



KFRW Newsletter

June 2023

President's Message

Our club's 5th anniversary will be July 26, two days after our July 24 meeting. We will meet as usual in July, but are planning a special recognition time in lieu of a speaker and a member meeting. *Please make plans now to attend*, even if you typically don't come to our Monday meetings. Also, *please wear your club shirts or another red shirt* so we can get a picture of all members to submit to the paper. July Newsletter will cover more.

At our booth, during the Watermelon Festival, June 16 and 17, we will have a sign-up sheet for any potential new members who would like to know more about KFRW and what we do. Our booth provides a great opportunity to meet other like-minded ladies (and men) who see the importance in getting involved in a grassroots group, like KFRW. We are planning a brunch for anyone interested in becoming a member, Saturday, June 24, 10 am to noon. Please RSVP to Tracy Boyce, if you have someone you'd like to bring.

I want to recognize **Janis Morrow**, our secretary, also on the Public Relations Committee with her primary role to post regularly on our [KFRW Facebook page](#). *She's doing an awesome job!!!* If you are active or have an account on FB, please periodically go to our page and like the posts and comment.

We have reserved the Monticello Opera House for our **3rd Biennial American Valor Dinner** for Thursday evening, November 9, 2023. Please mark your calendars for this special event we host to honor our local veterans. More information as we gear up for this event after we survive the week-end of the Watermelon Festival.

Karen Schoen, who spoke at our May meeting, mentioned and discussed a lot of important issues facing not only our state, but our nation. As promised, her Substack is [Karenschoen.substack.com](#), podcast is "[America Out Loud](#)" on PODash, and e-mail is kbshoen@bellsouth.net. We were referred to Karen via the [Florida Citizens Alliance](#), who actively reviews text books used in Florida public schools. She's on their Advisory Council.

We are still experimenting with having refreshments prior to our meetings, beginning at 6:30. *If you can help by bringing refreshments, please let Annaliese know. Thanks!*

Prayers for a cooler WF weekend than last year!

Lynn S.

Keystone Federated Republican Women

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Website: [KFRWFL.org](#) – Facebook: KFRWFlorida

Newsletter Editor: Lynn Stafford

2023-24 KFRW Executive Committee Officers

President – Lynn Stafford – 850-491-8755

VP Membership – Lynn Wojciechowski – 860-214-8392

VP Programs & PR – Annaliese Mincy – 850-519-4818

Treasurer – Judi Cleckner – 850-997-5659

Secretary – Janis Morrow – 850-294-0573

[Florida Federation of Republican Women \(FFRW\)](#)

President – Diane Van Parys 2nd VP – Vennia Francois

1st VP – Yvette Benarroch 3rd VP – Esther Byrd

Treasurer – Ramona Rood Secretary – Vacant

Member-at-Large: Sandy Graves, Stephanie Phillips, &

Catherine Webb | Districts Executive – Vickie Herrington

District 2 Representative – Dotty McPherson – 850-591-4988

[National Federation of Republican Women \(NFRW\)](#)

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Membership Update

We welcomed **Peggy Mathes**, at our May meeting, a new Primary Member who learned more about our club when attending the Concealed Weapon Class; she was invited to the CWC by **Judi Cleckner**. Each one, bring one!!

We have 50 primary & 22 associate members.

Ladies Night Out 2nd & 4th Thursdays 5:30 pm for dinner and **Ladies Lunch Bunch** typically 1st & 3rd Wednesdays (note the calendar didn't cooperate in June) for lunch at 12:30 pm for food and fellowship. For all ladies! Text or email **Josie Hyde** with any questions or updates.

We need members help volunteering at our W.F. Booth greeting potential new members and sharing about KFRW. If so, please contact **Lynn Stafford**, Event Chair and Membership Committee.

Annual dues each calendar year: Primary Members \$50 and Associate Members \$25.

Membership Challenge for 2023: Each one knows at least one person you can invite to join us in 2023! *Help us meet this challenge!!*

***“Each One Bring One
and Watch Us Grow in 2023”***

KFRW Merchandise for S~A~L~E

New merchandise items have been ordered and some of our best sellers (bling caps, magnets, shot glasses) just in time for the Watermelon Festival. We will have both DeSantis & Trump 2024 campaign hats & flags. And, business card cases with various patriotic themes and Trump playing cards that will make great gifts!

As always, you'll find pictures of items available (*limited quantities*) to purchase and sell to your family and friends on the [KFRW Website](#) by categories:

[Cowboy & fedora hats](#), [visors & baseball caps](#), [reading glasses](#), [fanny pack](#), [bumper stickers](#), [magnets](#), [buttons](#), [flags](#), [bracelets](#), [brooches](#), [earrings](#), [scarf holders](#), [watches](#), [lapel pins](#), [ties & tie bar](#), & [tile & paracord bracelets](#).

Contact Lynn Stafford to obtain items, to answer any questions, or offer suggestions. ■

KFRW Committee Updates

All Committee Chairs: *Please e-mail updates to Lynn Stafford by Sunday, prior to monthly meeting.*

For committee info and purpose of each, refer to each on the KFRW [website](#), and reach out to the committee chair.

