

# GRIMES COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

APRIL 2025

ISSUE 12

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**PRESIDENT  
MARY BLACKBURN**



### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tina Hector**, Vice President & Membership Chair

**Dianna Westmoreland**, Treasurer

**Jennifer Clark**, Secretary & Publicity & Promotions

**Mary Blackburn**, Immediate Past President

**Carolyn Kimich**, Hospitality Chair

**Bobbi Montford**, Historian

**Cheryl Tardiff**, Campaign Activities

**Gail Kaciuba**, Legislative Activities

Greetings to all our Primary and Associate Members. We are one woman away from meeting last year's membership number of 48. Currently we have 3 more Associate Members than last year, at 14. Our Primary Member target is 50, so please help GCRW meet this objective.

Our 89th Texas Legislature is currently in session. Below are some milestones for the legislative session. As in previous legislative sessions, we use Texas Legislature Online <https://capitol.texas.gov/> to follow bills through the process. I hope you will engage in this process, follow bills, and work with Gail Kaciuba (our legislative lead) to report back at our monthly meetings. My thanks to the Texas Scorecard for these dates.

January 14. Session began, and Speaker Dustin Burrows was elected with a majority of his votes from Democrats (49). RPT Chairman Abraham George has indicated that he'd like all 36 Republicans who voted to elect Burrows to be primaries in 2026. Texas politics continues to be interesting.

February 13. On the 30th day of the session, committees can start voting on non-emergency legislation. The timeline for committee actions can make or break the progress of a bill. By this date, the Senate had passed several bills, but the House had voted zero bills out of committee. It had, however, passed a resolution honoring Beyoncé and had taken a number of long weekends.

March 14. The 60th day of the session was the last day for lawmakers to file new bills (except for certain emergency or local measures). After this date, both the House and Senate can begin voting on all non-emergency legislation.

May 12. By this date, House committees must report all House bills out of committee to ensure they have any chance to progress through the legislative process. Any bills not reported out of committee by this date are effectively dead.

May 15. By day 122, the House must complete second readings of House bills and joint resolutions. Any House-originated legislation that hasn't advanced to this stage is effectively dead.

May 16. This is the last day for the House to consider House bills and joint resolutions.

May 23. This is day 130, and House committees must report all Senate bills and joint resolutions out of committee by this date, which ensures that Senate-originated legislation has time to move through the remaining stages in the House.

May 27. Day 134, and the House must complete second readings of Senate bills and joint resolutions on its calendar. Delays beyond this point spell the end for most remaining Senate-originated legislation.

May 28. Day 135 is the final House vote on Senate Bills and joint resolutions.

June 2. Sine Die. The final day of the session marks the conclusion of the legislative process.

June 22. Governor has 20 days after Sine Die to sign or veto bills passed during the session. Any bills not signed or vetoed by this date automatically become law.

September 1. Effective date for most new laws.

## FOLLOW US ON



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## MEET OUR FIRST QUARTER SPEAKERS

**January 21, 2025**

**Snow Day** Our January meeting was cancelled due to freezing weather. Hopefully everyone enjoyed a little snow and stayed safe and warm!



**February 18, 2025**

**Madison Smith, Turning Point USA**

TPUSA is the largest conservative student organization in the US. It has 3500 student chapters in the United States. It's a 501(c)(3) organization so they don't endorse specific candidates, but rather advance conservative ideals in schools. The mission of TPUSA is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote freedom. TPUSA is active on college campuses as well as in high schools. Madison is a TPUSA field rep for high schools. She helps students begin TPUSA chapters by providing resources for meetings, chapter events, speakers, debate night, and the like. There are specific resources to advance faith, resources for teachers, and even "watch lists" for school board members and professors.

TPUSA has a 4-day event called AmericaFest every December in Arizona to help students as well as a young women's conference each June. There are over 10,000 attendees at each AmericaFest event. The Student Action Summit events are three-day events that mobilize the generation that will defend America's freedom. Students can apply for stipends from TPUSA to defray their travel costs to these conferences.



**March 18, 2025**

**Dr. David Hackthorn & Connie Clements, TSHL**



David shared with us that TSHL was established in Texas in 1985 and currently has 80 members. TSHL represents older Texans and addresses issues important to that constituency. These issues include protecting seniors from fraud and other types of abuse; assuring access to competent, vigilant and respectful health and nursing care; actions to mitigate isolation and nutritional deficiencies often associated with aging, and many other issues unique to seniors.

TSHL is always looking for new representatives. The requirements are a minimum age of 60, the ability to serve 2 year term, and the ability to make occasional trips to Austin. Contact Connie Clements for further details.

Thank You Ethan Barcak from The NerdBee for joining our meeting to show our members how to maneuver through our new GCRW website. If you haven't seen our new website log on to [www.gcrepublicanwomen.org](http://www.gcrepublicanwomen.org).

