



# KFRW Newsletter

October 2023

## President's Message

It was a wonderful treat to have **Barbara Price**, President of the Lake Federated Republican Women's Club (LFRWC) join us and speak at our September meeting about her vision for the Florida Federation of Republican Women and her commitment of what she will do to support all the FFRW clubs throughout the state when elected. She's running for FFRW President and would appreciate our support and vote at the **FFRW Biennial Convention in Tampa, November 17-19**. If you are interested in attending, please let me know ASAP. I have reserved two rooms (lower than the FFRW rate), hoping we will need them both!!



A number of us attended **Sheriff Mac's 2024 Campaign Kick-off** event on Thursday, Sept. 28, in support of our Sheriff, and wearing **our RED club shirts**. What a great opportunity it was for **KFRW** members to interact with other politically engaged Jeffersonians, pass out **KFRW** business cards, and raise curiosity about what our red shirts said, as many were asked!! And, **Sheriff Mac will be speaking at our October 23 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) meeting**, answering any of your questions!

If you have not already purchase your ticket(s) for our **3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial American Valor Dinner** at the Monticello Opera House, Thursday, November 9, 6-9 pm, please contact me. Anyone can purchase a ticket as long as seating capacity hasn't been met. The Porch is catering our dinner. See page three for an update on sponsorships and other info.

Current focus is assigning the available sponsored veteran seats to our local veterans, and securing items/gift certificates or cards (GC) for the Silent Auction with commitments so far from: **Gretchen Wallace** (cozies), **FNLW Knife & Woodworks** (\$125 handmade knife & case), **Monticello Opera House** (\$52 GC), **Trophy Creek Outfitters** (\$100 GC), **Two Sisters** (\$30 GC), **CowHaus Coffee Company** (GC), and **Gellings Floral Design**. We have quite a few new shops in town so let's ask them about supporting our event with a donation to the Silent Auction, but please keep me posted so they are only asked once! ☺

Fall is definitely in the air, with cooler temps soon to follow, yeah!

Lynn S.

### Keystone Federated Republican Women

P. O. Box 45, Monticello, FL 32345

Website: [KFRWFL.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Vennia Francois

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Yvette Benarroch 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)

## Inside This Month

1	President's Message
2	Membership Update
2	Club Fundraising – Merchandise for Sale
2	KFRW Committee Updates
3	2023 Monthly Raffle Baskets
3	Member Birthdays & Calendar of Events
4	Liberalism vs Conservatism

## Membership Update

At our October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, 2024 membership dues will begin being collected. *Thank you for taking care of this sooner than later!!!*



Any new member joining now through the end of the year will be a member through 2024.

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

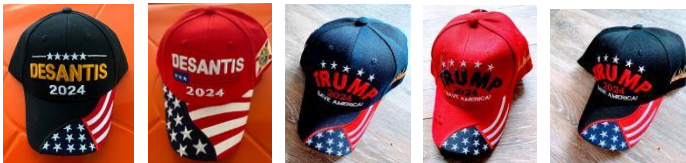
**Save the date: KFRW Christmas Party is Monday, December 11 at the Boyce's home, 520 E. Dogwood St ~ cover dish dinner+++.**

**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

**2024 Campaign merchandise** for both **Trump & DeSantis**, caps and flags, **are available and dispalyed on the website!** **We need members to help us promote & sell these items, now!!**



Black      Red      Navy      Red      Black

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

[Cowboy & fedora hats](#), [visors & baseball caps](#), [card cases & reading glasses](#), [Trump playing cards & shot glasses](#), [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 –

Reminder: keep track of your hours and time spent preparing for the **American Valor Dinner**. Time asking for donations for the silent auction; selling general reserved tickets; decorating and set up day of event, and serving at the event. Did you attend Mac's campaign event? Those hours count too! ~ **Beth Young**, Chair

**Campaign** – Both J.C. School Board districts 1 and 4 seats are up in 2024. Let's encourage quality, registered Republicans, to run for these seats. These races are non-partisan. Stay up-to-date and informed by monitoring the [JC SOE Local Candidates page](#) (scroll down) for ongoing updates. ~ **Beth Young**, Chair

**Community Outreach – Gretchen Wallace's** American History & Civics class starts back up Monday, Oct. 2, 1:30-3 pm, 380 W Dogwood St; She'll pick up with the remaining parts of the Constitution, then on to the presidential eras beginning in January. *Consider attending and/or getting involved!*

**Events & Fundraising** – Please help promote our merchandise for sale and our **3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial American Valor Dinner** on Nov. 9. *If you are interested in helping with this event, contact Lynn Stafford, Chair.*

**Legislative** – Florida Legislative Presession Committee Meetings scheduled October 9-13; October 16-20; November 6-9; November 13-17; December 4-7; December 11-15. ~ **Beth Young**, Chair

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★





## Monthly Themed Raffle Baskets



"Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!" raffle basket, theme determined by **Josie Hyde** was made up of everything Monticello raising \$146 and won by **Jacque Flint**.

