



# KFRW Newsletter

December 2023

## President's Message

The **KFRW 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial American Valor Dinner**, on Thursday evening, November 9, was a huge success from the numerous comments received from those in attendance. We had 40 local veterans attend, in all 87 enjoyed the evening. We were inspired by the message from our speaker, **David "T-Bone" Trombly**, and blessed by his generosity in the time he spent writing in each person's book a special message based on his brief conversation with each. I am already thinking of how we can invite him back. He was so appreciative of his time with all of us and recorded a message on Veterans' Day to all of us he met in Monticello. KFRW members who are veterans that we honored were: **Janis Morrow, Ken Faircloth, Michael Flint, Don Ledbury, Mac McNeill, David Miner, Harry Mulhearn, Buddy Tricquet, and Dale Young**. We remembered our POWs and MIA with the "Missing Man Table" set up and **Jacque Flint** went over the symbolism. *See all the AV Dinner acknowledgements and recap on Page 4.*



**Judi Cleckner** and I attended the **FFRW Biennial Convention** in Tampa, November 17-19. I am happy to report **Barbara Price**, who spoke at our September meeting, was overwhelmingly elected as the next FFRW President. **KFRW** received the **NFRW Caring For America 2022-2023 Medium Club Finalist Award**, the only FL club to receive, which is all due to **Gretchen Wallace's** commitment to the civics education of Jefferson County students. And, **Dotty McPherson** was given a special FFRW President's recognition "*District Rep. of the Year*" as our District 2 Representative.

Our November speaker, **Kevin Patten**, Senior Data & AI Specialist at Microsoft, shared much with us about AI (Artificial Intelligence), it's been around for decades, but changing ever so fast today.

We will not have a meeting in December, instead we have our **Christmas Party**, Monday, December 11, hosted by **Tracy and Dusty Boyce**. It is potluck, so bring something yummy to share and dress in your holiday attire. Please invite a friend or spouse to attend, this is a great opportunity to get to know members better, and for potential members to find out about KFRW!

Our next meeting is January 22, 2024, **4<sup>th</sup> Monday**, our Annual Meeting as we kick off 2024, a BIG year.

*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 – Tracy Boyce – 850-322-9548

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 – Deb Tamargo Secretary – Valerie Pfundstein

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

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## Membership Update

We welcome a new associate member, **Don Ledbury**, one of the veterans who has attended all three American Valor Dinners.

**KFRW Christmas Party** is Monday, Dec. 11, 6 pm at the Boyce's home, 520 E. Dogwood St. Bring a covered dish and dress holiday festive.



**2024 Membership Dues:** If not already, please **renew your membership NLT Dec. 20**. Bring to the Christmas Party, mail to PO Box, or drop off at Lynn S's or Tracy's home. *Thanks!!*

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

**Membership Challenge for 2023:** *Did someone join in 2023 because of you? Thank you!*

***"Each One Bring One  
and Watch Us Grow in 2023"***

## KFRW Merchandise for S~A~L~E

### Holiday Shop with KFRW!

**Wrap up your holiday shopping for friends and family by shopping local with KFRW!**

***Special thanks to the club members who support our fund-raising efforts and help us promote & sell our merchandise!!***

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** – As a reminder, continue to record your hours on a [Volunteer Hour Log form](#) of activity in attending campaign functions and KFRW events through December. Then, tally your hours and email your form to **Lynn S** or drop off no later than January 5. All information can be found on the [KFRW website](#). Questions? Reach out to me, **Beth Young**, Chair

**Campaign** – 2024 local candidates are filing early this year, especially the Republicans. So far, 4 for Clerk (omitted Reams), 2 for Sheriff, 2 for Supt of Schools (Eydie & LaClarence Mays (D)), 2 for Tax Collector, and incumbents for SOE and Property Appraiser. With the death of Stephen Walker, BOCC Dist. 5 seat is open. We need a candidate (or two) to step up for School Board Dist. 4 to oppose Brumfield (D). *Who do you know in District 4? How about yourself?*

As a reminder, the KFRW cannot endorse any republican candidates with a republican opponent until after the primary. As individual members you can. ~ **Beth Young**, Chair

**Community Outreach** – **Gretchen Wallace's** American History & Civics class is on break until Monday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. She will be announcing the annual essay contest early January.

