

*** NEW MEMBERS ***

Welcome to Magic Circle
and a
BIG THANKS
for joining our Club!

Theresa Bosley

Karen Bruce

Vicki Clepper

Pam Crystal

Ann Ellis

Sandy Fortney

Cheri Fossler

Pam Greenwood

Jennifer Knesek

Sharon Montana

Dr Melinda Morris

Francine Pares

Fred Reitman

Bobbi Robinson



February 2019
Volume 47 Issue 2

Magic Circle RWC Newsletter

Founded 1979

An Award Winning Federated Club

Recipient of the NFRW Diamond Achievement Award

<http://www.magiccirclerwc.net>

IMPORTANT DATES

General Meetings:

Feb. 25, Mar. 25, April 22

Board Meeting: Mar. 4,
April 1

February 19—GHC Nuts
'N' Bolts 9:30am-2pm;
Early registration 2/11
See ghcfrwpac.org

February 19—World
Affairs Council Luncheon
with Ambassador Kay
Bailey Hutchison
11:30am-1:30pm
Click [here](#) for more info

General Meeting: Monday, February 25th

Maggiano's, 2019 Post Oak Boulevard (Valet parking available)

11:30am Check-in; 12:00pm Program & Luncheon

IMPORTANT: RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE FOR LUNCH.

NO WALK-INS FOR LUNCH. \$25 CASH ONLY

RSVP Barbara Butler, brbrcrnn@aol.com or 713-476-0201
by NOON, Friday February 22

Please remember that a reservation made is a reservation paid.

Bianca Garcia, Republican Hispanic Coalition

Bianca will speak on outreach to Hispanic Republican voters.

Mark P. Jones, Joseph D. Jamail Chair in Latin American Studies at the James A. Baker III Institute at Rice University

Mark will speak on the current situation in Venezuela.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow Magic Circle Members,

I look forward to seeing you all again at our next general meeting. We have another informative and exciting speaker lined up for our February 25th meeting. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor, friend, or family member as your guest and introduce them to our club.

Our speaker this month will be Mark P. Jones who is the Joseph D. Jamail Chair in Latin American Studies and the Director of the Master of Global Affairs Program at Rice University. He will address the geopolitical situation in Venezuela giving us a well-balanced academic perspective. Come prepared with questions that are not answered by media and political commentators.

In addition, we will hear from Bianca Garcia, a local Harris County Precinct Chair who also serves as the Statewide Hispanic Engagement Director of the Republican Party of Texas. We have a daily obligation to build up the Republican voter base in Harris County and Bianca will give us the tools to help us accomplish that goal by engaging with and recruiting Hispanics.

Just remember and reflect upon the realities and comments shared with us last month by Commissioner Steve Radack. As he said, the only way Republicans will win Harris County back from the Democrats is through personal interaction and educating others on the differences in the two parties. Our club programs for this year will focus on educating, recruiting and registering so we will be better prepared to GOTV! Come prepared to hear, learn and act! See you next week.



Mary



2019 MCRWC Board

President

Mary Schneider
713-299-1219

1st VP Programs

Penny Butler

2nd VP Membership

Lisa Cline

Recording Secretary

Marleen Kepke

Treasurer

Mildred Reitman

Corresponding Secretary

Minnette Carrabba

PAC Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Bylaws

Joan Buschor

Legislative

Mary Schneider

Directory

Tina Walker

Campaign Activities

Martha Tillman

Newsletter Deal Newberry & Tina Walker

Notifications

Mary Schneider &
Marleen Kepke

Website/Photographer

Francine Pares

Social Barbara Butler

Caring for America

Barbara Moore

Awards Mary Sage

Chaplain Mary Roland

Historian Lynne Skinner

GHC Delegates

Joan Buschor, Alternate:
Martha Tillman

Immediate Past President

Marleen Kepke

The Minutes

12:00 P.M. Call to Order:

Invocation:

Pledges

Introduction of Elected Officials and Guests:

Lunch is served as Old Business is conducted.

Old Business:

Recording Secretary, Sarah Tropoli is resigning her position. Marleen Kepke has resumed the position. MCRWC thanks Sarah for her hard work and dedication.

Approval of Minutes from the November 26, 2018 General Meeting were presented. The Minutes were approved as presented with typo corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Mildred Reitman reported the balances/activity of our two accounts.

Pac Report: TFRW reporting in on time and accepted. Joan Bushor shall remain a delegate with Martha Tillman remaining as the alternate. All TEC reports have been filed. Bylaws/Standing Rule 13 states that during Q & A's no statements are allowed, only questions.

Membership Report: Lisa Cline reports that we have 45 Primary Members and eight Associates.

Corresponding Secretary: Minnette Carrabba reported that a sympathy card was sent to the Bush family.

Campaign Activities: Martha Tillman reported that she would be collecting volunteer hours quarterly and reporting those hours quarterly. However, you may report your hours each month at the General Meeting.

At this time the 2019 MCRWC Officers and Board Members were introduced.

Program:

Penny Butler introduced our speaker, Commissioner Steve Radack. Commissioner Radack gave insight as to why the Republicans lost in November. Question and answer followed. Mary Schneider and Joan Buschor presented Commissioner Radack with a gift.

