Fall 2026 NMFRW Meeting – SFFRW President's Report

Good morning ladies. I am Sharon Mottola, the current president of the Santa Fe FRW. Our previous president, Anne Doherty has moved to Texas and resigned the remainder of her term. As the previous 1st VP, I have taken on the presidency through the remainder of the year.

The Santa Fe FRW held a July evening meeting for the first time in honor of our country's 250th birthday. We invited our senate candidate Larry Marker and state auditor candidate Joshua Lawrence. The meeting was billed as the Great American Cocktail Party. Although Mr. Lawrence was unable to join us due to a flat tire, Mr. Marker held his own for ½ hour. Since we meet at the Santa Fe Country Club and it has a bar, we were able to have alcoholic libations and some great appetizers in lieu of our usual lunch. We sold raffle tickets for donated items and were able raise $ 1,095 for the club's operating expenses and our scholarship fund. We gave out two restaurant gift certificates, a golf outing at the SFCC, a Mary Kay spa basket and an amazing wine and cheese basket to five very happy winners.

In September we held an upscale dinner for the benefit of gubernatorial candidate, Gregg Hull. We had over 100 attendees and served a choice of filet mignon or salmon. Once again, this was an evening event at the SF Country Club, which was purely for the purpose of fundraising and did not count as an official club meeting. We were able to donate more than half the ticket price to Gregg's campaign to give him a check for $5,512 that night. Gregg talked at length about his plans for the state in a wide variety of areas. He answered questions thoroughly, knowledgeably and eloquently.

This past month our club hosted Janice Arnold-Jones to discuss voting law history and election integrity in New Mexico. She gave a nice history of the subject and a polished presentation. Mr. Lawrence had been invited to make up for his July absence, but once again he was unable to attend. The Santa Fe club has met with every candidate on the ballot now, except for Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Kane. We did our best to inform our members as to who their choices are and we came close to meeting with every candidate.

In November we will host Mark Ronchetti to give us the run down on how the election went. We will also hold club elections for our 2027-2029 board members. Nancy Brenna will attend our December meeting to swear them in. We will also have our usual Christmas celebration, toy donation and member appreciation gift giveaway at that time.

We are looking for partner clubs who might be interested in hosting the Babylon Bee editor in chief for a fundraising event next year. Please see me or Diane if your club would consider this opportunity.

Aside from our club meetings, our 2nd VP Diane Dunlap, has been holding Third Thursday casual get-togethers at a local sweet shop. This has been a great way for members to meet informally, get to know each other personally and discuss whatever they have on their minds. We hope it leads to more members stepping into future leadership positions. Diane is also the driving force behind our excellent newsletter and she will do a great job as our club's next president.