZIA FRW – Paula McAllister**

Zia FRW is Albuquerque's oldest FRW club (79 yrs.). I am so proud of Zia. We have concentrated

on the NFRW priorities of *Caring for America*, Literacy, and Supporting Veterans and Military. We had speakers and contributed to Gold Star Mothers, Dream Center, human trafficking, and a *Title I* Elementary school. We furnished *Explora* demonstrations to five Lavaland Elementary classes. Teachers are excited to bring *Explora* to students.

Associate Member Donald Gluck educated us on what happened in Russia under socialism and communism - the millions who died, the freedoms abridged. Contact me for information on how to reach Donald, if your club is interested.

We continue to support Republican candidates and sensible ordinances. We helped defeat Albuquerque Public Schools' excessive money requests in 2018.

### **Region C Director – Teresa Barncastle**

Region C, comprised of Chaves County FRW, Dona Ana FRW, Lea County FRW, FRW of Lincoln County, Grant County FRW and Socorro County FRW, met at each of the 2018-2019 State Board Meetings. All clubs attended at most meetings.

Region C's 2018 membership declined but rallied in 2019 to 353 members. Region C continues to have the largest total membership in NM.

At one Region C meeting we discussed the best thing about our individual clubs and the obstacles we face. Most claimed members as their greatest assets and getting members to volunteer as a challenge. We discussed overcoming challenges - with one solution to match member talents with the right position.

Another suggestion was to add a personal touch. LCFRW President Carol Parrish offered that her club gives a small box of 4 homemade cookies to each speaker and she offered her new member booklet to other clubs. GCFRW President Candy Luhrsen presented a business card that included her information on one side and her club meeting information on the other. She shared the template with all the clubs in the region and gave each club the electronic file of *Now You are 18* to print and use to reach our younger generation. Each club also received personalized club notecards and envelopes.

Region C also started a speakers' list after having a round table discussion on getting speakers for meetings. Some of the suggestions included County Elected Officials, Game Warden, AMAC, Hillsdale, Pregnancy Resource Center, NMSP, District Attorney, Border Patrol, State Party Officers, Americans for Prosperity, NM Business Coalition,

and local law enforcement. All clubs were reminded to ensure speakers are registered Republican.

This is my last report as Region C Director. I thank all the amazing women for making this a wonderful experience. Lessons can be learned from all of them.

#### **Chaves County FRW – Teresa Barncastle**

In the past two years, CCFRW hosted Republican panels for County Commissioners, City Council, Mayor, Municipal Judge, and School Board elections, and for numerous other candidates that were unopposed in the Primary but had opponents in the General. We were excited to have CCFRW member Yvette Herrell run for U.S. House CD2. We worked hard raising funds and getting out the vote for her. She did not win, but is working hard for 2020.

We have so many projects going on all the time. Our members volunteered 300+ manhours at the Eastern NM State Fair each fall, promoting the Republican Party, and registering voters. And, that does not count all the hours our candidates, who are members and associate members, spent at the Fair Booth.

Each year, we distribute dictionaries to third graders in three Chaves County school districts. We also give dictionaries to the *Chaves County Assistance League* to distribute when they cloth the neediest children in our county. CCFRW also donates books to the *Roswell Public Library* in the name of a member as part of the NFRW MELP project.

CCFRW collected items, such as jerky, baby wipes, chap stick, and snack packs, to send to troops in Iraq. Every November, we treat veterans to lunch and personally recognize and thank them. We were honored to have NM Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Jack Fox, one last time before he left office.

Our big fund raiser, our biennial *Cowboy Prom* in July 2019 was attended by approximately 200. The band *Lincoln Road* entertained after the meal, silent auction, and live auction. The successful event netted approximately \$10,000. These funds support scholarships, dictionary and book donations, *Assurance Home*, other programs, and candidates.

In the next two years, we plan on being just as successful by continuing our Diamond status and electing Republican candidates.

#### **Doña Ana County FRW – Patricia Rothengass**

DACFRW's January 2018 and 2019, as in the past, is *Open Mike* where we get all the necessary business items out of the way. The board tells members the direction the club will be going for the following year

and members offer ideas to the board. DACFRW's Membership Chair has all Members as Co-Chairs. Every month is Membership Month. Members bring guests to monthly luncheons - sometimes as many as four or five. Do they all become members? No, but this is how DACFRW has built membership in 2019.

Since every year now seems to be an election year, members hear from candidates, register voters and help in whatever way they can to elect Republicans. Our efforts are not always successful; however, we don't cry over the past, we move forward to changing the future. The November 2019 election for Mayor and City Council is a change in the way citizens in LC will vote. The city has moved to *Ranked Choice Voting* and DACFRW along with DARP is educating the public on this very slanted method of voting.

Our *Caring for America* projects include programs to help veterans, children, women, and the unborn.