Announcements:

Special election is Tuesday, January 29, 2019 for District 145.

Kathleen Wall, Republican Party of Texas Chair of Election Integrity SREC Senate District 17 Committeewoman, gave an update on the perhaps 95,000 illegal votes cast in Texas in the November, 2018 election.

Cheryl Dalton, President of Village Republican Women, urged attendance at the April 25, 2019 Legislative Day in Austin. A bus has been reserved.

Other announcements made by Cindy Siegal were GHC's Nuts "N" Bolts on February 19 and World Affairs Counsel Lunched with NATO Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchison.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

GENERAL MEETING: January 28, 2019

Mary Schneider, President
Mary Roland

Mary Schneider

Respectfully submitted by: Marleen Kepke



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

★ Governor Greg Abbott delivered his State of the State address on February 5. In his address the governor provided his vision for the future of Texas and his agenda for the current Texas legislative session. The governor stated issue priorities for this session, including property tax reform, mental health concerns, education, and getting real about human trafficking.

★ Speaker Dennis Bonnen has highlighted House Bill 2, which would provide meaningful property tax reform. Here is some information the Speaker provided:

- Provide much needed transparency by addressing the manner in which property tax rates are set and publicly notified to property owners.
- Create a searchable statewide database that gives taxpayers the information they need to hold local officials accountable.
- Lower the rollback rate to 2.5% from the current 8% for all taxing units with more than \$15 million in combined property and sales tax revenue.
- Create the Property Tax Advisory Board in the Office of the Comptroller.
- Make reforms that will increase efficiency and transparency between property owners and the Appraisal Review Board.

★ The Legislative Budget Board released its Summary of Legislative Budget Estimates in January. As part of their "Texas Economic Outlook" they stated this:

"As the economy expands, more revenue is available for appropriation. Some spending demands are lessened by a growing economy, and others are increased. For example, a growing economy can decrease pressure on Medicaid enrollment, but it also increases migration into Texas, which increases the demand for public education and other services. Furthermore, healthcare and higher education inflation rates tend to outpace other types of inflation."

This is important to keep in mind as the legislative session moves forward.

★ As you know, and in line with Governor Abbott's priorities, Human Trafficking is a particular issue of attention during this legislative session. How much do you know about Human Trafficking? Perhaps these stats will shed some light and provide you some clarity:

- 40.3 million victims are trapped in modern-day slavery (estimated)
- 71% of all trafficking victims are women and girls
- 25% of victims are children under the age of 18, that's 10.1 million children
- 54% of all trafficking victims in 2014 were trafficked for sexual exploitation
- 76% of sex trafficking victims are women
- 27% of sex trafficking victims are children

This is why we fight.

★ State Senator Joan Huffman filed S.B 339 with the stated purpose of helping "the people of Texas recover from Harvey and to be better prepared for future storms." Senator Huffman provided these details about her bill:

- SB 339 requires sellers of real property to give enhanced notice about the flood-prone status of their home. Previously, sellers only had to disclose, if they knew, whether or not their home was in a 100-year flood plain.



- Under SB 339, If the seller doesn't immediately disclose this information before a contract is signed, the buyer can terminate the contract after the seller discloses this information. If the seller fails to disclose this information before a sale and had actual knowledge of these facts, the buyer can initiate a civil action against the seller for misrepresentation.

This is another chance for you to make your voice heard if you want to improve the bill or encourage your Senator to support the bill if you like it as it is.

★ TFRW's Legislative Day (Lege Day) is coming up on April 25th in Austin. Lege Day is a biennial event designed to bring our statewide membership to Austin to see our Legislature at work, get training and information on legislative advocacy and issues, and also recognize our membership for their dedication to improving government and Texas through their various activities. If you're joining us, be sure to wear red and be with us in both the House and Senate Chambers for recognition and resolutions on the great work TFRW and specifically Magic Circle members have accomplished.

★ What issues are most important to you? Knowing what matters to you helps us better serve our members. Please let us know via email or text so we can make sure we are keeping you up to date on the issues that matter most to you. Please contact our legislative chair, Jennifer Knesek, at [254.702.1109](tel:254.702.1109) or email her at CatholicConservative12@gmail.com with any comments or concerns!



REMINDER —Please submit your Campaign Hours to Martha Tillman.

- Include work done at home, mailings, baking, preparing posters, telephoning, etc.
- Count volunteer hours and include travel time.
- Hours spent working at a special event or organizing—but not if you are a guest at the event.
- Count hours spent in session at TFRW Board meetings and TFRW conventions. DO NOT include travel time.
- Count stuffing envelopes, petitions signed for candidates etc. but not attendance at your Republican club meetings.
- DO NOT count hours for paid campaign staff positions but count work done at county, state and TFRW headquarters or at home for candidates campaigns.
- Count non-partisan hours for known Republican candidates.

Solicitations made by Federal candidates and officeholders at this event are limited by Federal law. The Federal candidates and officeholders speaking or appearing in this publication are soliciting only donations of up to \$2,400 from individuals and up to \$5,000 from multi-candidate political committees. They are not soliciting donations in any amount from corporations, labor organizations, national banks, Federal contractors, or foreign nationals.

