



KFRW Newsletter

December 2025

President's Message

The **KFRW 4th Biennial American Valor Dinner**, Thursday evening, November 6, was again a success from the numerous comments received from those in attendance. We honored 47 local veterans (invited 50) and six of our own KFRW members who are veterans: **Janis Morrow, Roger Champion, Don Ledbury, Mac McNeill, David Miner, and Harry Mulhearn**, in all 95 enjoyed the evening. We were energized by the message from **Lt. Gov. Jay Collins** and remembered our POWs and MIA with the "Missing Man Table" **Carol Miller** set up and shared the symbolism. *See all the AV Dinner acknowledgements, recap, and pictures on pages 4 & 5.*

At the Nov. 12 KFRW Executive Committee's meeting, we agreed to split the proceeds from the AV Silent Auction between two Veteran efforts. Half to [Forgotten Coast K9 \(Chris O'Brien our Oct. speaker\)](#) and the other half to [Army Strong of Tallahassee](#) for the U.S. Army Memorial Monument at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. I asked for membership approval at our Nov. member and all agreed. KFRW has sent checks of \$625 to both organizations. I'd like KFRW to contribute additionally with proceeds from the AV Dinner!

Jedd McFatter, the Director of Research at the Government Accountability Institute (GAI), with GAI for 7 years, was the speaker at our November meeting. He shared several excerpts/stories from his recent book **Fool's Gold** he co-authored with Susan Crabtree and shared his concern for replicating the California corruption in Florida and elsewhere. Very disturbing the extinct of the corruption and fraud that prevails at "our" the tax payer's expense. Thank you to **Diana Mulhearn and Janis Morrow** for providing refreshments!



With sadness, we have lost one of our charter members, **Earlene Knight**, who passed on Nov. 2. She was a staunch supporter of our military and active member of the Valor Team with Big Bend Hospice. *Rest in peace!*

Our next meeting is January 26, 2026, our Annual Meeting as we kick off 2026, another BIG election year.

Have a wonderful December!!

Lynn S

Keystone Federated Republican Women

P. O. Box 45, Monticello, FL 32345

Website: KFRWFL.org – Facebook: KFRWFlorida

Newsletter Editor: Lynn Stafford

2025-26 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 – Barbara Price

Secretary – Cynthia West

1st VP – Yvette Benarroch

Asst. Sec. – Melissa Beaudoin

2nd VP – Vennia Francois

Treasurer – Lynn Stafford

3rd VP – Michele Merrell

Asst. Treasurer – Kim Short

Member-at-Large: Deborah Stone | Terry Castro | Marsha

Thoemke | District 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 Committee Update
2	Club Fundraising – Merchandise for Sale
2	KFRW Committee Updates
3	2025 Monthly Raffle Baskets
3	Member Birthdays & Calendar of Events
4	2025 AV Dinner Acknowledgements & Recap

Monthly Themed Raffle Baskets



The November **“Christmas Cheer is Finally Here!”** raffle basket, prepared by **Catherine McNeill** was won by **Diana Mulhearn**, raising \$131. *Very nice!*

If you have items to contribute for a themed basket, *please bring to a meeting*. Consider adopting with another member.

It's Time to Adopt a basket for 2026:

January - “Pretty in Valentine's Pink” Pam Wessling

Valentine Theme

February - “Unwind, Refresh, Renew!” Lynn Stafford

Wellness & Pampering Theme

March - “Hop Into Spring!” Shanna Boutwell

Spring / Easter Theme

April - “Have a Bitter Sweet Chocolate Day!”

Chocolate Lovers Basket Treasa Towson

May - “The Sweet Taste of Summer”

Watermelon Theme

June - “America, Celebrating 250 Years!”

America's 250th Birthday Theme Dotty McPherson

July - “Turn the Ordinary into Extraordinary!”

Theme is up to the adopter

August - “I Love Fall Most of All” Catherine McNeill

Fall Theme

September - “In Pie We Crust”

Locally Made and/or Homegrown

October - “Let Freedom Ring”

Patriotic / Election Theme (Red, white & blue items)

November - “Tis the Season to be Jolly!”

Christmas Theme

[You can pair up with another member for a basket and bring new and/or unused items to contribute to other baskets.]



December Members' Birthdays

Happy Birthday to each of you!

- 12/3 Scott Brantley
- 12/4 Brenda Wirick
- 12./19 Marilyn Fraelich
- Ashley Hightower
- 12/30 June Campbell



Calendar of Events



Planning Retreat

KFRW 2026 Planning Retreat

Saturday, December 6, 9:30am-2:30 pm
All Exec. Comm. Members and Committee Chairs
Lynn Stafford's Home, 295 Hickory St



★ Pearl Harbor Day ★

Sunday, December 7



KFRW Christmas Party

Monday, December 8, 6 pm
The Boyce's, 520 E. Dogwood St

★★ Potlu

ck ★★ Holiday Attire ★★



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**

2026 Dues ~ Pay by Dec. 15



Wednesday, December 25



No December KFRW Meeting



~ 2025 American Valor Dinner Recap & Acknowledgements ~

Event Chair – Lynn Stafford

A lot of time and effort (volunteer hours) goes into facilitating this special event every other year.