**Events & Fundraising** – Christmas Party and shop our merchandise! ~ **Lynn Stafford**, Chair

**Legislative** – The Committee met and reviewed a list of 45 bills submitted by FL representatives and senators. We will study bills meaningful to our membership and report back at the next meeting. The committee will meet twice a month. Location TBA. All members welcome. *Please email bethanddale3@hotmail.com for more info.* ~ **Beth Young**, Chair

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## ~ 2023 American Valor Dinner Recap & Acknowledgements ~



A lot of time (volunteer hours) goes into facilitating this big event every other year. Unfortunately, this year I did not have a co-organizer, although several attending for their first time have said they will definitely help next time, and I will remember who you are!

It all began in May with deciding on the date and venue, then booking a speaker, which happened this year in less than 24 hours of contact! Updating our flyers and sponsor forms to send to past and potential new sponsors, *which is what fuels the entire event*. Adding a club event page to our website. In July, contacting and arranging for the caterer (everyone said “*the food was excellent*”). And booking a room for the speaker at one of our B&B’s (challenging with it being a home FSU v Miami game weekend.)

**Sponsor recruitment** began in August, then follow-up and more follow-up with solicited sponsors, as needed. In all we had 30 sponsors, 12 new! I want to thank several members who helped with obtaining sponsors: **Beth Young** (3), **Gretchen Wallace** (2), and **Karen Knox** (1 big one!). And the members who were sponsors: **Daphne Wood, Jason Shoaf, Brenda Sorensen, Austin Hosford, Michelle Milligan, Judi Cleckner, Annaliese & Chuck Mincy, Bill Snyder, Eydie Tricquet, and Gretchen Wallace.**

**Silent Auction donations** ends up being very easy, you just have to ask, and then follow up when it’s time to pick up the item. This is a good way to get additional sponsors of the event. In all, we had 23 items or gift certificates ranging from \$10 to \$125 in value, a total value of \$1,246, **raising \$710**, with two going for face value and two for over the value! Thank you to **Karen Knox** for handling the auction! And these members for their contributions: **Diana Mulhearn** (2), **Gretchen Wallace** (3), and **Beth Young**. *The complete list of those donating items to the silent auction were in the November Newsletter.*

I ordered 25 copies of T-Bone’s book, *GROUNDING AND CURED*, to have available for sale and for him to autograph, which sold out soon after he finished speaking (**\$81.50** profit). There was **merchandise** on display and thanks to **Gretchen Wallace, Beth Young** and **Abby McGehee** for handling sales, **\$175.**

Ongoing was updating the list of sponsors, list of silent auction participants and preparing bid sheets, the event program, and confirming veterans to fill the sponsored seats, which turns out to be the most time-consuming part of the event. Making sponsor signs and table center pieces utilizing KFRW decorations, finalizing a seating chart based on sponsors and guests; and then have everything ready!

A **special thanks of gratitude** to **Lynn McGrady** for printing and folding the event programs. **Brannan Salter** and **Lynn Stafford** for arranging the tables and chairs Wednesday evening. **Annaliese Mincy** for setting up the projector and working with MOH for mic and sound. Final set up and decorating: **Karen and Kenny Knox, Lynn Stafford, Diana Rodriguez, Diana Mulhearn, Bill Snyder** (for ladder jobs), **Jacque Flint, Beth Young, and Gretchen Wallace.** **Debbie Snapp** and **Lynn Wojciechowski** for handling registration. **Donna Champion**, our Chaplain and **Michelle Milligan**, singing the National Anthem. After the event, **Bill Snyder, Jacque & Mike Flint, Abby McGehee, Beth Young, Gretchen Wallace, and Lynn Stafford** all helped take down and pack up everything. The final task was preparing, printing, and mailing thank you letters to all sponsors of the event and silent auction, 49 in all! *Whew!*



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