Suggested items for baskets are to provide ideas. If you have items to contribute for a themed

basket, please bring to a meeting.

### October - "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart"

Thanksgiving Themed Basket

Tracy Boyce

### November - "Christmas Is With Us Again"

Christmas Themed Basket

Catherine McNeill



## KFRW's 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial American Valor Dinner

*Lynn Stafford, Event Organizer*

We're wrapping up sponsors for this event and actively inviting our local veterans to fill the sponsored seats and attend at no charge. Help us invite them! [Event Page](#).

### AV Dinner Sponsors:

- ★ **Uncle Sam** (\$500): Dean & Andie Jerger, Marty & Daphne Wood, Rep Jason Shoaf, 1 pending
- ★ **Lady Liberty** (\$250): Malloy's Nursery, Angela Gray, Sheriff Mac McNeill, Brenda Sorensen, Michelle Milligan, Sons of the Confederate Veterans & 1 anon
- ★ **Hometown Hero** (\$100): Gary Wright, Big Bend Tire, Bill Snyder, Judi Cleckner (2), Billy & Tara King, Larry & Gretchen Wallace, Bob Perry Construction, Chuck & Annaliese Mincy, Bob Davison, Stephen Walker, Brenda Sorensen, NF Abstract & Title, ABC Maintenance Services, Steve Walker Realty, Vintage Treasures, Ronald Reagan Clubs of Florida, Buck Bird, & Eydie Tricquet

**Can you contribute an item/gift certificate for the Silent Auction or will ask a business that will? Items need to be picked up by Oct. 28 or sooner.**

**General Reserved Tickets:** \$50 each. Purchase tickets now, all seat must be prepaid. **Deadline NLT Oct. 28.**

**Event Seating Capacity:** 150

**If you can help with set up and decorating on that Thursday, serving our dinner, registration table, merchandise table, silent auction, and pack up after the event, please contact Lynn Stafford to make the job easier for all.**



### October Members' Birthdays

*Happy Birthday to each of you!*

- 10/2 Peggy Mathes
- 10/4 Keith Cook
- 10/9 Vicki Sheffield
- 10/17 Dusty Boyce
- 10/20 Michele Brantley
- 10/24 Brenda Kiff
- 10/29 Stephanie Cook
- 10/30 Terri Penrod



## Calendar of Events



### JC School Board Meeting

Monday, October 9, 6 pm



### KFRW Exec. Comm. Meeting

Wednesday, October 11

5:30 pm @ 295 Hickory St



### KFRW Membership Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> Monday, October 23

Refreshments 6:30 pm; Meeting 7 pm

American Legion, 1065 S. Water St

Refreshments: Lynda Brown & Donna Champion

**Speaker: Sheriff Mac McNeill**



### KFRW 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial A.V. Dinner

**& Silent Auction ~ Nov 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Get Your Tickets &**

**Reservations Now**



## LIBERALISM VS CONSERVATISM

[Conservative Tree House may be called a *Last Refuge* for some for different reasons.]

Whatever trail through the woods brought us here, to KFRW (or fill in the blank), we have shared the turmoil of storms as we have been finding our voices as individuals in this growing community.

Perhaps you've had some truly shockingly cruel things said to you purely because you believe in limited government and fiscal conservatism. Perhaps you not only believe we should be self-reliant and personally responsible, but also believe when we are allowed to depend on ourselves, we are stronger, more successful, take greater pride in ourselves and our work, and are more likely to make positive contributions to society. And then we are happier people, or at least more likely to be happier.

Which lends to the following theory: Fear is at the core of modern liberalism, and love/trust is at the core of conservatism. Modern liberalism, most commonly evolved to leftism, is about control. Conservatism is about self-empowerment.

Control is a reaction to fear. Think in terms of politics and society – the fear behind liberalism is the fear that someone might withhold things (opportunities, money, whatever) from me, fear that if you live your life in a way I dislike that it might affect my life, fear that if you get that job, there will be nothing left for me. Fear that if you make tons of money, it means there's less money out there for me. So, people who believe in leftist ideologies seek control as a means of trying to create guarantees and safeguards against those circumstances they fear.

Modern “liberals” (leftists) try to control the world and people to enable their comfort and happiness. Which, as we know, is an endless quest. Trying to control others does nothing in the way of making oneself happy. By extension, voting in this mindset so that government can try to control others will also – shocking – not lead to a happier, more comfortable life.