Note: If you take photos at events, *please forward via text or email to Annaliese & Lynn S. ASAP.* ☺

The expectation is all members will help at club events, as available, when called upon by the committees.

Achievement Awards/Volunteer Hours – All members, your volunteer hours, January 1 – June 30, 2023, are DUE June 30. Please email NLT July 3. ~ **Beth Young**, Chair

Campaign – Still time to file... Monticello City Council, Groups 3, 4 & 5, City Clerk, Chief of Police. [Filing deadline is June 12-16](#) (noon). ~ **Beth Young**, Chair

Events & Fundraising – 72nd Watermelon Festival is **June 16 & 17!** *If you missed signing up at the May meeting, please contact Lynn S. ASAP, to work at the booth (2-hour time slots) either day and/or walk or ride in the Saturday parade, which is from 9:00 am (decorate) to end of route (CC Bank to York St) about 10:45 am.*

Legislative – Highlights from the 2023-24 Florida Balanced Budget include:

- Affordable Housing: \$711M
- Historic State Reserves and Tax Relief: \$10.9B state reserves and \$2.7B in tax relief for Floridians.
- Disaster Recovery: \$3.7B for hurricane recovery for Ian and Nicole; \$1.4B for Emergency Preparedness & Response Fund to ensure continue promptly response to natural disasters.
- Wildlife Corridor: Approx. \$850M for Florida Iconic Wildlife Corridor + additional \$200M appropriation expansion of SUNTRAIL system so families have accessibility to the heartland.
- Education: \$26.7 B for K-12 to fund expanded school opportunities, school safety; \$252M to increase teacher pay; and \$675.8M to fund workforce development, teacher apprenticeship and technical education.
- Rural Information Technology Support: \$138M to support rural communities with access to Rural Infrastructure Fund and broad band.
~ **Beth Young**, Chair

Resource: Lists of all [Elected Officials contact information](#) ~ *Download & Save.*

SPRING CONFERENCE TAKE-A-WAYS AND NFRW HISTORY

FFRW Spring Conference Take-a-ways

As reported previously, four KFRW officers attended the **FFRW Spring Conference** mid-April in Tallahassee. We've not had enough time during our meeting after our last two speakers, yet it's important our three KFRW officers who attended their first FFRW conference have the opportunity to share their key take-a-ways from the conference with all members. *Here they are:*

Annaliese Mincy: 1) Opportunity to network with other FFRW clubs across the state (especially those within the Panhandle of FL), 2) Great speaker lineup (i.e.: Secretary of State – Cord Byrd who discussed election integrity, Speaker of the House – Paul Renner, and Congressman Cory Mills, and 3) Renewed sense of purpose to recognize the influence our “grass roots” local Republican Women’s club have on the election process.

Janis Morrow: 1) Great to be around so many Republican women and 2) Great to hear from our elected representatives, especially Paul Renner, who was my favorite speaker.

Lynn Wojciechowski: 1) Recognition of the influence and effectiveness of the FFRW and 2) KFRW members need to be able to: a) Know and explain what Republicans stand for and b) Communicate and defend our position on key issues.

NFRW History

The **National Federation of Republican Women**, was founded in 1938, and celebrates their 85th anniversary this year, 2023! It is the largest grassroots Republican women's organization in the country with tens of thousands of active members in local clubs across the nation, and one of the largest grassroots political organizations in the nation. There is a state federation organization (with at least 2 clubs) in all 50 states, except North Dakota.

After more than 50 years of occupying a small section of the Republican National Committee building and renting on Capitol Hill, the NFRW got a home of its own on April 1, 1992, when it moved into the historic building at 124 N. Alfred Street in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

Constructed in 1829 for a doctor and his family and listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, the structure was discovered, renovated, and redecorated between 1989 and 1990. It includes a reception area, eight offices, a conference room, a copy room, four bathrooms, a kitchen, a storage basement, and a parking driveway.

The building and its contents were purchased for \$860,000 and another \$40,000 for furnishing the property. In 1993, just 367 days after closing on the building, the NFRW paid the mortgage in full with [contributions from state federations, local clubs, and individuals](#). Making the building a true "headquarters" for its entire membership, the NFRW invited state federations to "purchase" rooms. The overwhelming response from the states and individuals demonstrated the strong grassroots network of the NFRW. Florida purchased Bathroom #1 (*in honor of Jean Pipes*) and Bathroom #2 (*in honor of Helen Neely*) on the First Floor for \$10,000 each.



The Marion E. Martin Center

In 2007, the building was re-named the **Marion E. Martin Center** in honor of our founder. Today, local clubs, state federations, and individuals can continue to help support the maintenance of NFRW Headquarters through contributions to the [Marion Martin Building Fund](#), which KFRW began contributing annually this year.



To read past issues of the KFRW Newsletter > KFRWFL.org > [Newsletter tab](#)