The *Americanism Essay Contest* will continue as a project in private schools here in Las Cruces. Schools which had participated in the past did not in 2018, because of a change in teachers. Hopefully, we can change their minds in the future.

DACFRW elected 2019-2020 officers in December 2019 and NMFRW President Rhonda Stockert installed the new officers. I was elected by the members for the first time to be their President. Yes, I have been the President for the past three+ years due to presidents stepping down for various reasons. I do not take being President lightly, I have a great board that works together and a membership that is happy to participate. DACFRW has a great future.

I thank the DACFRW Board and Members for their support and the NMFRW President for her leadership.

#### **Grant County FRW – Candy Luhrsen**

GCFRW members are involved in supporting veterans, students, and our community. We pursue FRW programs and develop strong connections with neighbors and friends on a personal level. GCFRW:

- Hosts booths at all major events and at Grant County and neighboring Hidalgo County fairs. We distribute *U.S. Constitutions*, American flags, and *Now You Are 18* booklets; sell hats, t-shirts, jewelry, & drawing tickets and registers voters - many Democrats to Republican.
- Held an *Easter Egg Hunt* in the Mining District.
- Donates cases of snacks to the *American Legion Auxiliary* Snack Cart at the Silver City VA Clinic.

- Donated two end tables, a large bookcase, etc., to the new WNMU Veterans' Lounge. One member organized donations of furnishings for the two rooms from various entities in two counties.
- Sends *Care Packages* to deployed military.
- Donates food and hygiene items to the homeless shelter and women's refuge center.
- *Supports Wreaths Around America* – purchased 9 wreaths for Ft. Bayard Nat'l. Cemetery in 2019.
- Conducts *Mock Elections* at Grant County high schools in October 2018.
- Donates *MELP* books to schools.
- Registers voters in high schools annually, distributing free *U.S. Constitutions, Now You Are 18* booklets, and American flags.

Women in Southern NM are practical and gutsy, so GCFRW began a series of classes called ***Guns and Garters*** as a public service for Grant County women. This project doubles as a membership drive. We are co-sponsoring NRA ***Refuse to Be A Victim*** classes with Gila Tactical **at no cost** to non-members. We paid for materials, provided morning coffee with pastries, lunch, & door prizes. The October 19 class was enjoyed by 27 attendees (4 new members). A 2<sup>nd</sup> class will be on Nov. 16. Other courses added to the series are for a reasonable charge are: Pistol 101, Concealed Carry, and one on liability insurance.

#### ***Lea County FRW – Carol Parish***

We started 2018 off with a bang! We had multiple contested primaries. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Louise Hudson asks all Republican opponents to speak on the same day, so members may compare them. She does a great job finding speakers even though we are in the SE corner of NM - off the beaten path. After our luncheon, candidates meet for interviews with newspaper and radio reporters and with volunteers. In the evening candidate(s) speak to LCRP. Louise makes all this possible and easy for the candidates. 2018 was 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Linda Maynard's first year as a board member. She says she wanted to travel with us before becoming a board member, because we always seemed to have fun. Linda works to increase membership, handles all our e-mails & communications, RSVPs to our monthly meetings and always volunteers for whatever needs to be done.

Our amazing Secretary Katie Espinosa was new in our community and was looking to volunteer on another committee that I worked on. The date of that event did not work for Katie, so I told her about my other community involvement. As we talked

LCFRW seemed a great fit for her. She is a blessing as a member and now board member. Katie takes minutes, volunteers at fundraisers and other events. She set up us on FB: lea county republican women!

Treasurer Cathie Ross keeps track of lunch attendees, record keeping, and reports. She volunteers to raise funds, for membership drives and other events.

Americanism Chair Joyce Hatley updates us on local veterans' needs; plans programs for local students and is working on entering schools with the *U.S. Constitution*, voter registration information and the *Now You Are 18* Booklet.

Volunteer Sue Gunter wears many hats as Chair for Volunteer Hours, for our *Humphrey House* project, assisting with fundraisers, membership drive, etc.

Linda Bailey is our new *MELP* Chairman. Linda volunteered when Chair Belinda Morris moved to TX. We know Linda will be great asset in this position and look forward to working with her.

Just because Gretchen Koether is our past president does not mean she stepped aside. Gretchen still volunteers at every event and Chairs Candidate Recruitment. She is also a wonderful mentor.

This year our club was surprised when the NMFRW president traveled to Hobbs. This was the first time in recent years that anyone can remember the NMFRW President visiting our club to swear in officers. It's a long way from the NE corner of the state to the SE corner. I believe it's a journey of 500+ miles one way. Thank you, President Rhonda Stockert for remembering our club.