Thank you Jo Miller for attending our March meeting and sharing the upcoming Seeds of Liberty - Vacation Liberty School. Franklin July 21-25, for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> graders. This successful program helps young people understand and appreciate the concepts of liberty in America, and Jo would like to expand it to other counties. She is looking for volunteers for this July's program so they can learn how to bring it to their home counties. If interested email her at [mama85joe@aol.com](mailto:mama85joe@aol.com)







# MEMBER NEWS!



## Save the Date

GCRW will host its 1st Dinner Auction on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at Francine's Country Pavilion in Iola. The theme is Boots & Bow Ties. Featured special guest to be announced soon. We hope to see y'all there!

Silent & Live auction items are needed. Please contact Tina Hector if you are willing to help. [tinaahector@gmail.com](mailto:tinaahector@gmail.com)



## Welcome

At our February & March meetings Tina had the opportunity to introduce some of our new members for 2025!

(L to R) Jessica Bomar, Mari Baldwin, (Tina), Joan & Dave Rosenthal, Debi Fincher, Mary Belle & Crystal Masters



Gail & Stanley Kaciuba welcomed their fourth grandchild. Oakley Adelyn Kaciuba was born March 11. She is adorable.



## Mardi Gras

Fun at our March meeting!  
Thanks Jennifer Clark for  
recreating our King Cake.

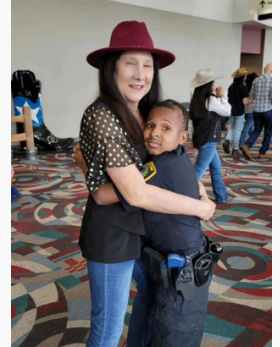




# MORE MEMBER NEWS



Joan & Dave Rosenthal had the pleasure of meeting DJ and his dad at the Houston rodeo. DJ was the young brain cancer patient President Trump honored at his address to Congress! They gave him an honorary Secret Service Badge. Joan told DJ she was a cancer survivor and he gave her a great big hug! His dad said that DJ was upset when he looked over and the Democrats weren't clapping for him when everyone else was.



Congratulations, Jennifer Clark for being sworn in by Sherry Fauth as our GCRW Secretary for 2025-26.



Our Members Sherry Fauth, Mary Blackburn & Gail Kaciuba attended Legislative Day in Austin on March 20-21st hosted by TFRW. Mary & Gail toured the Capitol and were able to visit some important offices!



Have you joined a GCRW committee yet? There are several committees you can get involved with. Volunteer sheets will be located at the sign in table at each meeting. Also, check our website for information about each committee. [www.gcrepublicanwomen.org](http://www.gcrepublicanwomen.org)







# GCRP REAGAN - TRUMP DINNER 2025





# Not Canada, PLEASE!



By Gail Kaciuba

An opinion is like a nose – we all have one. This article is, of course, just my opinion. I love Donald Trump and think he is one of our best presidents EVER. He's even better than #45, who I also thought was the best president EVER. I agree with him about 98% of the time. But I don't agree with him about Canada becoming our 51st state. I laughed like crazy when he started calling Canada's (former) Prime Minister "Governor Trudeau" on social media. I'm hoping that his public comments about Canada becoming our cherished 51st state are just part of his strategy in the four-dimensional game he plays, but he's way too clever for me. I'm not even good at two-dimensional chess. Here are some reasons I don't want Canada to be our 51st state.

## Do we want to average Canadian and American statistics?

The European Union was created in 1993. I was already a professor by then because I am old. When I talked about the EU in a disparaging fashion about 10 years afterwards, students were shocked. They had only ever heard great things about this amazing creation. I reminded them that the economy of the EU would really just be a weighted average of the economies of the constituent countries. I can see why Belarus would want to join the EU, but Germany's economy is usually the strongest in the EU, so why did Germany want to join? Students usually understand this with an example using test grades. Suppose your current average test score in this class is 82%, but you just got 71% on the most recent test. This new test will bring your average down. If I have a policy that you can drop your lowest test score when computing your class average, the 71% is the test score that you will want to EXCLUDE from the average score calculation (unless you do even worse on another test before the end of the semester). In 2023 Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per person was \$54,517 and ours was \$80,706. Do we want to lower our GDP per capita?

## Would Canada be our "Scotland"?

A recent article in the NY Post by Brendan O'Neill discussed Scotland and how it is too "woke" even for the Brits. He likened Scotland to a lunatic living in your attic who screams woke stuff about DEI and gender issues all night but shows up in the morning for free breakfast in the kitchen. Scotland has a deficit of 10.4% of GDP, compared to the 4.5% of GDP for the UK as a whole. The UK sends £2,417 more per person in public spending to Scotland than it does to the other residents in the UK. The Scottish National Party has been in power in Scotland for nearly 20 years, and Scotland currently has laws about what songs are considered too offensive to sing at "football" matches. If someone comes to your house for dinner and says something offensive about gender identity, you can call the police on that person. It's like what Canada has done to Jordan Peterson.