It all began in May with deciding on the date and securing the venue. Updating 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. Beginning in August, contacting and arranging for the caterer, The Porch on the Green. Booking the speaker (confirmed Sept. 5th) with initial contact assistance from **Catherine McNeill**. This year, since our speaker turned out to be an elected official, we didn't have a speaker fee or travel expenses, such as booking them a room at one of our local B&B's.

Sponsor recruitment began in August, with emails and phone calls, then follow-up with solicited sponsors, as needed. In all we had 30 sponsors (same as 2023), with seven new sponsors. I want to thank **Beth Young** who obtained two sponsors and especially the members who were sponsors: **Daphne Wood, Austin Hosford, Brenda Sorensen, Shanna Boutwell, Sheriff Mac, Michelle Milligan, Judi Cleckner, Carol Daniels (2), Trey Hightower, Damien Lovatto, Bill Snyder, Gretchen Wallace, Leslie Wilkerson, and Beth Young.**

Silent Auction donations are easier to obtain than you may think, you just have to ask, and then follow up when it's time to pick up the item. This is a good way to involve our local businesses and promote them as additional sponsors of the event. In all, we had 26 items or gift certificates from \$18 to \$135 in value, a total value of \$1,324, **raising \$1,215**, with two going for face value and 13 for over the value! Thank you to **Brenda Sorensen** and **Tracy Boyce** for handling the auction! And these members for their contributions: **Gretchen Wallace** and **Beth Young**, and **Carol Miller** for securing several auction items and picking up several as needed. *The complete list of those donating items to the silent auction were in the November Newsletter.*



Ongoing was updating the list of sponsors, list of silent auction participants, event program, confirming and updating the list of veterans to fill the sponsored seats, which turns out to be the most time-consuming part of the event. Preparing and printing bid sheets and sponsor table signs, making table center pieces utilizing KFRW decorations (thank you **Tracy!**), finalizing a seating chart based on sponsors and guests, right up until the day of the event; and then have everything ready!

A **special thanks of gratitude** to **Lynn McGrady** for printing and cutting the event tickets. **Lynn S.** for printing and folding (11 seconds on a folding machine) the event programs. **Brenda Sorensen** for loaning us her round tablecloths and **Jewel Anderson** for ironing all 12 of them! **Brannan Salter** for setting up the stage platform, podium, and helping arrange the tables and chairs the night before. Same day set up and decorating: **Lynn Stafford, Catherine McNeill, Carol Miller, Bill Snyder** (hung the flag), and **Beth Young and Jewel Anderson** who also made a last-minute trip to Sam's! **Annaliese Mincy** for setting up the projector and screen, **Lynn S.** working with MOH for sound. **Debbie Snapp** and **Beth Young** for handling registration. **Donna Champion**, our Chaplain, **Michelle Milligan**, singing the National Anthem, and **Dotty McPherson** for some great pictures. After the event, **Jewel Anderson, Tracy and Dusty Boyce, Lynn McGrady, Carol Miller, Bill Snyder, and Lynn Stafford** all helped take down and pack up everything. The final two tasks: 1) writing and submitting an article to the *Monticello News* and 2) preparing, printing, and mailing thank you letters (Nov. 24th) to all sponsors of the event and silent auction, 48 in all! *Whew!*

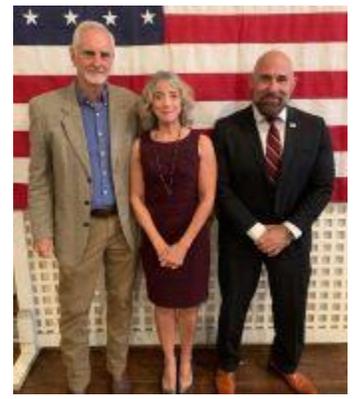
Thank you to all who attended and helped with this year's A.V. Dinner, especially our veterans!!



Welcome entrance to Monticello Opera House



Lynn's Opening Remarks



Morrow's with Jay Collins



Table 2: Carol, Champion's, Michelle, Caleb, Jay Collins, Lynn S.



Table 5: Bill Snyder, Rob & Shanna Boutwell



Table 9: Eydie & Buddy Tricquet



Table 1: Mark Oglesby, Tim Carter, and Catherine & Mac McNeill



Veterans Ed Buist & Richard Widdman



Gary McGrady & Vet. Steve Pickles



Vets. Mike Buchanan & Tim Wetherington



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