#### ***Lincoln County FRW – President Ann Eby***

FRWLC celebrated President Trump's victory, holding a benefit *Red or Green Inaugural Ball*, January 20, 2017. We raised money for a local teen battling a rare cancer and our local *Boys and Girls Club*. This successful event drew attendees statewide.

***O Wine Not?*** was begun at a local beer and wine garden as a monthly outside evening event to attract women with various interests in our community. Crafts, demonstrations, relaxing with wine and snacks gained some new members and exposure.

*Afternoon Tea & Fashion Extravaganza* the first Sunday in June 2018, reaches into the business sector for partnership and fundraising. *Life-Way* a pregnancy resource center was our 501-c-3 beneficiary. We gave 40% of our profit (\$900) to *Life-Way*. The remainder went to PAC.



Former Chaves Co. Representative Bob Wooley asked us to donate to his Viet Nam Air Force Unit reunion held in Ruidoso. He said only 55% of the men were still alive; we gladly contributed.

A Facebook ad advertising our *Weekend Getaway* was taken down, stating political advertising is not approved! (*Editor notes that we are not political.*)

We opened Campaign Headquarters, again holding our extremely successful *Candidates & Coffees*.

We received a 24-hour alert that Kellyanne Conway, councilor to the President, would be at our Campaign HQ on October 31. A blizzard blew in, our small airport closed, she flew back to Alamogordo, and was driven in. Police kept protestors on the highway at bay; she was rushed in with all the statewide candidates to a crowd of 300. TV cameras, cheering supporters, food & drinks. Excitement was contagious. Ruidoso was her only stop in NM, so we were a little smug for a few weeks!

The Village of Ruidoso is the only city in NM to pass *Right to Work*. Lincoln County Commissioners also passed *2nd Amendment Sanctuary County* to support our Sheriff and Deputies in all their duties. FRWLC were present in red backing these decisions.

Our *2nd Annual Afternoon Tea & Fashion Extravaganza* grew in attendance, participation, and funds raised. This year our selected *501-c-3 Hope Harbor NM* is a home in Capitan for abused women and their children - a free 2-year program. This is a Christ-centered, education, life skills, & new life for women and their children - breaking the abuse cycle. Our 40% contributed \$2,000, a large increase in one year. PAC account continues to increase.

Other new endeavors include a first ever Newsletter published by a new member. Another new member's suggestion, patriotic t-shirts, have sold very well.

One member's husband supervises building the AZ Border Wall. Our club sent snacks, supplies, and cards back with him. One man said, "I had planned to quit that day, but after reading one of the cards of the importance of my work for the safety of our country, I decided to stay on." A friend said they need prayer & this encouragement made a difference.

All we do for God, family, and country makes a difference. God bless each of you, New Mexico, and **God bless America.**

#### **Socorro County FRW – Rosie Tripp**

SCFRW held two successful Annual Ice Cream Socials that netted \$2,000+ for our scholarship and to

help female candidates at State and local levels. At our Social in August, we had *Cowboys for Trump* Couy Griffen as our guest speaker. We drew about 125 people and his speech held us all spellbound.

Our first SCFRW 2018 Scholarship went to Audrey Baca and this year our second scholarship was given to Destiny Davila. These are \$1,000 scholarships to Republican female students at Socorro High School.

We provided 600+ dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Socorro County since 2017. We donate toiletry items to *Puerto Seguro* homeless shelter and *Birthright of Socorro*, which helps young, pregnant women, who are in need. All 2018 statewide candidates spoke to us. Club dues increased to mirror NFRW's. Best news of all! We increased our membership to 34 and qualified for a Silver Achievement Award!

#### **Prayer for Truth, Charlotte Sweeney**

Lord, Jesus Christ, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Hear our prayer for truth and integrity in all segments of society today. May the truth be spoken by us and affirmed in others, that in seeking truth, the world will come to find You, the Source of All Truth.

Wherever relationships are weakened by deception or hypocrisy, strengthen good Christian character among us that we may bear witness to the critical need for truth. May Your Spirit of Truth fashion minds and hearts open to a moral integrity so strong that both words and actions can be trusted. In public and private life, deepen among us a genuine commitment to honest, sincerity and truth-telling.

Let nations and peoples not compromise truth by rationalization or pretense, but safeguard and defend it always as Your most precious gift. Lord, may those around us come to know that they can take us at our word, until that day when all the world lives in truth and the Truth sets us free. Amen.

#### **2020-2021 NMFRW Board Election Results:**

**President** – Rhonda Stockert

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – Marie Sorenson

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – Joan Boué

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President** – Marci Butchofsky

**Secretary** – Gretchen Koether

**Treasurer** – Carol Parish

**Members at Large** – Ann Eby & Candy Luhrsen

**Immediate Past President** – Barbara McClain

#### **Regional Directors:**

**Region A** – Anita Statman

**Region B** – Winnie Schmidt

**Region C** - Caren Lulich.