The conservative (and moderate, independent, but for the sake of expediency, the conservative), on the other hand, relies on himself to meet his own needs. And the tradeoff of being free to live his life as he wishes is also understanding he has to make peace with how you live yours. By extension, aware that he wants to be able to hold onto this liberty and freedom forever, the conservative votes accordingly, so everyone can remain free and in charge of his or her own life.

But here's the crucial difference, perhaps, particularly where misery on the left stems: The conservative does not worry, so to speak, about you. The conservative knows you were born with the same access to self-love, self-empowerment, self-determination and self-reliance that we all were, no matter the circumstances into which you were born. (Think about the millions of people this country has allowed to crawl up from poverty into prosperity – the conservative KNOWS this is possible.) And the conservative believes if you want prosperity, or a good job, or a good education, you can make it happen – but you have to work hard.

The conservative hopes and intends the free markets bring you all of the affordable and positive opportunities and resources that you need. The conservative also knows that on the other side of that hard work is great reward – material and, more importantly, emotional, spiritual and mental.

The conservative understands not only is it a waste of time to try to control you, it's actually impossible. Humans were born to be free. And if we put a roadblock in front of you, you'll find another way around it. So, we see attempts at control as a waste of resources, energy and time at best, and at worst, creating detrimental results that serve to hinder people's upward mobility or teach dependence. We see much more efficiency, as well as endless opportunity, in leaving you to your own devices. And we want the same in return.

This is where modern Democrats mis-view conservatives as heartless. But really, the conservative believes there is one and one path only to sustainable success and independence – and that is self-empowerment. All other avenues – welfare, affirmative action, housing loans you can't actually afford – ultimately risk doing a disservice to people as they teach dependence on special circum-

stances, the govt, or arbitrary assistance (that can disappear tomorrow). And the real danger – they will ALWAYS backfire, and leave the recipient in equally or more dire circumstances. Any false improvement will always expire.

The conservative believes in abundance. The liberal believes in scarcity.

The conservative believes man is born free and will be who he is, no matter what arbitrary limitations or rules are put on him. The leftist believes man is perfectible, and by extension, believes a society at large is perfectible, and command and control are justified in the quest to a “perfect” utopian society. (Sounds familiar!)

The conservative tends to be more faithful – and not necessarily in God, but in the ability of the individual to find great strength in himself (or from his God) to get what he needs and to be successful. Therefore, the conservative has an outlet for his fear and disappointment – trust and faith in something bigger.

The leftist believes the system must be perfected in order to enable success. Therefore, disappointment is channeled as anger and blame at the system. Voids are left to be filled by faith in the govt, which they surely then want to come in and “fix” things.

And therein lies the roots of love and fear respectively. For the conservative, when life presents great struggles, he knows he has the power to surmount them. Happiness stems from internal strength and perseverance. For the modern leftist, when life presents great struggles, the system failed, therefore they were at the mercy of a faulty system, and they believe that only when the system is fixed can their life improve. Happiness is built on systemic contingencies, which they will then seek to control or expect someone else to.

One blames himself. The other blames anyone and everyone but himself.

And there it is. There’s where the meanness comes from. The leftist ideology causes that person to cast anger at the world when things go wrong or appear “unfair.” He constantly chooses only to see the “injustices” – and that makes for a very miserable, mean, blame-casting existence.

One last point that we have seen over and over and over with many (not all) of our leftist friends: Extreme stinginess and cheapness.

In our conservative community growing up, we were always taught that you give when people are in need – make donations to the Red Cross when there’s an earthquake, donate to charity when you can afford it, etc. Even if it’s just \$50 here and there – it’s the right thing to do. Conservatives see this as the responsibility that comes with gaining from the capitalistic system; if you happen to benefit greatly from the system, it’s your duty to give back.

The liberal, on the other hand, does not seem to share this same viewpoint, at least not in my experience. And perhaps think this is linked to believing in scarcity, and that your dollar comes at the cost of mine. So, it seems liberals, on some level of consciousness, feel guilty about not being voluntarily charitable. Therefore, to write off their guilt, they outsource their “generosity” to the government by voting for wealth re-distributive policies. Thus, the liberal cheats himself of the joy and addictiveness of direct generosity. (Not to mention – re distributive policies ALWAYS end up dis-empowering those who they’re meant to help.)

However each of us got here, it’s probably a fact that we have the turmoil of those storms in common, perhaps some unease that we could share, we also find fresh ground to cover from day to day. We’re developing valuable relationships as we trust one another in our community in the woods. The chatting in the branches encourages, strengthens and equips for some serious walking.

We think KFRW is a good armory for those doing long distance walking for the sake of our nation. We hope you’ll think so, too. Find yourself a good branch...or just pull up a rock to the campfire. ■

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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