## What is the effect on our chambers of Congress?

If Canada becomes the 51st state, we'd have to change the number of senators to 102, and I suspect the two new Canadian senators would be pretty liberal. The effect in the House of Representatives is a big one. When we added new states, the size of the House of Representatives used to increase. But in the 1910s, we capped House membership at 435 representatives. In 1959, Alaska and Hawaii were added as states and the number of representatives went up to 437, but that was temporary, and we went back to 435 in the next Congress.

The current US population is 341,538,645, so that each representative (on average) represents 785,146 persons. The current Canadian population is 41,598,013. Combined, our population would be 383,136,568. Each of the 435 representatives would represent 880,774 persons. Oh, gosh, that doesn't seem like that big a change, right? It's less than an extra 100,000 persons that would be added to each representative's constituency. But wait, there's more. How many of these 435 representatives would be from Canada? Canada's population of 41,598,013 divided by 880,774 people per representative would mean that Canada would have 47.2 representatives, which is 47 reps plus Peter Dinklage (Game of Thrones joke). Right now California has 52, but based on U-Haul data, that number will likely go down after the next census. Canada could be the largest source of representatives in the US House!

But I am sure that Donald Trump is already aware of these numbers so I'm hoping this is just part of his four-dimensional chess game. But maybe he reads our newsletter?!?





## SUBMISSION DEADLINES



Activity Hours need to be turned in to Cheryl Tardiff at the end of each quarter. Remember that following news media on TV, radio or the internet counts as hours. Email your hours to **ctardiff13@gmail.com**.

1ST QUARTER BY MARCH 31

**2ND QUARTER BY JUNE 30**

3RD QUARTER BY SEPTEMBER 30

4TH QUARTER BY DECEMBER 31



If you would like to submit information or articles for the upcoming GCRW newsletter, send to Tina Hector before *or* by the deadlines below. Email your information/pictures to **tinaahector@gmail.com**.

1ST QUARTER

BY MARCH 31

FOR APRIL PUBLICATION

**2ND QUARTER**

**BY JUNE 30**

**FOR JULY PUBLICATION**

3RD QUARTER

BY SEPTEMBER 30

FOR OCTOBER PUBLICATION

4TH QUARTER

BY DECEMBER 31

FOR JANUARY 2026 PUBLICATION



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April: Megan Barcak, Sharon Hudson, Gerald Smith, Dave Rosenthal, Mari Baldwin

May: Genie Smith, Frank Adamec, Mary Belle

June: Laura Alford, Mary Blackburn, Joe Fauth, Jo Miller





Our **Boots & Bow Ties** committee is asking our members to donate a basket for the silent auction.

### Suggested Themes:



- Home Improvement
- Cooking/Baking
- Home Decor
- Workout
- Camping/Hunting
- Spa Day
- Garden
- Sports
- Kids Basket
- Men's Basket
- Entertainment
- Tea/Coffee
- Fall/Harvest
- Christmas
- New Years Eve
- **Or Create your own**

If you are unable to create a basket on your own you can donate items towards any of the listed themes.



Contact: Tina Hector with any questions.



**Available at  
every meeting**



COOKBOOKS \$20



GCRW CLUB PIN \$15



GLASS ORNAMENTS \$20



**New GCRW T-shirt design.  
Pre-order now!  
\$25**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

CHECK OUT NAVASOTA/GRIMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ACTIVITIES  
<http://www.navasotagrimeschamber.com/>.

- April 5 Anderson VFD Annual Ribeye Steak Dinner & Auction 6pm @ St. Stanislaus Parish Hall
- April 7 Navasota ISD Education Foundation Banquet 6pm @ Expo Center
- April 7 GCRP General Meeting, Justice Center, Anderson 6:30pm
- April 12  Easter Egg Hunt @ Bedias Civic Center 2:00-3:00pm
- April 12 Navasota Farmers Market @ Navasota Public Library 9:00-1:00pm
- April 15 **GCRW** Evening General Meeting, New Hope Church **5:30pm**
- April 16 TAHSR Legislative Day, Austin
- April 20 Easter Sunday - He is Risen! 
- May 15 Grimes County Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Awards Dinner, First Baptist Church, Navasota
- May 20 **GCRW** General Meeting, New Hope Church 11am
- October 4 **GCRW** Boots & Bow Ties Dinner Auction, Francine's Country Pavilion, Iola
- October 23-25 TFRW Biennial Convention
- Monthly Events** Coffee with the Chamber, 2nd Wednesday of each month 9-10am. Check Chamber website for location

